



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

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

American River Common Features Project,  
Sacramento River Erosion Contract 2,  
Supplemental Environmental Assessment XI  
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. Sacramento River Erosion Contract 2 is part of a portfolio of measures comprising the American River Watershed Common Features (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.

Sacramento River Erosion Contract 2 will address erosion and levee failure risk to the Sacramento River east levee (SREL) through the placement of 2.8 miles of rock revetment between the confluence of the American River and the City of Freeport. The Sacramento River Erosion Contract 2 Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) only analyzes the environmental effects of elements of Contract 2 that were not considered in the 2016 ARCF General Reevaluation Report (GRR) Final Environmental Impact Statement/Final Environmental Impact Report (2016 FEIS/FEIR) because the detail design of those elements was not completed until 2022. As a supplemental document, the Sacramento River Erosion Contract 2 SEA assumes the ARCF Project described in the 2016 FEIS/FEIR has been constructed, limiting the scope of analysis for the determination of effects to the increment of change in design.

The SEA evaluated a No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action. The No Action alternative assumes that levee improvements have been constructed as described under Alternative 2 in the 2016 FEIS/FEIR and as described in the Proposed Action analysis of the following associated supplemental environmental documents: SREL Contract 1, Contract 2 & Contract 3 SEA/SEIR, Sacramento Weir SEIS/SEIR and Sacramento River Erosion Contract 1 SEA/SEIR.

The Proposed Action is limited to the location of haul/access routes and staging areas, two modified methods for placement of rock revetment, removing and replacing municipal drainage systems at Sump 63, and refinements to barge traffic estimates and logistics on the Sacramento River and through the Delta. All practicable and appropriate means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects were considered and incorporated into the Proposed Action.

All applicable environmental laws have been considered and coordination with appropriate agencies and officials has been completed. The potential effects of the Proposed Action are catalogued in Table 1, below. Mitigation measures detailed in the SEA will be implemented, as appropriate, to offset anticipated impacts.

Table 1: Summary of Potential Effects of the Proposed Action

Sacramento River Erosion Contract 2					Program Level
	Less than significant <sup>1</sup> effects	Less than significant effects as a result of mitigation <sup>2</sup>	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 FEIS/FEIR 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fisheries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hazardous Wastes and Materials <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hydrology and Hydraulics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land Use <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transportation and Circulation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Noise <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public Utilities and Service Systems <sup>2</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Socioeconomics and Population	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Geological Resources <sup>3</sup> .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mineral Resources <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<sup>1</sup> Thresholds and other qualifying factors for making the determination of “less than significant” are described in each resource area in the Final SEA.

<sup>2</sup> Minimization and mitigation measures in the 2016 FEIS/EIR for resources that are not affected by the changes outlined in this SEA are still applicable.

<sup>3</sup> 40 CFR 1505.2(C) all practicable means to avoid and minimize environmental harm are adopted.

The Corps has determined that the Proposed Action would likely adversely affect the following resources that would require minimization and mitigation measures to limit the intensity of the effect: Air Quality, Water Quality, Vegetation and Wildlife, Federal Special Status Species, Fisheries, Recreation, and Cultural Resources. These anticipated effects are summarized below.

Sacramento River Erosion Contract 2, including the Proposed Action, would cause air quality impacts that would be more severe than those addressed in the 2016 FEIS/EIR. An air quality general conformity analysis has been completed for the entire ARCF program that addresses the annualized emission effects from implementation of the entire program, including the Proposed Action, on a compressed 5-year schedule versus the 10-year construction period analyzed in the 2016 FEIS/FEIR. The analysis shows that, with the purchase of offset mitigation credits, the ARCF 2016 Project will be in conformity with the Clean Air Act of 1970, as amended, and will not cause or contribute to a new violation, nor increase the frequency or severity of existing violations of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The USACE will purchase adequate NOx and greenhouse gas emissions credits, evaluated on an annual basis from the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, to ensure that the air quality impacts from Sacramento River Erosion Contract 2, including the Proposed Action, would be less than significant with mitigation.

The effects of the Proposed Action to water quality and groundwater resources would be less than significant as a result of mitigation. A programmatic Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Water Quality Certification was issued for the ARCF Project, and a notice of intent will be filed separately for this contract. Pursuant to the Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended, the discharge of dredged or fill material associated with the recommended plan has been found to be compliant with section 404(B)(1) guidelines (40 CFR 230). The evaluation is found in Appendix 5 of the SEA. 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 and to have in place a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures Plan and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan. With these certifications and permits in place, and implementation of the avoidance, minimization and mitigation measures summarized in the Sacramento River Erosion Contract 2 SEA, the Proposed Action would have only temporary and negligible effects to water quality. No effect to groundwater resources is anticipated.

Effects of the Proposed Action to vegetation and wildlife would be less than significant as a result of mitigation. The approximately 1.83 acres of tree canopy removed by Sacramento River Erosion Contract 2 will be mitigated for both on and offsite, as outlined in the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report. Offsite mitigation will be located with special status species, near the mainstem of the Sacramento River within 50 miles of the project impacts. Woody vegetation will be trimmed or removed over the winter to avoid encounters with nesting migratory birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 prior to construction commencing. The tree canopy habitat also overlaps with western, yellow-billed cuckoo habitat that is discussed in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS; 08ESMF00-2014-F-0518-R003; dated March 31, 2021) Biological Opinion (BO).

Effects of the Proposed Action to special-status species would be less than significant as a result of mitigation. Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the USFWS BO, that determined that the recommended plan will not jeopardize the continued existence of the following federally listed species or adversely modify designated critical habitat: delta smelt, valley elderberry longhorn beetle and western yellow-billed cuckoo. The

approximate 10.94 acres of delta smelt habitat impacts from rock placement will be mitigated for at a dedicated mitigation site or at a conservation bank. Offsite mitigation will be located near the mainstem of the Sacramento River, where habitat types would provide multispecies benefits, within 50 miles of the project impacts. Sacramento River Erosion Contract 2, including the Proposed Action, would not cause impacts to valley elderberry longhorn beetle. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS; WCRO-2020-03082; dated May 12, 2021) BO that determined that the recommended plan will not jeopardize the continued existence of the following federally listed species or adversely modify designated critical habitat: salmonid species and green sturgeon. Green sturgeon and salmon habitat overlap, and USACE is estimating approximately 31.71 acres of impact to this shared habitat from the construction proposed under Sacramento River Erosion Contract 2. Planting benches would be constructed, and instream woody material would be installed below the ordinary high-water mark of the Sacramento River to provide onsite mitigation, while remaining impacts would be offset by construction of a dedicated mitigation site, or purchase of an adequate number of appropriate credits at a conservation bank. All terms and conditions, conservation measures, and reasonable and prudent alternatives and measures resulting from these consultations shall be implemented to minimize take of endangered species and avoid jeopardizing the species.

Effects of the Proposed Action 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. USACE made a finding of “no adverse effects to historic properties

Effects of the proposed action to Socioeconomics, Population and Environmental Justice are temporary, short term. The project was evaluated and determined to be in compliance with Executive Order 12898 – Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and low-Income populations of 1994. According to the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool the project falls within one census block that is considered disadvantaged. This same area, around Miller Park, has disproportionate impacts to the unhoused community. Those impacts are mitigated by on the ground efforts to relocate people to safer areas away from active construction. As well as local efforts by Sacramento City and County to provide food, shelters, and safe ground communities. Overall, the reduced risk of levee failure and reduce risk to life and safety is applicable to all people living behind the levees. Effects of the Proposed Action 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.

Effects of the Proposed Action to transportation and circulation will be significant and unavoidable at the program level as stated in the 2016 FEIS/FEIR 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 short-term, temporary impacts to residential streets; however, this effect is not more severe than the effects addressed in the 2016 FEIS/FEIR.

Public review of the draft SEA concluded on 31 May 2022. All 10 comments were submitted during the public review period were considered and responded to in the final SEA, Appendix 4. Due to Army Guidance updated between the draft and the final documents Chapter 3.9 on Socioeconomics and Chapter 4 on Cumulative Effects were added to the document.

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 FEIS/FEIR. Accordingly, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

---

Date

---

Chad W. Caldwell  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
Commander and District Engineer