

**CEQA ADDENDUM TO THE
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
FOR COOKS VALLEY EVENTS**

**Cooks Valley Events (MND)
(State Clearinghouse # 2023040570), April 2023**

Assessor Parcel Number(s) (APN's)

(Humboldt County):

033-271-007, 033-271-009, 033-271-008, 033-271-004, 033-271-005, and 033-271-015

(Mendocino County):

**053-020-011, 053-020-010, 053-020-012, 053-020-013,
053-020-014, 053-020-016, 053-020-015**

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Background

Modified Project Description and Project History –

A Conditional Use Permit is being requested to allow annual operation of a special event at the property known as County Line Ranch (formerly Dimmick Ranch). The proposed event involves a private campout with theater, immersive art, amplified and non-amplified music, and other similar activities occurring over a 4-day period. Attendance is expected not to exceed 3000 persons (including staff, volunteers, contractors, vendors, and artists) and it is anticipated that the event will occur each year in June.

The County Line Ranch (CLR) property and nearby properties held by Arthur (French's Camp) and Bowman (Cooks Valley Campground) have a history of hosting outdoor concerts and similar events with large numbers of attendees, vehicles, and camping. Since 2013 the CLR property has been used for auxiliary parking and camping during operation of the Northern Nights Music Festival. In recent years the Mateel Community Center have resumed holding events at the site, beginning with the Summer Arts and Music Festival in 2021 and Reggae on the River in 2024. Events operated annually from the site by the Mateel and Northern Nights groups are authorized under separate Conditional Use Permits last approved by the Planning Commission on May 18, 2023. Collectively, they allow up to four large events to be held annually in the Cooks Valley area, which are summarized in the table below. If approved, the Use Permit sought by 501T3 would allow annual operation of a fifth event at the property for a 5-year period (2026-2030).

#	PERMIT	*EVENT	PERMITTEE / OPERATOR	TOTAL # (MAX)			
				DAYS	CAMPING	ATTENDANCE	VEHICLES
1	PLN-2023-18107	Northern Nights	NNMG	4	9000	10,000	4500
2			NNMG	2	4000	5000	2500
3	PLN-2023-18108	Summer Arts & Music Fest.	MCC	2	4500	5000	2500
4		Reggae on the River	MCC	3	4500 ₁ 7000	5000 ₁ 8000	2500 ₁ 4000
MCC – Mateel Community Center NNMG – Northern Nights Music Group, LLC							
* <i>event name omitted where uncertain</i>							
₁ camping, attendance, and parking may be increased where authorized to use Cooks Valley Campground (Bowman) property in Mendocino County							

A Subsequent Mitigated Negative Declaration was adopted by the Commission on May 18, 2023 during renewal and modification of the Use Permits. If authorized, the currently requested Use Permit would allow annual operation of a fifth event at the property for a 5-year period (2026-2030). The proposal incorporates many of the same pertinent operational commitments and protocols made by other similar event uses conducted from the site. Additionally, the project is designed to comply with the mitigation measures established under the most recent Subsequent MND (SCH #2023040570). For

these reasons, subsequent or separate environmental review is not necessary. This Addendum is being prepared pursuant to section 15614 of the CEQA Guidelines to describe the proposed additions and changes to the earlier project and analyze and document why they are minor in nature and do not involve or introduce new significant environmental effects nor require major revisions to the earlier MND nor introduce potentially new significant effects or result in worsening of significant effects previously examined.

Purpose - Section 15164 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) provides that the lead agency shall prepare an addendum to a previously certified Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) if some changes or additions are necessary but none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for a subsequent EIR or Negative Declaration have occurred. Section 15162 states that when an EIR has been certified for a project, no subsequent EIR shall be prepared for that project unless the lead agency determines, based on substantial evidence in the light of the whole record, one or more of the following:

1. Substantial changes are proposed in the project which require major revisions of the previous EIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or
2. Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous EIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or
3. New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the Final EIR was certified as complete, shows any of the following: A) the project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous Final EIR; B) significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the Final EIR; C) mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative; or D) mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the Final EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.

Summary of Significant Project Effects and Mitigation Recommended

A review of Appendix G impacts:

Aesthetics:

The project will not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista. The site being used for events was already evaluated in the EIR and Addendums prepared in 2014 and 2019 and a Subsequent MND prepared in 2023 which authorize use of various locations for camping, parking, and performance and assembly areas. The County Line Ranch and Cooks Valley Campground have a long history of being used for events of a similar nature and magnitude.

The project will not substantially damage scenic resources including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway. The project will not result in the construction or demolition of any new permanent structures so it does not have any potential impacts which would substantially damage scenic resources including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway corridor.

The project will not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings. No permanent structures are being proposed which would impair the existing visual character of the sites. After the event is over, all temporary facilities within the venue and the surrounding areas will be removed and the sites will be cleaned up.

The surrounding property along Highway 101 is characterized as Highway Commercial Service, so there is already considerable nighttime lighting in the area. The lights for traffic areas and parking will be no more prominent than the lighting that occurred in previous years for events at the same site. Mitigation Measure BIO-3 requires event-related lighting to be directed in a way that ensures it is kept within the boundaries of the property and the event footprint.

Less than significant impact.

Agriculture and Forestry Resources:

The project will not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use. No permanent structures are being proposed.

No trees will be removed for the event and no permanent structures will be constructed. The grass-covered areas of the site will be mowed and baled to reduce fire hazard.

The project will not result in the loss of forestland or conversion of forestland to non-forest use nor impair their forest productivity because the use is temporary, occurring in the summer months during four weekends of the year.

The project will not involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses or conversion of forestland to non-forest use. The event venue sites are not within a Williamson Act preserve.

The above paragraphs describe how the proposed use will not result in any impacts on the agricultural value of the property. These same measures will protect the existing trees on the property as well, which is sparsely populated with oak, Douglas fir and Redwood trees.

The General Plan Land Use designation is Timberland (T) and Industrial Resource Related (IR), and it is Zoned Agriculture Exclusive (AE) and Timberland Production Zone (TPZ). Presently, the agricultural use of the site predominantly pasture. There is also an extensive 100-year floodplain that has limited agricultural potential due to the presence of exposed gravel bars and river- deposited terraces. Northern and Eastern portions of the parcel (lying on the eastern side of the South Fork Eel River) are primarily composed of Commercial Timberland, and are not affected or utilized during events.

Less than significant impact. No Impact.

Air Quality:

According to the PM10 Attainment Plan adopted by NCUAQMD (May 11, 1995), Humboldt County's air quality has violated the California PM10 ambient standard. As a result, the district has been classified as a PM10 non-attainment area. The project description includes measures that are consistent with the PM10 Attainment Plan. Camping for staff and volunteers is allowed on site, which will reduce vehicle usage during the event. Dust will be minimized by regularly watering the roads and grassy areas of the site to encourage growth of new grass after mowing. Fires are not permitted on the site. The actions listed above support the proposed mitigation measures and will be sufficient to comply with the applicable air quality plan, minimizing the potential violation of air quality standards.

There is no evidence the event will expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. There are no hospitals or retirement homes within six (6) miles of the site that include a substantial number of sensitive receptors.

The proposal to introduce an additional annual event will not result in the creation of

objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people. Trash will be removed from the site and will be taken off-site for disposal as soon as practical after the event.

The primary source of the project's GHG emissions and energy use is anticipated to be the combustion of fossil fuels from motor vehicles. The project's incremental increases in GHG emissions associated with temporary increases in traffic will contribute to regional and global increases in GHG emissions and associated climate change effects. Review of the State goals for reducing GHG emissions indicate that the project would not conflict with the goals identified in AB 32 (the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006). Mitigation Measures for reducing GHG emission are further described below.

Less than significant impact.

Biological Resources:

The project will not interfere with migratory movement or impede the use of nursery sites for salmon. The salmonid young of the year will have migrated downstream by the time the event occurs. Native fish species seek refuge in deep pools and at the inlets of creeks and springs. These favorable conditions do not occur in the reach of the river where the project is located based on in-stream temperature conditions measured in 2012.

Spotted Owl & Marbled Murrelet

Marbled Murrelet primarily utilize old-growth redwoods for nesting and therefore Richardson Grove State Park is considered part of their range. There are no nesting populations currently known to exist in the park at this time. According to the 2017 Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) prepared by Caltrans for the Richardson Grove Operational Improvement Project, protocol level surveys were conducted for the Marbled Murrelet (MAMU) in 2011 and 2012 and for the Northern Spotted Owl (NSO) in 2014, 2015, 2016. Neither species was found to be present in Richardson Grove.

A review of Spotted Owl Observations found in the California Natural Diversity Database mapping reveals that the closest activity centers (HUM0012 & MEN0458) are located 2 miles to the north and 3 miles to the east of the event venue. Survey work on neighboring lands across the river (east of the venue) was performed by Hohman & Associates in 2018 and did not result in any positive NSO sightings.

An Initial Biological Assessment was prepared for the property in January 2023. According to the Assessment, potential habitat for the Northern Spotted Owl (NSO) has been mapped in the area surrounding the footprint of the proposed events. No NSO Activity Centers (ACs) are mapped within 1.3 miles of the event location (see attached NSO map). NSO surveys have been conducted in the area from 2019-2022 by Hohman and Associates, Jacobzoon & Associates as well as BBW for neighboring timber harvest plans. No NSO detections or new ACs have been established in the area since 2019. Additionally,

no habitat removal is proposed for the temporary event. Since no known NSO ACs or nest sites are known within 1.3 miles of the events, the proposed events are not expected to have a significant negative impact on the NSO.

An Initial Biological Assessment has been prepared for the property in January 2023 concludes that *“The lack of suitable habitat for the species within ~0.35 miles of nearest stage site coupled with of the “high” or “very high” pre-existing ambient noise associated with Highway 101 makes it unlikely that the events will have a significant negative impact on the Marbled murrelet.”* The report recommends that events minimize potential noise disturbance by constructing performance stages in such a way that, to the extent feasible, noise will be projected away from designated critical habitat for the Marbled Murrelet and from Richardson Grove State Park. Though at present no MAMU population is explicitly known to exist in Richardson Grove State Park, the applicant is taking additional measures to configure the setup of the stages to help direct all amplified sound in the opposite direction of Richardson Grove. This has been memorialized as Mitigation Measure BIO-7 (Stage Orientation).

The proposed project will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as tree preservation policy or ordinance. The proposed project will not increase the use of the Streamside Management Area compared to previous events.

No habitat conservation plan applies to the site or the surrounding area. Accordingly, the project does not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources.

Riverbar portions of the properties are subject to seasonal inundation during winter flows and are suitable habitat for the Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog (FYLF). Camping and Parking setbacks are designed to help keep attendees from staging vehicles and equipment within riparian areas where there is a higher likelihood of disturbing wildlife such as FYLF. Mitigation Measure BIO-6 requires education and outreach to event attendees to help ensure they help avoid and protect any populations of frogs encountered during the event.

Mitigation Measure BIO-1 involves installation of a floating boom downstream of the event site, in order to intercept and capture any rafts or other floatation devices that inadvertently escape from the event site and float downstream.

Mitigation Measure BIO-2 is designed to address ongoing responsibilities associated with a rainwater pond constructed at the former event site (French’s Camp) which was used by the Mateel Community Center to for dust control and irrigation of grassy areas used

during events. When left unattended and never completely drained, ponds can serve as habitat for invasive species such as bullfrog. The mitigation measure requires that the Mateel work with the landowner (Arthur Family) to see that the pond is drained annually by September 1st.

Mitigation Measure BIO-3 is designed to prevent inadvertent harassment of wildlife by event- related lighting and requires that lightshow elements not be operated in a way that would result in them spilling outside of the event perimeter and into neighboring forested areas.

Mitigation Measure BIO-4 requires careful management and collection of waste during and after events, to prevent access by corvids and other wildlife. The mitigation measure also requires post event macro and micro levels of cleanup both on land and within the river.

Mitigation Measure BIO-5 carries forward differential riparian setbacks for various event infrastructure and activities.

Mitigation Measure BIO-7 requires survey of the riverbar and riparian areas for nesting birds such as the Killdeer, at least 2 weeks prior to first event.

County and CDFW staff may conduct inspections during the event to ensure compliance with this and all Biological Resource conditions.

Less than significant impact. Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.

Cultural Resources: There will be no ground disturbance. The project includes the standard inadvertent discovery protocol. No Impact.

The proposed additional event will not involve significant ground disturbance to any new areas of the property. No new grading is proposed. There are no mapped cultural, historical or paleontological resources or geologic features or human remains on the property. The property has a long track record of being used in a similar fashion for past and current music festivals and similar events.

Less than significant impact.

Energy: The project site is served by Pacific Gas and Electric grid electricity. Annual operation of the proposed additional event from the site will not result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project operation. Event-related energy use is customary to the event site and should involve a negligible increase beyond baseline energy use experienced at the Saratoga Springs site in Lake

County. Conflicts with or obstruction of a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency are therefore not expected to result.

A number of mitigation measures have been developed to assist with achieving reductions in event related Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Incorporation of these mitigations will also serve to ensure that the energy efficiency will improve over baseline levels in forthcoming years., and energy waste minimized.

Less than significant impact.

Geology and Soils:

The proposed project does not expose people or structures to potential adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death.

According to the Geologic Hazards maps of the General Plan, the project is mostly located in an area of low instability. There are steep hillsides on the properties, but the proposed uses will occur on the relatively flat areas of the site. Additionally, the project site is not located in a special studies zone or mapped in a potentially active fault zone according to the Special Study Maps prepared by the State of California. Accordingly, the project will not expose people or structures to substantial adverse effects from a fault rupture.

The project will not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury or death involving strong seismic ground shaking. According to the Geologic Stability Rating Map, the soils on the project site are classified as relatively stable. The project site is located in Seismic Zone 4, with a seismic Zone factor of 0.4, per Figure 16-2 and Table 16-1 of the 1998 Uniform Building Code (UBC). However, no new construction is proposed.

The project will not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury or death involving seismic-related ground failure and liquefaction. The soils at the site are not in an area mapped as conducive to liquefaction and subsidence on the Geologic Stability Rating Map. In addition, these maps show the site is not located in an area identified with the potential for liquefaction.

The project will not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury or death involving landslides. The relatively stable soils and gentle topography minimize the risk of landslides as a result of the project.

The project will not result in soil erosion or loss of topsoil. The proposed parking will be on level parts of the site with mild slope, which have little potential for erosion. Existing access roads will be used to access the parking areas.

The project is not located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project. The project is primarily confined to relatively level

terrain associated with the riverbar and nearby terraces of the Eel River's South Fork.

The project will not be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property. There are no known expansive soils in the area and no permanent structures are proposed.

No event-related sewage will be disposed of in on-site systems. Portable toilets are utilized by event attendees. An on-site greywater system handles event-related wastewater from other sources.

There are no known unique geologic or paleontological features within the festival footprints.

Less than significant impact.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions:

Project-related GHG emissions primarily come from two sources: generator usage and vehicles traveling to and from the event site. Travel-related emissions currently account for roughly 94-95% of all event-related emissions while generators account for 5-6%. An analysis of event-related VMT and GHG has been completed for the current proposal and includes a calculation of future levels based on various factors including:

- projected increases in attendance levels
- projected electric-vehicle adoption rates amongst participants
- changes in travel miles based on new location
- participant demographics and points of origin
- implementation of targeted VMT & GHG reduction strategies.

Mitigation Measure GHG-1 is designed to reduce GHG emissions below baseline levels.

Mitigation Measure GHG-1 (GHG Reduction):

Each event shall include and implement select measures to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions generated by the event. Measures include all of the VMT reduction techniques found in Mitigation Measure TRANS-1. Additional measures designed to discourage and reduce generator use, include but are not limited to:

- Providing convenient locations for charging phones and other small portable electronic devices
- Prohibiting use of private generators within all river bar camping areas
- Offering discounts to attendees who bring portable battery power generators
- Promoting use of solar charging and/or other alternative energy generators by attendees
- Using and developing new grid power infrastructure to reduce reliance on generators to power event infrastructure.

To help implement mitigation measure GHG-1, the applicant is committing to implement a suite of measures designed to lower event-related GHG, including: providing shuttle

service for bay area attendees, offering incentives to encourage carpooling and electric vehicles, and use of solar/battery-based generators in place of gas generators. Additionally measures include offering centralized transportation of art projects at no cost to artists, sourcing building materials locally, and several other measures tied to reducing GHG linked to things other than transportation. The greatest reduction in event-related GHG will likely come from increasing use of electric vehicles by attendees. Additional considerable reductions are anticipated to result from centralizing & consolidating transport of art projects and increases in carpooling and use of shuttles.

Through implementing the reduction strategies found in Mitigation Measures GHG-1 and TRANS-1, it is expected that a significant reduction of GHG emissions will be achieved.

Less than significant impact. Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials:

The proposal to add an additional event will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials. The proposed project does not involve transport, use or the disposal of hazardous materials. The proposal will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. As proposed, the event does not involve the transport, use, or the disposal of hazardous materials (solvent, oils, fuels, etc.).

The event will not involve hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. The proposed parking does not involve activities that would result in hazardous emissions or the handling of hazardous materials, nor is it located within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school.

The proposed event is not located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, it would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment. The event site is not included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. The California Envirostor database was queried for hazardous materials sites pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. No site is located within the vicinity.

The event site is located approximately three miles from the nearest public airport and is not in an approach or transition zone nor is it designated as an area that has a limited risk. Accordingly, the project will not result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area.

The proposed event site is not within the vicinity of a private airstrip. The proposed event site is more than three (3) miles from a public airstrip so the modification will not result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area.

Mitigation Measure WF-1 includes a raft of measures designed prevent and protect against Wildfire and ensure adequate emergency response resources. As in previous years, the fire suppression resources at the site will provide the necessary fire protection in the local area during the event.

The Critical Incident Team will coordinate implementation of the emergency response plan. The Operations Plan for the event addresses emergency response to wildfire and other disasters and evacuation of attendees. Conditions of approval require conformance with the approved Operations Plan.

Less than significant impact. No impact.

Hydrology and Water Quality:

Water Use

The project will not substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table. However, the project includes mitigation measures to offset increases in water demand associated with events.

Event-related water demand comes in two forms:

1. Potable Water
2. Non-potable water

Potable water is provided to the County Line Ranch and Cooks Valley Campground (Bowman) properties through individual wells located on terraces above the South Fork of the Eel River. Both wells are viewed as hydrologically connected to (i.e. diversions from) the South Fork of the Eel River, given their proximity to the river channel. Both wells are also used to furnish water for irrigation on these properties. At the County Line Ranch, well water is pumped and stored in a series of storage tanks totaling approximately 110,000 gallons, located on the parcel's northwest side, before being distributed throughout the property. Minimal tanked storage is found on the Cooks Valley Campground property.

Non-potable water is primarily used for fire prevention and irrigating roads for dust control. An existing pond on the Cooks Valley Campground (Bowman) property is used to supply non-potable water to both properties. The pond is filled by a combination of rainwater and subsurface flow. Water trucks are used to deliver water for dust control to various locations throughout the properties.

Water right filings have been submitted for both properties and monitoring and reporting

of water use has been occurring for over a decade. Mitigation Measure WQ-1 requires that all water usage be monitored prior to, during, and following each event and that this date be recorded and tabulated and provided in the post event report.

The table below estimates breaks down water use and storage and has been adjusted to incorporate increased annual water use tied to the proposed additional 4-day event:

WATER STORAGE AND ESTIMATE OF EVENT-RELATED POTABLE WATER USE								
OPERATOR		NNMG		MCC		501T3	TOTALS	
EVENT		NNMF	2-day	SAMF	ROTR	Take 3		
ATTENDANCE		10,000	5,000	5,000	8,000	3,000	31,000	WATER STORAGE (gallons)
# of DAYS		4	2	2	3	4	15	
		POTABLE WATER USE (gallons)						
VENUE SITE	CLR	32,000	4,000	16,000	32,000	37,600	121,600	**162,000
	CVC	188,000	26,000	14,000	136,000	0	364,000	* 770,000
TOTAL(S)		220,000	30,000	30,000	168,000	37,600		932,000
SAMF – Summer Arts and Music Festival NNMF – Northern Nights Music Festival NNMG – Northern Nights Music Group, LLC CVC – Cooks Valley Campground (Bowman) *non-potable water ** currently 162,000 gallons of storage (112k potable/50k non-potable; installation of 20,000-40,000 gallons of additional potable water storage is req'd by COA								
ROTR – Reggae on the River MCC – Mateel Community Center CLR – County Line Ranch								

The following table details baseline water use on both properties (CLR and CVC) during the standard forbearance window. (May 15th thru October 31st) during a 2-year period where no events occurred.

Property	Month	Non-event year use average (2020-2021)
Monthly Average (2020-2021)		
County Line Ranch (CLR)	May	41,000
	June	39,500
	July	58,000
	Aug	66,500
	Sept	52,500
	Oct	50,000
	TOTAL	307,500
Monthly Average (2020-2021)		
Cooks Valley Campground (CVC)	May	190,000
	June	167,500
	July	190,000
	Aug	275,000
	Sept	261,000
	Oct	262,500
	TOTAL	1,346,000

Two distinct methods are used to offset increases in demand for potable water stemming from event-related use. Each approach to offset use is linked to the place of use / point of diversion (well). Mitigation Measure WQ-1 requires that all water usage be monitored prior to, during, and following each event. Mitigation Measure WQ-2 requires the County

Line Ranch to offset event-related water demand by forbearing from use of the well between September 1st and October 15th of each year. Mitigation Measure WQ-3 requires the Cooks Valley Campground owner and occupants reduce water use during the forbearance period (May 15th thru October 31st) by an amount equal to the amount of potable water consumed during events. To achieve this, the event operators and owners have committed to installing additional water storage on the property. At this time, 42,000 gallons of additional storage have been installed at the site to offset event-related water use from the Mateel Community Center. Water meter readings taken during last years event show that approximately 40,000 gallons of water were used during the 3-day Reggae on the River event. A Condition of approval is included requiring that 501T3 install between 20,000 and 40,000 gallons of additional water storage on the property, to offset projected event-related use.

The project will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site. Minimal new grading is proposed. Use of the site will also not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site.

The proposed modifications to the event will not create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff. The event occurs during the dry time of the year when rain is highly unlikely to fall. No permanent structures or grading activities are proposed. Natural drainage patterns of the site will not be altered. Roads and parking lots will not be graded except as necessary to allow the passage of vehicles.

Mitigation Measure WQ-4 prohibits the use of chemical dust suppressants and Mitigation Measure WQ-5 requires water quality sampling be performed before, during, larger events (3 or more days).

Mitigation Measure WQ-6 requires all vehicles be screened and inspected as they enter the parking areas. Those with obvious leaks of oils or antifreeze will be directed to parking lots in upland areas. Oil-absorbing pads will be placed strategically under the vehicle to catch the drips. After the vehicles depart, the pads and any contaminated soil substrate will be collected and disposed of. All spills and their remediation must be detailed in the annual post event reports to be submitted.

Mitigation Measure WQ-7 requires signage and information be made available to attendees prohibiting the use of soap in the river and encouraging us of ecologically friends sunscreens and other products.

The project will not place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other hazard delineation

map. No permanent structures are proposed.

The introduction of an additional event will not place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures that would impede or redirect flood flows. No new structures are proposed – even-related use of the property occurs outside of the flood season.

The proposed additional event will not result in the exposure of people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam. The event occurs during the dry time of the year when rain is highly unlikely to fall, and there are no dams located along the South Fork of the Eel River, upstream of the event site.

The proposed additional event will not result in the exposure of additional people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death in the event of a seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.

There is no hazard in the project area or from the project itself from flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam, or by seiche, mudflow or tsunami.

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. Less than significant impact.

Land Use and Planning:

The proposal to increase the number of annual events will not physically divide an established community. The proposed project will not result in the construction of any permanent structures or features. It will not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. The proposed project is conditionally allowed by the zoning ordinance and land use plan which does not limit the number of special events that may be conducted from any given site. The proposal will not conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan. The proposal would relocate one additional event to a site capable of and accustomed to hosting events of this nature and magnitude.

Less than significant impact. No Impact.

Mineral Resources:

The proposed additional event will not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state. None of the events involve placement of permanent structures.

Additionally, the proposed additional events will not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan. The proposed project is a temporary and short-duration event. It could temporarily interfere with potential gravel mining operations on the property. No gravel mining will occur during the event. With the addition of this event, the site property is encumbered by special events for a maximum of 15 days a year.

Therefore, the project will not result in the permanent loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan.

No Impact. Less than significant impact.

Noise:

The primary source of noise from the proposed event will result amplified music and sounds from musical and theatrical performances occurring throughout each day.

In order to help ensure event-related noise does not create a nuisance to neighboring landowners and residents, Mitigation Measure NOI-1 requires each event operator to implement a series of measures designed to facilitate adaptive management of the event. This will occur primarily through collection of feedback from local residents (immediately prior to and) during the event, and implementation of adaptive measures to help reduce, minimize, or resolve the issue(s) identified. The Mitigation Measure also requires that noise levels be measured from the northern, southern, eastern, and western boundaries of the property between 7pm and 2am. The provisions of this Condition are similar to operational measures implemented during earlier years of the festival (immediately following approval of the Use Permit and certification of the most recent EIR) which required measuring sound levels and providing a hotline for local residents to call with concerns.

The proposed use is for a temporary event. It will not result in any permanent increases in ambient noise. These mitigations help ensure the temporary increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity will not result in a nuisance to surrounding land uses.

The event will not expose people to noise impacts from airports. The festival site is located more than three (3) miles from the nearest airport. Traffic noise impacts for the residents of the area will be similar to events in previous years as there will be a similar number of vehicles traveling to and from the event.

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. Less than significant impact. No Impact.

Population and Housing:

The proposal to add on additional annual event to the site will not induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly or indirectly. The proposed project is temporary. It will only induce a temporary and transitory population increase in the immediate vicinity during the event.

The introduction of an additional event will not displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. The proposed project does not include the displacement of any existing housing. No permanent structures are proposed.

Additionally, the proposed new event will not displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. The proposed project will not displace any people because no permanent structures are proposed that could displace people.

No Impact.

Public Services:

The proposed modifications to the event will not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered facilities for fire protection or police protection. The proposed project will cause a temporary increase in the need for fire and police protection at the site, which is addressed by the security and emergency response plan.

The proposed changes will also not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered facilities for school, park or other public facilities. There are no permanent structures proposed that would require new school, park or other public facilities.

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. Less than significant impact. No Impact.

Recreation:

The proposal to add an additional event will not result in an increase in the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated. The event venue is not a public park. The Bowman property hosts a camping area known as the Cook's Valley Campground. However this area will not be used during the proposed new event.

The proposal to add an additional event to the site will not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment. The proposal does not include construction of new, or the expansion of existing recreational facilities.

No Impact

Transportation:

The proposed additional event will not cause the project to conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts and bicycle racks). There will be a minor and temporary increase in traffic during the event, but not at a level that conflict with adopted policies and plans for alternative transportation.

On-site and off-site traffic and parking plans have been developed by the applicant after consultation with Caltrans and the California Highway Patrol (CHP). Major concerns that are addressed include alleviating traffic congestion on Highway 101 at the main entrance

to the site and pedestrian safety. Pedestrians will be allowed to cross Highway 101 at the Patriot Gas Station to safely travel between the off-site parking areas and the event. Shuttles will also be used to transport people to the event from off-site locations.

Since the proposed attendance levels are considerably lower than those of other events conducted at the site, new or novel transportation impacts are not expected to result, and further analysis is therefore unwarranted.

The proposed changes to the event permit would not substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature or incompatible uses. Circulation patterns at the event site will remain consistent with traffic management plans that have already been approved and occurred during prior years.

The Site Plan and Parking Plan show areas where emergency access will be provided throughout the event site. They also show emergency access from the east side of the river to the north, which can be used to evacuate attendees in the event the bridge is incapacitated or incapable of providing sufficient emergency access. The Parking Plan and Plan of Operations describe the capacity of the on-site parking areas. Assuming an average of 3 persons per vehicle, on-site parking has the capacity to accommodate 7,500 persons though attendance of only 3,000 persons is anticipated.

Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)

An analysis of VMT and GHG specific to the proposed event has been completed and includes a calculation of future levels based on various factors including:

- projected increases in attendance levels
- changes in travel miles based on new location
- participant demographics and points of origin
- implementation of targeted VMT & GHG reduction strategies.

The current proposal involves moving an existing 1400-person event (currently operated at a property in Lake County) to the County Line Ranch and increasing the size of the event to 3,000 attendees.

Using demographic data to calculate vehicle miles traveled by attendees, a total of approximately 207,116 miles of travel occur annually from the 1,400-person event held in Lake County, which represents the environmental baseline for these events. Shifting the event to the County Line Ranch and increasing the attendance to 3,000 persons would result in a total of 374,312 vehicle miles traveled by all attendees. This would be an increase of 167,196 vehicle miles above the environmental baseline for this event.

The applicant is committing to implement a suite of measures designed to lower event-related VMT. They include: providing shuttle service for bay area attendees, offering incentives to encourage carpooling, offering centralized transportation of art projects at no cost to artists, and sourcing building materials locally. The greatest reduction in event-related VMT is expected to come from centralizing & consolidating transport of art

projects to and from the site, followed by introducing carpooling incentives and shuttle service. These commitments by the applicant help to implement Mitigation Measure TRANS-1, which focuses on reducing event-related VMT below baseline levels. They are further detailed in the attached Operations Plan and VMT & GHG Analysis.

The VMT/GHG analysis shows that implementing the suite of measures would reduce VMT by 76,733 miles, resulting in a total of 506,587 miles of VMT for the event. Although approximately 376,594 more miles of travel than what currently occurs at the Lake County site, VMT is reduced by 13.3% by incorporating the mitigation measures.

Site	#	total VMT	add't'l VMT	VMT / Attendee	NOTES
Saratoga Springs (env. baseline)	1400	207,116 miles	0	148	current event venue
County Line Ranch (unmitigated)	1400	272,398 miles	65,282 miles	195	CLR +90 miles round trip
County Line Ranch (unmitigated)	3000	583,710 miles	376,594 miles	195	at CLR, unmitigated
County Line Ranch (w/ mitigation)	3000	506,587 miles	299,471 miles	169	13.3% reduction

Through implementing the reduction strategies found in Operations Plan, it is expected that a considerable reduction in Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) will be achieved, consistent with the Mitigation Measure TRANS-1.

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. Less than significant impact.

Tribal Cultural Resources:

Since no change in the footprint of the festival is proposed, potential for impacts to tribal cultural resources are not expected to exceed baseline levels established during prior years, and further analysis is therefore unwarranted. The proposed modifications to the event will not result in new impacts to resources not previously analyzed or addressed.

There are no known Tribal Cultural Resources that are listed or eligible for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register. The proposed modifications to the project do not involve expansion of the festival footprint nor do they increase the amount of ground disturbance expected to occur. Both the County Line Ranch (CLR) and Cooks Valley Campground (CVC) properties are accustomed to hosting events and have been used periodically throughout the years for parking associated with the Reggae on the River Festival during earlier configurations of the event. Since 2014, the CVC has hosted the Northern Nights Music Festival and last year the CLR hosted the Summer Arts and Music Festival

No resource(s) significant to a Native American Tribe pursuant to 5024.1(c) are known to exist within the footprint of the project that could be adversely affected as a result of the changes to the event. Given the nature of the proposal (introduction of one additional annual event within an area accustomed to hosting events of this scale and sort) and long history of these uses at the County Line Ranch property, further investigation was not

warranted.

The lead agency consulted with local tribes through the project referral process. The project will adhere to the Inadvertent Discovery Protocol.

Less than significant impact.

Utilities and Service Systems:

The proposed modifications to the event permitting will not require, or result in, the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or the expansion of existing facilities. Nor will they require, or result in, the construction of new storm water drainage. Nor will the project result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments. Use of the property for the event is temporary in nature, occurring during one week of the year.

The proposed changes to the project will not require the construction of any stormwater facilities. No new permanent structures are proposed that would affect the quantity of stormwater on the site.

No impact on water supplies is expected to result from the proposed changes to the events. The Plan of Operation describes the water storage on-site, which is capable of providing all the water needed for the proposed event uses.

The proposed additional event will not result in related effluent exceeding wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board. No new sewage disposal facilities are needed for the proposed project modifications. Attendance at the proposed event is considerably less than other events already successfully conducted from the site.

The event site will continue to be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs and comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Solid waste will be transported by a licensed hauler to a permitted landfill with adequate capacity. As the event has historically been governed by the "pack it in pack it out" principles, it is anticipated that the majority of solid waste generated will be removed from the site by the attendees during exit.

Less than significant impact.

Wildfire:

Provisions found in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines concerning Wildfire did not exist in 2012 when the last EIR for the project was initially prepared and certified. The project site is located within a State Responsibility Area for Fire Protection. Fire Hazard Severity mapping show portions of the festival footprint located within areas of moderate, high, and very high fire hazard. Project-related Wildfire risk is not expected to differ as a result

of the currently proposed modifications to the event. The proposed additional event is planned to occur in June near the start of annual fire season.

There is no evidence that the introduction of an additional event would substantially impair an adopted emergency response or evacuation plan. The festival's Emergency Response Plan requires that all emergency response actions be planned and implemented by a core group known as the Critical Incident Team (CIT). The Team consists of top coordinators from the medical, fire, security, and communication crews, along with festival management and legal representation. The Team meets and plans responses to hypothetical situations in advance of the event as well as meeting daily during the event to address any current or potential areas of concern affecting the safety of event attendees. They team works under the Incident Command System (ICS), the same as most California emergency responders, and has a history of working well in cooperation with CalTrans, CHP, Cal-FIRE, and the Humboldt County Sherriff's Department. Security guards, festival staff, and volunteers also serve as emergency responders.

There is no evidence that, as proposed, the new event would exacerbate wildfire risk and expose attendees to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire. The Plan of Operation includes fire protection measures proposed by the applicant, which are consistent with those successfully implemented during past years. Conditions of project approval require that these measures be implemented annually. These include: no barbeques, fireworks, or open campfires are allowed anywhere at the Site. Camp stoves are allowed when accompanied by a fire extinguisher. Grass- covered areas of the festival site are mowed and baled ahead of the event to reduce fire hazard. An Outdoor festival, smoking has been customary at the event since its inception. Providing a designated area for cannabis consumption will help isolate and contain these flammable activities within an area interior to the festival, where potential wildfire risk is moderate and can be more easily controlled. This will result in a reduction in wildfire risk the environmental baseline formed during prior years of festival operation.

Fire suppression resources at the site will provide the necessary fire protection in the local area during the event. As in previous years, the event enjoys cooperative and coordinated fire protection from an assortment of local and state agencies and resources, including California State Parks, the BriceLand Volunteer Fire Department, and Cal-FIRE and the office of the State Fire Marshall. Fire suppression apparatus includes: 1 Type III engine and 1 Type VI engine, with required accompaniment, and pre-connections at the pumps, plus water tender. CICC certified trained crews are on site 24-hours a day before, during and after the event. Fire suppression apparatus is stationed in strategic areas for quick access to any incident. BriceLand Fire or a similarly qualified outfit provide for and schedule all fire protection and rescue needs. The Garberville and Redway Volunteer Fire Department, the Piercy Volunteer Fire Department, the Leggett Fire Department, and the Whitethorn Volunteer Fire Department are also in the vicinity of the event and available to respond if required. California State Parks' North Coast Redwoods District (NCRD) allow

a nearby fire lookout located in Richardson Grove State Park (RGSP) to be used by event staff and fire personnel. The lookout is equipped beforehand with shovels and water packs to facilitate rapid emergency response during the festival.

In the instance of threat from an approaching wildland fire, the Critical Incident Team would:

1. Notify offsite emergency responders
2. Secure the affected area
3. Shelter in place along the river bar – dismantle tents and campsites
4. Responding agencies (Cal-FIRE, CHP, EMS) will determine the extent of the evacuation area
5. Clear the evacuation area on foot to the predetermined evacuation zones
6. Use existing onsite resources such as the stage, onsite FM radio broadcasting capabilities, communications central, security, traffic, parking, and camping crew personnel to communicate and direct the public

The Communications/Dispatch center is in radio contact with Humboldt and Mendocino Cal-FIRE dispatch and other emergency frequencies. CIT and Fire, Medical and Security personnel also have Cal-FIRE dispatch radios. The CIT is assigned dedicated pagers and cell phones for dispatch purposes. All phone numbers and contact information is exchanged with involved State and County agencies prior to the event. A helipad is located at the north end of the Loop Lot adjacent to the emergency exit through the One Log House property.

The proposed changes to the event will not require the installation or maintenance of new roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities that would exacerbate fire risk or result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment. As already discussed, the project plan of operation and Conditions of Approval already include a suite of measures designed to reduce or eliminate increased wildfire risk while avoiding other inadvertent impacts to the environment.

The proposal to add an additional event to the site is not expected to expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes. The majority of the festival footprint is located within the 100-year Flood zone associated with the South Fork of the Eel River. Minimal new grading occurs annually. Use of the site will also not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the property, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site. The festival is temporary and occurs during only one week of the year. Proposed temporary site modifications do not create or contribute runoff water exceeding the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems. The event occurs during the driest time of the year when rain is highly unlikely to fall. No permanent structures or grading activities are proposed. Natural drainage patterns of the site will not be altered.

Roads and parking lots will not be graded except as necessary to allow the passage of vehicles.

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. Less than significant impact.

No changes are proposed to be made to the mitigation measures established during adoption of the most recent Mitigated Negative Declaration (SCH #2023040570). The proposal to authorize an additional annual event is fully consistent with the impacts identified and adequately mitigated in the MND. The project as conditioned implements responsible agency recommendations, resulting in no new significant adverse environmental effects as analyzed and identified in the MND.

In reviewing the application for consistency with the adopted MND the County considered the following information and studies, among other documents:

- Operations Plan – 501T3 Theater Camp
- VMT/GHG Analysis
- B&B Portable Toilets will-serve letter
- Water Storage Plan
- Parking Plan
- Engineered Traffic Control Plan

Other CEQA Considerations

Staff suggests no changes for the revised project.

EXPLANATION OF DECISION NOT TO PREPARE A SUPPLEMENTAL OR SUBSEQUENT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION OR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

See **Purpose** statement above.

In every impact category analyzed in this review, the projected consequences of the current project proposal are either the same or less than significantly increased than the earlier project for which the MND was adopted. Compliance with relevant mitigation measures found in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program is required as a Condition of Project approval.

Analysis of project-specific impacts for conformance with the previously adopted Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program:

Mitigation Measure BIO-1 (Floating Boom):

- Incorporated as a Condition of project approval.

Mitigation Measure BIO-2 (Bullfrog Management – Arthur Pond):

- Draining of the pond is a responsibility of the Mateel Community Center under the Conditions of their permit (PLN-2023-18108)

Mitigation Measure BIO-3 (Event Lighting):

- Incorporated as a Condition of project approval.

Mitigation Measure BIO-4 (Waste Management):

- Incorporated as a Condition of project approval.

Mitigation Measure BIO-5 (Riparian Setbacks):

- Incorporated as a Condition of project approval.

Mitigation Measure BIO-6 (Foothill Yellow-legged Frog):

- Incorporated as a Condition of project approval.

Mitigation Measure BIO-7 (Nesting Birds)

- Incorporated as a Condition of project approval.

Mitigation Measure BIO-8 (Stage Orientation)

- Incorporated as a Condition of project approval.

Mitigation Measure GHG-1 (GHG Reduction):

- Incorporated as a Condition of project approval. The applicant has committed to a suite of measures specifically tailored to their event and its operation, which are designed to reduce event-related GHG emissions. They are detailed in the attached Operations Plan and VMT & GHG Analysis.

Mitigation Measure WQ-1 (Monitoring Water Usage):

- Incorporated as a Condition of project approval.

Mitigation Measure WQ-2 (offsetting water use - County Line Ranch):

- Incorporated as a Condition of project approval.

Mitigation Measure WQ-3 (offsetting water use - Cooks Valley Campground):

- Incorporated as a Condition of project approval.

Mitigation Measure WQ-4 (Dust Control)

- Incorporated as a Condition of project approval.

Mitigation Measure WQ-5 (Water Quality Sampling)

- Incorporated as a Condition of project approval.

Mitigation Measure WQ-6 (Inspection & Management of Leaking Vehicles)

- Incorporated as a Condition of project approval.

Mitigation Measure WQ-7 (Water Quality Education and Enforcement)

- Incorporated as a Condition of project approval.

Mitigation Measure NOI-1 (Adaptive Management):

- Incorporated as a Condition of project approval.

Mitigation Measure NOI-2 (Quiet Time):

- Incorporated as a Condition of project approval.

Mitigation Measure TRANS-1 (VMT Reduction):

- Incorporated as a Condition of project approval. The applicant has committed to a suite of measures specifically tailored to their event and its operation, which are designed to reduce event-related Vehicle Miles Traveled. They are detailed in the attached Operations Plan and VMT & GHG Analysis.

Mitigation Measure TRANS-2 (Traffic Control):

- Incorporated as a Condition of project approval.

Mitigation Measure WF-1 (Fire Prevention, Firefighting & Emergency Services Personnel, Equipment & Infrastructure):

- Incorporated as a Condition of project approval.

Based upon this review, the following findings are supported:

FINDINGS

1. The proposed project will permit an additional annual event at a site already permitted for and capable of accommodating events of this scale and type.
2. The circumstances under which the earlier projects were approved have not changed substantially. There are no new significant environmental effects and no substantial increases in the severity of previously effects previously identified

potentially significant.

3. In considering the currently proposed project, there is no new information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous MND was adopted.

CONCLUSION

Based on these findings it is concluded that an Addendum to the previous Mitigated Negative Declaration is appropriate to address the requirements under CEQA for the current project proposal. All the findings, mitigation requirements, and mitigation and monitoring program of the MND, remain in full force and effect on the original project and proposed new activities.

There are no new significant environmental effects and no substantial increases in the severity of previously identified effects. For the current proposed project, there has been no new information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous MND was adopted as complete.

MITIGATION MEASURES, MONITORING, AND REPORTING PROGRAM (MMRP)

All of the following mitigation measures are required to mitigate impacts from the proposal to conduct four temporary events in the Cooks Valley area on an annual basis:

Mitigation Measure BIO-1 (Floating Boom):

A boom shall be positioned downstream of the event and used to capture rafts and other flotation devices that are inadvertently carried off during events. Netting or similar materials which can entrap wildlife, are prohibited from use.

Mitigation Measure BIO-2 (Bullfrog Management – Arthur Pond):

The pond located on the Arthur Property (French's Camp) shall be completely drained annually. Draining of the pond must be completed by September 1st of each year. Before draining may occur, a plan for discharge of stored water from the pond shall be submitted to the California Department of Fish & Wildlife for review and approval. The plan shall identify the timing, volume, and areas where release of water is proposed. Water from the pond shall not be discharged directly into the South Fork of the Eel River, or its tributaries.

Mitigation Measure BIO-3 (Event Lighting):

Elements of the lightshow (such as lasers, projections, and similar lighting) shall be directed in a way that ensures they remain contained within the boundaries of the property and event footprint (i.e. directed at the dance floor and stages, venues, etc. and not onto adjacent forested slopes throughout the river canyon).

Mitigation Measure BIO-4 (Waste Management):

To prevent the overflow spread of litter and access by corvids and other wildlife, trashcans shall be regularly emptied throughout the day. All dumpsters shall be animal proof, or at a minimum, covered. All areas shall be cleaned of all litter within two (2) weeks following the end of each event. Cleanup includes snorkeling and diving of the river to detect and remove litter and lost objects that could be deleterious to fish, wildlife, or other beneficial uses.

Mitigation Measure BIO-5 (Riparian Setbacks):

The following riparian setbacks from the river's wetted edge shall be maintained during all events:

- Walk-in campsites: 30'
- Car campsites/parking on the gravel bar: 100'
- Stages: 50' minimum
- Porta-potties: 50' minimum. Must be placed on a stable surface
- Generators supplying power to event infrastructure: 100 feet. All generators within 200

feet of the wetted edge shall include secondary containment. Fully-stocked spill kits must be available onsite at all times.

A buffer of no less than thirty (30) feet shall be maintained between all project activities and the wetted channel of South Fork Eel River. A one hundred (100) foot buffer shall be maintained between all vehicles and the wetted channel of the South Fork Eel River.

Mitigation Measure BIO-6 (Foothill Yellow-legged Frog):

During all events featuring camping and other use of the riverbar, the applicant shall plan, and implement outreach, announcements, and signage to educate attendees and event staff about foothill yellow-legged frogs (FYLF) at the event site, including ways for attendees to avoid impacting frogs during events. At minimum, these efforts shall include:

- Conspicuously posted signage at each vehicle entry point and at 50-foot intervals along the 30- foot setback from the river bank and 100-foot setback for vehicle parking areas. At minimum, the signage shall be 11" x 17", be posted between 4-5 feet above the ground, include an image of the FYLF and shall indicate "No Camping Beyond This Point" and "No Parking Beyond This Point," respectively. The sign shall also include additional pertinent information to educate attendees on ways to avoid impacts to the FYLF for the duration of the event.
- Education of event staff and security to ensure attendees are not camping or parking in prohibited areas where impacts to the FYLF are most likely to occur.
- Announcements from the Main Stage and River Stage once each morning, afternoon and evening on each day of the event to inform attendees on ways to avoid impacts to the FYLF for the duration of the event.

County and CDFW staff may conduct inspections during the event to ensure compliance with this and all Biological Resource conditions.

Mitigation Measure BIO-7 (Nesting Birds)

Nesting birds or occupied nests shall not be disturbed or disrupted by project activities. Some bird species such as killdeer (*Charadrius vociferous*) are cryptic ground nesters known to utilize gravel bars for nesting activities. Riparian vegetation provides suitable habitat for a variety of nesting birds. In order to avoid potential take of the nest or eggs of any bird (prohibited pursuant to Fish and Game Code Sections 3503 and 3503.5), nest surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within 14 days prior to the start of project-related activities, and within 14 days prior to the start of the earliest event. (If all activities will take place within a two-week period, a single survey is acceptable.) The detailed survey results shall be submitted to the County and CDFW for review prior to commencement of site preparation activities and/or the Northern Nights Music Festival. CDFW will provide review and comment within five (5) business days of report submittal. Depending on site-specific conditions, CDFW may recommend buffers of 50 or more feet

between identified nests and project activities, and/or other measures to avoid disturbance or take of nests.

Mitigation Measure BIO-8 (Stage Orientation)

To minimize potential noise disturbance all performance stages shall be constructed and positioned in such a way that, to the extent feasible, noise will be projected away from designated critical habitat for the Marbled Murrelet and from Richardson Grove State Park.

Mitigation Measure GHG-1 (GHG Reduction):

Each event shall include and implement select measures to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions generated by the event. Measures include all of the VMT reduction techniques found in Mitigation Measure TRANS-1. Additional measures designed to discourage and reduce generator use, include but are not limited to:

- Providing convenient locations for charging phones and other small portable electronic devices
- Prohibiting use of private generators within all river bar camping areas
- Offering discounts to attendees who bring portable battery power generators
- Promoting use of solar charging and/or other alternative energy generators by attendees
- Using and developing new grid power infrastructure to reduce reliance on generators to power event infrastructure.

Mitigation Measure WQ-1 (Monitoring Water Usage):

Water use on both the County Line Ranch and Cooks Valley Campground properties shall be monitored throughout the event season (May through October) including prior to, during, and after each event. Daily readings of water use shall be collected from the water meters during each day an event occurs. This information shall be recorded and tabulated and provided in the post event report.

Mitigation Measure WQ-2 (offsetting water use - County Line Ranch):

To offset event-related water demand at County Line Ranch, the property owners and occupants shall agree to forbear from use of the well between September 1st and October 15th. Forbearance shall be required during any year where events occur, for the life of the permit. If enough water storage is developed to meet all event-related water demand at the County Line Ranch place of use, forbearance shall no longer be required.

Mitigation Measure WQ-3 (offsetting water use - Cooks Valley Campground):

To offset event-related water demand at Cooks Valley Campground, the property owner and occupants shall reduce water use during the standard forbearance period (May 15th thru October 31st) so that the total water use during those months is reduced by an amount equal to the amount of water used by all events occurring within that same period.

For example, if all event-related water use totals 200,000 gallons (between May 15th and October 31st), the maximum amount of water that may be taken during the forbearance window shall not exceed 1,146,000 gallons (1,346,000 gallons – 200,000 gallons).

Mitigation Measure WQ-4 (Dust Control)

Use of Chemical Dust Suppressants is prohibited. Water for dust control be sourced from the existing pond at the Cooks Valley Campground.

Mitigation Measure WQ-5 (Water Quality Sampling)

To assess water quality impacts, during all three and four-day events, daily water samples shall be collected by a qualified independent entity. Samples shall be collected both upstream and downstream from the event and shall be tested for total coliforms, fecal coliforms and enterococci.

Mitigation Measure WQ-6 (Inspection & Management of Leaking Vehicles)

Event staff shall inspect vehicles at arrival for leaking fluids, take appropriate steps for dealing with problem vehicles, monitor the parking areas during the event, and provide any required clean up during and after the events.

Event staff will inspect vehicles at arrival for leaking fluids, take appropriate steps for dealing with problem vehicles, monitor the parking areas during the event, and provide any required clean up during and after the event. The applicants/event staff shall provide specific details of the vehicle screening/inspection process to prevent the release of petrochemicals associated with vehicles in areas where these chemicals may pass into the South Fork Eel River. This screening process shall, at a minimum:

- a) Dedicate staff to pollution prevention, both at the entry point and for follow up within the venue for the duration of the event
- b) Identify "problem" vehicles (i.e. leaking) before they enter the venue
- c) Intercept and quarantine "problem" vehicles that are leaking and direct to parking areas away from the river bar
- d) Create a contingency plan for leaking vehicles discovered within the venue, such as absorbent pads effective to contain leaks until proper disposal after the event
- e) Dedicate staff for clean-up and remediation of spots/spills during and after the event
- f) Report post clean-up findings to CDFW and other interested agencies after the event

The applicants shall detail any spills and their clean-up in the annual monitoring report.

Mitigation Measure WQ-7 (Water Quality Education and Enforcement)

Campers and other attendees utilizing the river and river bar areas shall be prohibited from using soap in the river. Signage and other information prohibiting use of soap in the river and encouraging use of ecologically friendly sunscreen options.

Mitigation Measure NOI-1 (Adaptive Management):

To provide for adaptive management of the event, including control of unique issues which arise or are observed, the applicant shall perform and implement the following actions and protocols, which are designed to help insure the event is conducted in a way that avoids becoming a nuisance to neighboring land uses and residents.

- D. The following measures shall be completed **at least two weeks prior** to the event:
- i. The applicant shall establish a number of channels for soliciting community feedback before and during operation of the festival, including but not limited to:
 - a. a dedicated local landline with voicemail, answering machine, or equivalent messaging service for receiving feedback, concerns, suggestions, and complaints.
 - b. a dedicated email address for receiving feedback, concerns, suggestions, and complaints.
 - c. A dedicated staff person or team shall be designated and tasked with regularly monitoring communication received through these channels including:
 - responding to / contacting reporting parties to acknowledge receipt of communication as well as discussion and development of ways to effectively address the issue; and
 - coordinating implementation of adaptive measures to reduce, minimize, or resolve the issue(s) identified.
 - ii. Notification shall be provided to community members (including neighboring property owners/residents, and others). The notice shall include the festival dates and daily hours of operation and list the phone/email hotline where community members may ask questions, express concerns, or provide feedback related to the event. Notice shall be provided at minimum through the following means:
 - a. Flyers shall be posted and handbills left at community message boards and similarly appropriate locations in the Piercy, Cooks Valley, Benbow, and Garberville areas. Flyers should explain that the hotline will be monitored and used to respond to event-related questions and concerns from local residents.
 - b. Hotline information shall be included within event-related PSA's or paid announcements on local radio stations

iii. The email account and phone number shall be monitored during the festival as well as the 2-week period leading up to the event. At a minimum, monitoring of these channels shall be performed hourly during the festival and on a daily basis during the period preceding the first day of the event.

E. The following measures shall be implemented **during** the event:

- i. To characterize and better understand noise levels from the event, a noise meter shall be used to measure and monitor noise levels at the boundaries of the event properties during each night of the festival (between 7pm and 2am). Noise measurements shall be collected at the property lines nearest each of the cardinal directions (north, south, east, and west) from the center of the event.
- ii. The applicant agrees to adaptively manage concert noise throughout the course of each event, striving to incorporate measures which reduce, minimize, or resolve noise-related issues or similar concerns should complaints or other constructive feedback be received from community members during events. This includes but is not limited to: speaker or stage positioning, amplification levels, or other measures to limit or control noise.

F. The following measures shall be implemented **following** the event:

- i. The post-event report shall include information discussing compliance with the requirements of this condition, including public outreach and input received, noise level measurements, and adaptive management measures taken.

Mitigation Measure NOI-2 (Quiet Time):

The campground areas shall be posted, and information shall be provided on the event website that a "Quiet Time" shall exist from 11:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. each day. No amplified music is permitted in the campground during "Quiet Time." Event security shall monitor the camping areas to ensure compliance with this condition.

Mitigation Measure TRANS-1 (VMT Reduction):

Each event shall include and implement select measures to reduce cumulative vehicle miles traveled to and from the event. Measures include but are not limited to:

- Promoting carpooling across marketing and social media channels
- Providing incentives to help ensure camping is maximized amongst multi-day attendees and staff
- Offering discounts (on parking and admission) to event attendees who carpool
- Providing shuttles to the event from locations near where trips to the event originate or where there are other large concentrations of event attendees.
- Chartering local bus service to provide special bussing, express service, or extended service during days the event occurs.

Mitigation Measure TRANS-2 (Traffic Control):

An engineered traffic control plan will be required as part of the Caltrans Encroachment Permit for each Special Event. The traffic control contractor must be a California licensed C31 contractor. Any shuttle stop requested within State right of way will require approval from multiple offices within Caltrans. The applicant must allocate time for Caltrans to review the shuttle operations prior to submitting an encroachment permit application.

Mitigation Measure WF-1 (Fire Prevention, Firefighting & Emergency Services Personnel, Equipment & Infrastructure):

1. All grasses in parking and camping areas shall be mowed prior to each event.
2. Emergency water resources need to be established and approved by CalFire. These water resources need to be easily identifiable and remain accessible for emergency vehicles.
3. Fire extinguishers shall be available and mounted in and around campsites. The required number of extinguishers will need to be adequate for each campsite and their occupancy load (placement and number of extinguishers can be determined during site inspection).
4. During events, signage declaring “NO OPEN BURNING” and “NO FIREWORKS” shall be placed in and around the camping areas and areas open to the public. This prohibition shall also be advertised on the event website and handouts noting that fire and fireworks are prohibited.
5. All roadways shall be an all-weather surface, rocked and accessible for all types of vehicles.
6. A 20-foot fire lane shall be established around the perimeter, including parking and camping areas. These areas will need to be easily identifiable and remain clear for emergency vehicles.
7. Staging areas for fire suppression and emergency medical resources shall be established at appropriate locations within the event. These staging areas will need to be easily identifiable and remain clear for access by emergency vehicles.
8. The perimeter of the event area shall be clearly identified and shall be posted to limit access beyond the approved event, camping, and parking area sites. No camping shall be allowed on the opposite side of the South Fork Eel River from the event.
9. Prior to each event, the event operator shall establish an evacuation plan and ensure all cooperating agencies and event emergency services are familiar with and have a copy of the plan.
10. The event operator shall establish an incident action plan (I.A.P) that provides the

minimum information to all cooperating agencies such as locations of fire and security stations, locations of emergency water sources, communications plan including phone numbers for event emergency services and coordinators, transportation plan, and medical plan. The I.A.P must be distributed to all involved agencies prior to each event.

11. Designated locations for fire, medical, and security personnel and parking shall be identified with signs visible to all campers.
12. The following personnel, measures, and equipment shall be in place and in force during all events:
 - i. A minimum of one (1) Type 3 fire engine and one (1) water tender for standby emergency water and dust abatement, with radio communication equivalent to CalFire dispatch and staffed with a minimum of two (2) personnel, staged at the campground 24 hours a day throughout the duration of the event. One fire engine is required for each 5,000 people in attendance. The first engine shall be a Type III engine staffed with an operator and two firefighters. Additional required engines shall be at least Type IVs and staffed with an operator and firefighter. The engine operators shall be minimum NWCG Engine Boss (or equivalent) qualified and the firefighters shall be minimum NWCG Firefighter (or equivalent) qualified. The personnel roster of qualified engine operators and firefighters shall be provided to CAL FIRE within 10 days of the event. Documentation of training may be requested to verify qualifications.
 - j. A minimum of one (1) paramedic and one (1) EMT with ACLS capabilities, and transportation and radio communication equivalent to CalFire dispatch for any life-threatening emergencies. ALS-staffed medical crew must be present on-site for the entire event duration.
 - k. Event fire personnel shall establish and maintain affirmative radio communication between the event site and the Fortuna Interagency Command Center on the Humboldt County Fire Net frequency. The event fire personnel must have no fewer than two radios per engine (one mobile and one portable) capable of transmitting and receiving.
 - l. Each event shall have a designated Fire Chief who shall serve as or delegate duties as the event Fire Marshall. The event Fire Marshall is responsible for the conduct and documentation of daily inspection of electrical fire hazards, fire extinguishers, and acceptable conditions of propane / cooking equipment for vendor booths. The event Fire Marshall shall have the authority to enforce State Fire Marshall standards for the event, and close down a vendor until their operation comes into compliance.
 - m. On-site security shall enforce the prohibition on open burning of any kind.

- n. All parking lots should be staffed with security personnel twenty-four hours per day and equipped with firefighting tools, water extinguishers, and Class B & C extinguishers. These security personnel shall have direct communications with the event emergency services to ensure immediate incident notification.
- o. Road from U.S. Highway 101 to Mercer Fraser and Loop Road shall be kept open and clear for emergency vehicle access.
- p. Piercy byways and exits 627,625, and 271/101 junction shall be limited to local traffic.

All items listed above, with the exception of the staffed fire equipment, shall be in place and approved to the satisfaction of all appropriate agencies prior to each event.

- 13. The event operator shall contact CAL FIRE at least 45 days prior to an event and provide the agency an opportunity to perform an evaluation of fire and life safety concerns and conduct an initial inspection. Cal-FIRE may request to perform additional inspections, such as within ten days of the event, and re-inspection within 24 hours of the event when fire and emergency resources are in place. All above recommendations, with the exception of the staffed fire equipment, shall be in place and approved ten days prior to the event.
- 14. A Critical Incident Plan shall be developed and circulated to all safety personnel and emergency service providers a minimum of 30 days prior to each event. All safety personnel and representatives from each agency shall be invited to a meeting held during the week of each event. The critical incident plan shall be utilized by all service providers and coordinated through Humboldt's CalFire Fortuna Emergency Command Center (ECC) and/or Mendocino's Howard Forest Station, per CalFire's instruction for that year's event season.