

Public Notice: ARCF SEIS Draft Extension Letter

In accordance with federal regulations (40 CFR 1501.10, 'Deadlines and schedule for NEPA process'), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District (USACE) is extending the preparation period to complete the 2016 American River Common Features Project (ARCF 2016) Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIS/SEIR) to adequately respond to the large volume of public comments received during the extended comment period. The document was planned for completion within two years from the published date of the Notice of Intent on October 7, 2022 (87 FR 61003), with the original schedule requiring a completed SEIS/SEIR on October 7, 2024. The SEIS/SEIR is now anticipated to be finalized by Fall 2025.

USACE has been preparing this joint SEIS/SEIR with the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) to analyze the potential environmental effects of design refinements to the 2016 ARCF General Reevaluation Report (GRR), Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report. USACE is the lead federal agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the CVFPB serves as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), in coordination with the State of California, Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA). The ARCF 2016 Program project components that are being evaluated in this SEIS/SEIR include American River Erosion Contract 3B, Contract 4A, and Contract 4B, Sacramento River Erosion Contract 3, Magpie Creek Project (North Area Streams Reach I) and two proposed mitigation sites planned to compensate for the construction-related loss of riparian habitat along the American River (American River Mitigation Site) and Sacramento River (Sacramento River Mitigation Site), as well as installation of a piezometer network to monitor performance of the levee and post project water levels.

The purpose of the ARCF SEIS/SEIR project is to reduce the overall flood risk within the study area. The Sacramento metropolitan area is one of the most at risk areas for flooding in the United States. An unacceptably high risk of flooding from levee failure threatens the public safety of the City of Sacramento, as well as property and critical infrastructure throughout the study area. USACE has determined that the levee systems along the Sacramento and American Rivers do not meet the minimum flood risk objectives due to seepage, slope stability and erosion. By correcting deficiencies with aging infrastructure and adding protective features to the river levees within the Sacramento metropolitan area, the ARCF 2016 project is reducing the risk of levee failure and overtopping that has potential to cause catastrophic urban flooding.

Additional project information is available on the ARCF 2016 Project website at: www.sacleveeupgrades.com. For further information contact: Sacramento District Public Affairs Office, telephone at (916) 557-5100, e-mail at spk-pao@usace.army.mil.