

**MITIGATED FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
MARTIS VALLEY TRAIL RIGHT-OF-WAY PROJECT
PLACER COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District (Corps) has conducted additional environmental analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, for the Placer County, California, Martis Valley Right-of-Way Project (Project). Environmental review of the Project was originally documented in the *Martis Valley Trail Right-of-Way Project, Placer County, California, Environmental Assessment (EA)*, dated December 2017 (2017 EA). The *Final Supplemental Environmental Assessment, Martis Valley Trail Right-of-Way Project, Placer County, California* (Final SEA) addresses design refinements to construction of the Martis Valley Trail (MVT) and discusses new information that has been provided detailing the cultural significance of Martis Valley in association with the Project's setting, that were not analyzed in the 2017 SEA.

The Final SEA, incorporated herein by reference, evaluated various alternatives to construct the MVT within the Martis Creek Lake and Dam Project (MCLDP). The Corps would grant a temporary construction easement and a permanent real estate easement to Placer County to authorize construction, operation, and maintenance of the MVT within the MCLDP. The Final SEA supplements the 2017 EA. The Proposed Action as described in the Final SEA addresses design refinements for the Project and includes:

- (1) Proposed realignment of Segment 1B-2 above gross pool to minimize impacts to the Flood Risk Management objective;
- (2) Addition of a raised berm (capped) section in Segment 3A from the existing Wildlife Viewing Area parking lot extending east along the Tompkins Memorial Trail to reduce impacts to known resources;
- (3) Realignment of the eastern most end of Segment 3A, shifting the alignment north to the extent feasible;
- (4) Design refinements to incorporate use of the existing SR-267 culvert structure; and,
- (5) Construction of a viewing/interpretive area in the lower Wildlife Area parking lot as element of the Paved Trail within the MCLDP.

In addition to a "No Action" alternative, one other alternative was evaluated. Based on the proponent's preference, the Paved Trail within the MCLDP Alternative is the Proposed Action, as discussed in Section 2.1.4.1 of the Final SEA.

For all alternatives, the potential effects were evaluated, as appropriate. The Proposed Action could have a significant effect on the environment. However, implementation of the following mitigation measures, and those from the 2017 EA, would reduce all significant impacts to less than significant levels to support a mitigated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), thereby avoiding the need to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Additional mitigation measures to the 2017 EA would be implemented, as described in the Final SEA, to reduce effects to the following resources: hydrology and water quality (Section 3.1.1), visual resources (Section 3.1.2), vegetation and wildlife (Section 3.1.3), special status species (Section 3.2.1), and cultural resources (Section 3.2.2). A summary assessment of the potential effects of the Proposed Action, including mitigation, are listed in Table 1:

Table 1: Summary of Potential Effects of the Proposed Action.

	Insignificant effects	Insignificant effects as a result of mitigation	Resource unaffected by action
Public Utilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land Use, Socioeconomics, and Environmental Justice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agriculture and Prime and Unique Farmlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water Resources and Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Air Quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Greenhouse Gases (GHGs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vegetation and Wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Special Status Species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Traffic and Circulation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Noise and Vibration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

All practicable and appropriate means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects were analyzed and incorporated into the Proposed Action. Best management practices (BMPs) as detailed in the Final SEA would be implemented, if appropriate, to minimize impacts.

- Mitigation measures to prevent degradation to on-site and off-site waters of the U.S are discussed in detail in Sections 4.4 and 6.4 of the 2017 EA as well as Section 3.1.1 of the Final SEA. BMPs would include placement of a work exclusion buffer around delineated aquatic resources, use of appropriate measures to intercept and capture sediment prior to entering waters of the U.S., as well as erosion control measures along the perimeter of all work areas to prevent the displacement of fill material. All BMPs would be in place prior to initiation of any construction activities and would be maintained until construction activities have been completed and site soils are stabilized.
- Implementation of the mitigation measures listed in Section 4.4 of the 2017 EA would ensure effects to vegetation and wildlife would be reduced to less-than-significant levels. No modification to surface waters would occur as a result of the Proposed Action, therefore, consultation with USFWS under the USFWS Coordination Act was not required.
- In 2017, USACE informally consulted with the Service for the federally-threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkia henshawi*) and the federally-endangered Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (*Rana sierra*). On July 27, 2017, USACE received a letter of concurrence from the Service and all proposed mitigation measures were incorporated into the 2017 EA to reduce potential adverse effects to special status species or their habitat. Mitigation measures listed in Section 4.4 the 2017 EA and those listed in Section 3.2.2.4 of the Final SEA would be implemented, as applicable, to avoid adverse effects to listed species, species proposed for listing, or their associated habitat.

The Draft SEA and FONSI are being circulated for public review by agencies, organizations, and individuals known to have an interest in the Project. Any comments received would be addressed in Appendix C of the Final SEA. Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species

Act of 1973, as amended, the Service issued a letter of concurrence on July 27, 2017. For this SEA, re-consultation has been determined unnecessary, since construction of the proposed improvements to the MVT would not result in additional effects to special status species. All terms and conditions, conservation measures, and reasonable and prudent alternatives and measures resulting from this consultation shall be implemented in order to minimize effects to listed species and avoid jeopardizing the species.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the Corps received a letter dated November 3, 2017, in which the California State Historic Preservation Officer concurred with the Corps' findings on condition of the execution of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). The Corps executed the MOA on December 8, 2017, and an amendment to the MOA on March 13, 2019, to resolve adverse effects. Mitigation activities will be detailed in a forthcoming Historic Properties Treatment Plan and mitigation measures listed in the SEA will be implemented through coordination between the Corps and Placer County.

All applicable environmental laws have been considered and coordination with appropriate agencies and officials has been completed. The Proposed Action analyzed in the Final SEA focuses on the proposed design refinements relevant to the construction, operation, and maintenance of the MVT. All applicable laws, executive orders, and regulations were considered in evaluation of alternatives addressed in the Final SEA. Based on this Final SEA, the reviews by other Federal, State and local agencies, Tribes, input of the public, and the review by my staff, it is my determination that the Proposed Action could have a significant effect on the environment; however, implementation of mitigation measures would reduce all significant impacts to less than significant levels to support a mitigated FONSI. Therefore, preparation of an EIS is not required.

Date

James J. Handura
COL, EN
Commanding