

MEMORANDUM

To: The Stewardship Council Board

From: Watershed Planning Committee

Date: May 2, 2018

Re: Recommendation for a Finding of No Significant Public Interest Value (NSPIV) at the North Fork Mokelumne River Planning Unit

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Watershed Planning Committee (Planning Committee) recommends the Stewardship Council Board (Board) approve an NSPIV finding for parcel 991 at North Fork Mokelumne River planning unit. The Planning Committee conditionally approved this finding on February 22, 2018. A notice of the proposed action was then released for a 30 day public review and comment period from Feb 26th, 2018 through March 28th, 2018. Though staff received some questions about our NSPIV process, no substantive comments were received about this proposed finding. Any comments submitted during the 30 day Board Meeting notice period will be provided to the board at the May 2nd board meeting. There will also be an opportunity for comment during the public session of the meeting.

BACKGROUND

The North Fork Mokelumne River planning unit, located in Amador and Calaveras counties, consists of 51 legal parcels, comprising approximately 3,464 acres of Watershed Lands. Parcel 991, totaling approximately 1.8 acres in size, is being considered for a possible finding of no significant public interest value. The Mother Lode Land Trust (MLLT) has been recommended to hold conservation easements in the North Fork Mokelumne River planning unit. MLLT has requested to exclude Parcel 991 from the North Fork Mokelumne River planning unit conservation easement because of its small, thin size, location within a subdivision surrounded by numerous private residences, and lack of significant natural, cultural, and recreational values.

Parcel 991 at the North Fork Mokelumne planning unit was initially designated as candidate parcels for NSPIV findings by Stewardship Council staff in 2015, during staff's review of candidate parcels for the entire watershed portfolio. Stewardship Council staff then conducted site visits to the parcel in November of 2017, consulted the conservation easement holder, and began the board approved process of formally evaluating the parcels that is described in the attached NSPIV memo.

Staff presented the results of its evaluation to the NSPIV Work Group on February 3rd, 2018. At that meeting, the work group recommended the NSPIV finding be brought to the Planning Committee for approval. The following recommendations were conditionally approved by the Planning Committee on February 22nd, 2018.

RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE

Parcel 991 is approximately 1.8 acres in size, very thin (25-35 feet wide), and is separated from the rest of the North Fork Mokelumne planning unit by just over half a mile. The parcel is located in the Pine Acres subdivision and is highly impacted by the private residences that surround it. The parcel appears to run through the front and back yards of a number of private homes and is encumbered by private fences, driveways, and landscaping as well as some formal utility facilities. Parcel 991 does not contain significant habitat, forestry resources, or open space value as a result of this encumbrance. The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) currently has no recorded occurrences of special status species on or within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of parcel 991. The California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) database and the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) indicates there are no known cultural or historical resources within parcel 991. The parcel is entirely surrounded by private land, is inaccessible to the public, and is not contiguous with open space. The parcel is not at risk for development as a result of its small size, width, and zoning.