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US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Ochoa Property Conservation Easement Modification and Subordination for a Habitat Improvement Project (NRCS Easement #66-9104-04-00FML), Yolo County, CA

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (DFNSI).

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SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102[2][c] of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations [40 CFR Part 1500], and the Natural Resources Conservation Service Regulations [7 CFR Part 650], NRCS gives notice that an environmental impact statement is not being prepared for the easement modification and subordination of the Ochoa Conservation Easement (6691040400FML), Yolo County, CA. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) had prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (DFNSI), for the modification and subordination of the Ochoa Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), Agricultural Conservation Easement Program – Wetland Reserve Easement (ACEP-WRE), Yolo County, CA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Single copies of the DEA and DFNSI may be obtained by contacting Nathan Key, Acting Easement Program Specialist, USDA-NRCS, 430 G Street, Davis, CA 95616, (530) 863-6736. The DEA and DFNSI can be viewed at the following web address:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/california/environmental-compliance-notices>

Written comments should be submitted to Nathan Key at [Nathan.key@usda.gov](mailto:Nathan.key@usda.gov) within 20 days.

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 18, 2022

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The draft environmental assessment of this federally assisted action indicates that the project will not cause significant local, regional, or national impacts on the environment.

In addition, NRCS finds that the modification and subordination of the WRP, ACEP-WRE easement will not result in a significant impact on the quality of the human environment, particularly when focusing on the special environmental concerns identified in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Therefore, NRCS has prepared a draft Finding of No Significant Impact (DFNSI) in compliance with NEPA, as amended, giving notice that an environmental impact statement is not being prepared and seeking public comment on the draft environmental assessment.

The local sponsor and fee-title property owner, Mr. Chris Ochoa, agrees with carrying forward the proposed project of easement boundary modification and subordination. The Proposed Action is the modification of the exiting NRCS Easement to accommodate a right of way for PG&E to provide power to an existing well and lift pump for habitat management on the conservation easement. The modification would establish a new right of way easement, approximately 2.75-acres in size, deeded to PG&E for their use in the installation of thirteen power poles and electric service lines to support an existing onsite water well and lift pump. The 2.75 acre right of way would continue to be part of the conservation easement, however, NRCS would subordinate its rights to allow for the PG&E right of way to be established.

This notice of availability has been forwarded to the appropriate State and Federal agencies and other interested parties.

Dated: November 18, 2022

Carlos Suarez,  
State Conservationist  
Natural Resources Conservation Service