



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
California-Great Basin Region (IR-10)
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-2606
Sacramento, CA 95825



IN REPLY REFER TO:
08EVEN00-RBOS

April 9, 2021

To: Christopher Doley
Chief, Restoration Center
National Marine Fisheries Service

Tony Penn
Chief, Assessment and Restoration Division
National Ocean Service

From: Paul Souza
Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Department of the Interior Region 10

Subject: Finding of No Significant Impact for the Refugio Beach Oil Spill Restoration
Plan/Environmental Assessment

Dear Christopher Doley and Tony Penn:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), acting as the lead representative for the Department of Interior agencies, has reviewed the finding of no significant impact (FONSI) prepared by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for the Final Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment (RP/EA) for the Refugio Bay Oil Spill, in Santa Barbara County, California. The RP/EA describes 13 selected alternatives representing \$20M of the \$22M in recovered restoration funds. This FONSI applies to 10 of the 13 projects. For the remaining three projects, further analysis will be conducted and addressed separately per National Environmental Policy Act regulations. These restoration projects, determined through a natural resource damage assessment and restoration (NRDAR) process, address the resource injury through restoration or preservation of like habitat; provide ecological benefits; and are cost effective and implementable in the short-term.

As the Authorized Official representing the Department of the Interior (DOI) agencies involved on the Refugio Bay Oil Spill NRDAR, I conclude that the RP/EA adequately describes the restoration actions described by the Natural Resource Trustee Agencies (Trustees). The Trustees comprise of NOAA; the United States Department of the Interior, represented by the Service,

National Park Service, and Bureau of Land Management; the California Department of Fish and Wildlife; the California Department of Parks and Recreation; the California State Lands Commission; and the Regents of the University of California. Also as the Authorized Official on behalf of the DOI agencies, I agree with NOAA's conclusion that the implementation of the restoration alternatives will not significantly impact the quality of human environment; therefore, DOI concurs with NOAA's FONSI determination.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Damian Higgins, NRDAR Program Coordinator in the California-Great Basin Regional Office at 916-414-6548 (damian_higgins@fws.gov) or Colleen Grant in the Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office at 805-677-3310 (colleen_grant@fws.gov).

Sincerely,

Paul Souza
Regional Director