



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SACRAMENTO DISTRICT  
1325 J STREET  
SACRAMENTO CA 95814-2922

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

Supplemental Environmental Assessment/Environmental Impact Report (EA/EIR)  
American River Watershed Common Features (ARCF), Lower American River (LAR)  
Contract 1, Sacramento, Sacramento County, California

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has prepared an environmental assessment in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The ARCF Project, authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (Pub. Law 114-322), provides a portfolio of flood risk reduction measures to address underseepage, stability, and erosion along the Lower American River and the Sacramento River between City of Sacramento and the town of Freeport.

LAR Contract 1 is a segment of erosion protection countermeasures consisting of riprap, planting benches, and launchable rock trenches proposed along the left bank of the American River levee immediately east of California State University, Sacramento campus, in the City of Sacramento. The enclosed Final EA/EIR supplements the 2016 ARCF General Reevaluation Report EIS/EIR (2016 ARCF GRR EIS/EIR) and evaluates design changes from the authorized plan in the LAR Contract 1 segment.

The Final Supplemental EA/EIR, incorporated herein by reference, evaluated one structural alternative (Proposed Action) and the no action alternative (No-Action). The No-Action assumes the authorized project would be constructed as was described in the 2016 ARCF GRR EIS/EIR. The Proposed Action addresses design changes to the installation of planting benches, launchable rock trenches, and riprap bank protection. All practicable and appropriate means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects were analyzed and incorporated into the Proposed Action. Mitigation measures detailed in the Final Supplemental EA/EIR will be implemented, as appropriate, to minimize impacts.

The potential effects associated with the Proposed Action are included in Table 1. Note that Table 1 includes a column for significant impacts associated with the 2016 ARCF GRR EIS/EIR for comparison purposes with the impacts associated with the Proposed Action. All significant and unavoidable impacts associated with the authorized project were previously identified in the 2016 ARCF GRR EIS/EIR. Impacts associated with design changes as identified in the Proposed Action are less than significant.

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

	Lower American River Contract 1			2016 ARCF GRR EIS/EIR
	Less than significant effects	Less than significant effects as a result of mitigation	Resource unaffected by action	Elements beyond the scope of this contract disclosed in 2016 ARCF GRR EIS/EIR as likely to cause significant adverse effects
Visual Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vegetation and Wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Special-Status Species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fisheries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hazards and Hazardous Materials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hydrology and Hydraulics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land Use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transportation and Circulation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Noise	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public Utilities and Service Systems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Socioeconomics and Population	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental Justice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Geological Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mineral Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water Quality and Groundwater Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Climate Change/Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy Consumption	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Impacts to Visual Resources, Land Use, Transportation and Circulation, Noise, and Water Quality associated with the Proposed Action were less than significant with mitigation as identified in the Supplemental EA/EIR.

Air Quality and Climate Change/Greenhouse Gas Emissions effects will be less than significant. An air quality general conformity analysis has been prepared for the overall ARCF Project. In 2022, when LAR Contract 1 is anticipated to start and conclude construction, overall ARCF Project emissions are anticipated to exceed general conformity de minimis thresholds for nitrous oxides. To mitigate for this exceedance, the Corps and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency is funding grants under an emission offset grant program with the local air quality management districts.

Effects to Vegetation and Wildlife will be less than significant as a result of mitigation.

Only trees determined to be necessary will be removed, particularly trees greater than 24 inches in diameter at breast height (dbh). The 10.43 acres of riparian trees removed will be mitigated for at the Glenn Hall Park, Rio Americano West, and Rio Americano East Mitigation Sites in the American River Parkway, CA at a 2:1 ratio calculated by canopy.

The Proposed Action will result in direct effects to one elderberry shrub cluster, host for the valley elderberry longhorn beetle, and 0.10 acre of permanent impacts to associated riparian habitat. The shrubs will be transplanted to mitigation sites identified in the American River Parkway and native riparian vegetation will be planted in association with the shrubs. There will be 10.43 acres of direct effects to riparian habitat suitable for western yellow-billed cuckoo (considered stopover habitat). There are also anticipated to be 1.97 acres of permanent habitat loss for steelhead and 9.94 acres of temporary habitat effects. Effects on Fisheries includes in-water work that will occur between July 1 and October 31, with an extension under low flow conditions to November 15.

A Phase 1 site assessment was conducted as part of the 2016 ARCF GRR EIS/EIR and identified five hazardous waste or materials in the entire study area. Those five hazardous wastes or materials are not located within the project area.

Existing utilities that are functional and operational would be relocated accordingly and may need to occur as a result of the Proposed Action. Coordination with the utility owners would occur prior to construction. Possible methods of relocation could be a surface line over the levee prism or a through-levee line equipped with positive closure devices.

Impacts from the Proposed Action to Cultural Resources would be reduced to less than significant with mitigation measures identified in the supplemental EA/EIR.

The Proposed Action would have temporary adverse effects to parking and recreational facilities used by pedestrians and cyclists. Upon completion of construction, recreational access to pedestrians and cyclists would be improved; with mitigation measures, the Proposed Action's effects on recreation during construction would not contribute additional significant and unavoidable impacts not already disclosed in the 2016 ARCF GRR EIS/EIR.

Based on the evaluation of the effects of the Proposed Action as described in the Final Supplemental EA/EIR; the reviews by other Federal, State, and local agencies; Tribes; input of the public; and the review by my staff, I find that the Proposed Action will cause no significant impacts not already disclosed in the 2016 ARCF GRR EIS/EIR; therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required at this time. The FONSI evaluates the effects as described in the Final Supplemental EA/EIR.

10/08/2021

Date



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Commander and District Engineer