



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 (SEA)
American River Watershed Common Features (ARCF)
Sacramento River East Levee (SREL) Contract 3
Sacramento County, California

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has conducted an environmental analysis of the proposed project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy, Act of 1969 as amended. SREL Contract 3 is part of a portfolio of measures comprising the ARCF Project designed to help alleviate flood risk in the Sacramento Region. The ARCF Project was authorized in the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (Pub. Law 114-322) and other related authorities.

SREL Contract 3 will address seepage and stability risks to the Sacramento River east levee through the construction of seepage cutoff walls at various sites adjacent to the Pocket neighborhood of Sacramento. The Final SEA discusses the environmental effects of elements of SREL Contract 3 not detailed in the 2016 ARCF General Reevaluation Report Final Environmental Impact Statement/Final Environmental Impact Report (2016 ARCF GRR EIS/EIR).

The SEA, incorporated herein by reference, evaluated one structural alternative (Proposed Action) and a no action alternative (No Action). The No Action alternative does not assume that nothing is constructed but assumes that the seepage and stability improvements have been constructed as described under Alternative 2 in the 2016 ARCF GRR EIS/EIR. The structural alternative defined as the Proposed Action includes the following work: 1) the extended closure of some City parks, such as Ellsworth C. Zacharias Park, for use as staging areas across multiple construction years; 2) excavation and construction below the ordinary high-water mark (OHWM) to replace municipal drainage system pipes that run through the levee; 3) the addition of one levee access point and haul route; 4) five additional staging areas; and 5) soil placement at a vacant lot. All practicable and appropriate means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects were analyzed and incorporated into the Proposed Action and mitigation measures detailed in the 2016 ARCF GRR EIS/EIR and the SREL Contract 3 SEA will be implemented, as appropriate, to minimize impacts.

The potential effects of the Proposed Action are catalogued in Table 1. Air quality effects will be less than significant. SREL Contract 3, including the Proposed Action, will not result in air quality impacts that would be more severe than those addressed in the 2016 ARCF GRR EIS/EIR. An air quality general conformity analysis has been completed for the entire ARCF program that addresses the newly identified cumulative significant effect from implementation of the entire program on a 5-year schedule versus the 10 years analyzed in the 2016 ARCF GRR EIS/EIR. Effects to vegetation and

wildlife will be less than significant as a result of mitigation. The approximately 1.6 acres of tree canopy removed by SREL Contract 3 will be mitigated at the Beach Stone Lakes Mitigation Site (BSLMS) near Freeport, CA, at a 2:1 ratio. Woody vegetation will be trimmed or removed over the winter to avoid encounters with nesting migratory birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act prior to construction commencing in spring 2022. Effects to special-status species will be less than significant as a result of mitigation. As required by the US Fish & Wildlife Service's Biological Opinion, nine elderberries will be transplanted to the BSLMS to protect the plants and avoid interference with the construction of SREL Contract 3. Effects to fisheries will be less than significant as a result of mitigation. The small, temporary nature of disturbance necessary to replace the municipal drainage system pipes will not be greater than the effects to fisheries described in the 2016 ARCF GRR EIS/EIR.

Effects to traffic will be significant and unavoidable at the program level, as stated in the 2016 ARCF GRR EIS/EIR which disclosed that there will be short-term, significant impacts to traffic from truck hauling trips to conduct work on the Sacramento River levees (pp 224-229). The Proposed Action individually would have unavoidable significant traffic effects in the localized area. This impact would not be more severe than the effects addressed in the 2016 ARCF GRR EIS/EIR. Effects to public utilities and service systems will be less than significant as a result of mitigation. Utility relocations will need to occur as a result of the proposed action. Coordination with the utility owners will occur prior to construction. Effects to cultural resources will be less than significant as a result of mitigation. USACE has consulted with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and other parties and has executed a Programmatic Agreement (PA) with the SHPO. The PA establishes the process USACE must follow for compliance with Section 106, taking into consideration the views of the signatory and concurring parties and interested Native American Tribes.

Effects to water quality and groundwater resources will be less than significant as a result of mitigation. A Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required. A consistency review under Section 404(b)(1) of the CWA was conducted, as set forth in Appendix E of the 2016 ARCF GRR EIS/EIR. The contractor will be required to obtain a Construction General Permit from the State Water Resources Control Board to comply with storm water regulatory requirements under CWA Section 402 (NPDES) and a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures Plan (SPCCP). No effect to groundwater resources is anticipated. Effects to recreation resources will be significant and unavoidable at the program level, as stated in the 2016 ARCF GRR EIS/EIR. The proposed action would have substantial temporary adverse effects to Ellsworth C. Zacharias Park and Garcia Bend Park due to extended temporary closures preventing public access. To mitigate this effect, USACE would implement detours, provide construction information on facility closures, coordinate with the City of Sacramento to restore the parks and provide notification to the community of alternative recreation areas.

Table 1. Summary of Potential Effects of the Proposed Action

	Sacramento River East Levee Contract 3				Program Level
	Less than significant effects	Less than significant effects as a result of mitigation ¹	Resource unaffected by action	Resource would be significantly impacted and the effect is unavoidable	Program elements beyond the scope of this contract disclosed in the 2016 ARCF GRR EIS/EIR as likely to cause significant adverse effects
Visual Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Air Quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vegetation and Wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fisheries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hazardous Wastes and Materials	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hydrology and Hydraulics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land Use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Traffic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Noise	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public Utilities and Service Systems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Socioeconomics and Population	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental Justice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Geological Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mineral Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Water Quality and Groundwater Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Climate Change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Public review of the draft SEA concluded on 1 August 2021. All 33 comments submitted during the public review period were considered and answered in the final SEA, upon which this FONSI is based. As a result of public comments Section 3.11 ‘Noise and Vibration’ was added, including an amendment to Mitigation Measure NOI-1: ‘Implement Measures to Reduce Construction Noise and Vibration Effects.’ Noise and

¹ 40 CFR 1505.2(C) all practicable means to avoid and minimize environmental harm are adopted.

vibration effects will remain less than significant with implementation of these mitigation measures.

Based on the evaluation of the effects from the Proposed Action as described in the final Supplemental EA, 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 environmental impacts not already disclosed in the 2016 ARCF GRR EIS/EIR. Accordingly, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

10/05/2021

Date



James J. Handura

Colonel, U.S. Army

Commander and District Engineer