American River Watershed Common Features
Water Resources Development Act of 2016
Sacramento River East Levee Contract 2
www.sacleveeupgrades.com

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently constructing levee improvements and planning to construct additional levee improvements along a portion of the Sacramento River East Levee. The American River Watershed Common Features project is a collaborative effort between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Central Valley Flood Protection Board, California Department of Water Resources, and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency to modernize Sacramento's aging flood infrastructure and reduce the flood risk to more than 530,000 people in the greater Sacramento region.

Purpose of Draft SEA/EIR

A draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment/Environmental Impact Report (SEA/EIR) for the American River Watershed Common Features Project, Sacramento River East Levee Contract 2 (Project) has been released for public review on July 8, 2020. The SEA/EIR supplements the American River Watershed Common Features (ARCF) General Reevaluation Report Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (ARCF GRR FEIS/EIR) issued in 2016.

The SEA/EIR addresses the proposal to construct levee improvements consisting of approximately 9,600 cumulative feet (1.8 miles) of cutoff wall along different areas of the Sacramento River's east levee. Improvements will be constructed immediately north of the Pioneer Bridge over US Highway 50 and from the southern end of Little Pocket through the northern end of the Pocket. The SEA/EIR analyzes details specific to construction, staging areas, haul routes, and off-site mitigation that were not analyzed in the ARCF GRR FEIS/EIR. The draft SEA/EIR considers the potential environmental effects of this portion of the project and provides measures to avoid, reduce, minimize, and mitigate those environmental effects to a less than significant level. Although the draft SEA/EIR identifies some significant and unavoidable effects, those effects are no greater than the effects described in the ARCF GRR EIS/EIR

SEA/EIR Public Review Period (July 8, 2020 – August 22, 2020)

This is your opportunity to learn about this portion of the project and submit comments. Responses to comments will be published in the Final SEA/EIR. **The 45-day public review period for the draft SEA/EIR will end on August 22, 2020.**

A virtual public meeting will be held on July 22, 2020, from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM to present details of the project and to receive comments. Instructions to access the online meeting, sign up to receive email updates, and view a copy of the draft document can be found at the following website: www.sacleveeupgrades.com

You may also submit comments on the document using the following methods:

Email
spk-pao@usace.army.mil

U.S. Postal Service
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Public Affairs Office
1325 J Street, Room 1513
Sacramento, California 95814

Project Area

The project is located in the City of Sacramento (City), California along the east bank of the Sacramento River.

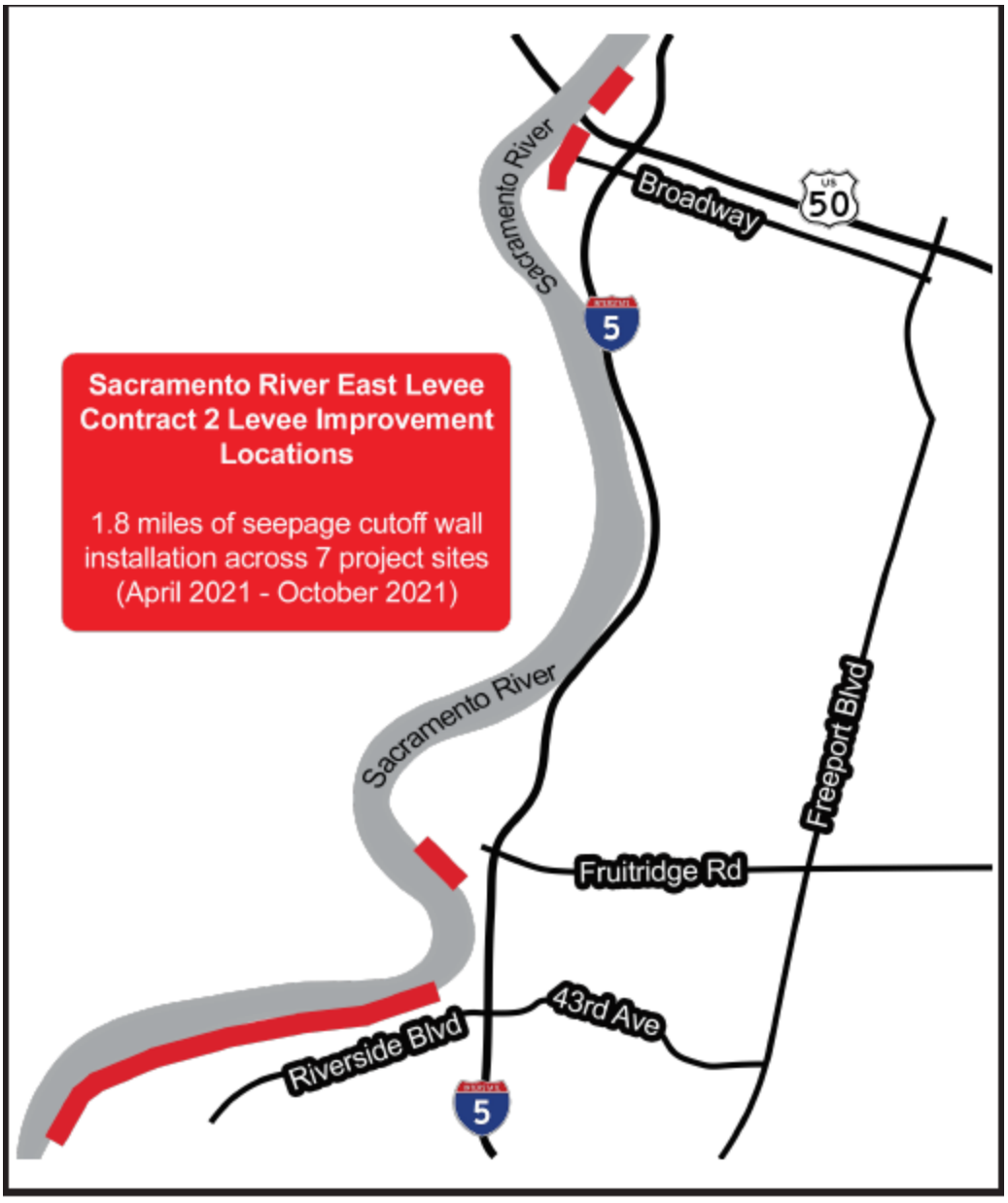

Figure 1 Project vicinity and overview of proposed improvements.

Proposed Project Description & Justification

USACE has determined that the levee system along the Sacramento River does not meet the current federal standards for flood protection due to seepage, slope stability, and erosion. The proposed project is needed to reduce risks of levee failure. The Sacramento River east levee slope is steep, typically measuring a ratio of 1.8 Horizontal: 1 Vertical (1.8H:1V) on the landside and 1.6H:1V on the waterside. This steepness, particularly in the case of a levee constructed with unsuitable materials over a porous foundation, significantly increases the risk of instability. Through-seepage also increases the instability of the levee. Constructing cutoff walls would fill this gap and strengthen the levee. If these levee reaches are not improved, the Sacramento River East Levee would remain at heightened risk of failure from through-seepage, and much of Sacramento, including Interstate 5 (I-5) and the California State Capitol, could be significantly damaged during a future flood event.

Project Elements

The Project will consist of constructing approximately 9,600 feet of conventional, mix-in-place, and jet grout cut off wall within the Sacramento River's east levee. This will also require the use of local roads as truck haul routes to and from the site and staging areas to be set-up near the levee and in certain local parks (see Figure 2-Figure 8). Although impacts to environmental resources would be avoided where possible, short-term impacts due to construction are considered unavoidable. To compensate for unavoidable temporal impacts to vegetation and wildlife due to project construction, off-site mitigation has been planted to provide substantial opportunities to improve overall ecosystem values along the Sacramento River. This mitigation has occurred at the Beach Stone Lakes Mitigation Site (Figure 9 and Figure 10).

Anticipated Construction Timeline

Pre-construction (November 2020 - March 2021)
Construction & mitigation site preparation, elderberry shrub transplants, cut and trim trees/vegetation only in the construction footprint.

Levee Construction (Summer 2021 - Fall 2021)
Install cutoff walls.

Post-Cutoff Wall Construction (Fall 2021-Winter 2021)
Resurface the levee patrol road, re-vegetate disturbed areas with hydroseeding, restore staging and borrow areas, and demobilize from the site.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Why are we so at risk of flooding? Why is the Project necessary?**

We live at the confluence of two major rivers in the Central Valley. All of our rain and snowmelt runoff comes in the span of just a few of months. Runoff from storms can arrive in Sacramento quickly so flood warning times can be short. On top of all that—the levee system was built in the age of stage coaches that are now being asked to do much more than they were built or designed for. Most of the levee systems in the valley are not built to modern engineering standards, yet they need to reduce risk to a much larger population than lived behind them when they were built. They need to be upgraded, but they also have a role to provide habitat for threatened and endangered species.

2. **A GRR FEIS/EIR was adopted in 2016, why is there a need for a Supplemental EA/EIR?**

Most of the levee improvements included in the project were analyzed in the American River Common Features General Reevaluation Report (ARCF GRR) Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR). The Supplemental Environmental Assessment/ Environmental Impact Report (EA/EIR) supplements the ARCF GRR Final EIS/EIR. Some elements of the project (staging areas, haul routes, borrow site, and spoils disposal) were not analyzed in the ARCF GRR Final EIS/EIR, because project design had not been developed enough to provide the specificity required for project implementation. Through project design and refinement, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has identified potential staging areas, haul routes, a borrow site, and potential spoils disposal area, as well as identifying specific seepage and stability improvements and locations.

3. **Where is the project located?**

The project is located along Sacramento River's east levee in four segments. SREL Contract 2 spans from immediately to the north of the Pioneer Bridge on US Highway 50 and from the southern end of Little Pocket through the northern end of Pocket (see Figure 1 and Figures 2-8). Beach Stone Lakes is a mitigation site identified for the Project which is located to the south of the project near Freeport, California (see attached Figure 9 and Figure 10).

4. **Once completed, will there be additional levee improvement work required?**

The work at SREL Contract 2 is one component of a comprehensive plan to improve the levees along the Sacramento, as outlined in the ARCF GRR FEIS/EIR. Additional protection measures will be required along other portions of the Sacramento River. Overall, it is anticipated that up to 12 miles of Sacramento River levee improvement work will be constructed to complement already completed levee seepage and stability improvements. SREL Contract 1 is currently under construction. SREL Contract 2 is scheduled for 2021, SREL Contract 3 is scheduled for 2022 and SREL Contract 4 is scheduled for 2023. Additionally, there are erosion improvements scheduled in 2021-2024.

5. **How will stakeholder concerns and project impacts be addressed?**

In combination with the ARCF GRR FEIS/EIR, this draft SEA/EIR fully discloses the potential impacts of the project and provides stakeholders and members of the public an opportunity to review the document and provide input/comment during the 45-day public review period. The project team will provide a presentation on the project on August 22, 2020.

Any input and comments will be considered upon development of the final SEA/EIR. In addition, the project partners are reaching out to various stakeholders, non-governmental organizations, and other interested groups on the project. Further, the project partners have and will continue to present project status updates and informational briefings on an as needed basis to communities impacted by the work.

6. **How are you dealing with any endangered species issues as you do this construction?**

We have existing Biological Opinions from both U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) which are available on the District Website (https://www.spk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Sacramento-Area-Levees/). The Biological Opinions outline both our estimated effects from the study on listed species, proposed avoidance and minimization measures that would be implemented during construction, and necessary mitigation or compensation that would be created.

We are closely working with USFWS and NMFS during the design process to collaborate on updated designs, discuss if there are changes in effects, and coordinate mitigation implementation. If additional consultation is necessary, we will reinitiate, as needed, with the appropriate agency.

7. **When would work occur?**

Site preparation would begin with vegetation removal including trimming and/or removal of trees and relocation of elderberry shrubs where construction access and activities would occur. Tree removal would primarily occur within the construction footprint for the cut-off walls. To the extent feasible, these pre-construction activities would occur between November 2020 and February 2021 before the nesting season of birds. After these activities, mobilization would include the control of storm water runoff, building temporary access roads, preparing staging areas, rerouting pedestrian and bicycle trails, and installing signage for traffic and alternate transportation routes that would be affected by construction activities (e.g., bicycle routes). Construction hours would comply with City of Sacramento's noise ordinance and would be Monday through Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. No work or hauling would take place on holidays without permission given by the City of Sacramento. Between **Spring 2021 – Fall/Winter 2021**, mobilization of construction equipment, site preparation, and construction would take place that would be followed by post-construction related work (e.g. plantings, irrigation, storm water monitoring, and runoff control).

8. How will construction impact me?

Construction will cause lane closures delaying traffic and causing the need to use alternate routes. During daylight hours there will be construction noise/vibration/dust from generators and heavy equipment operations. If you live within view of a levee under construction you will see equipment conducting earthwork as the levee is degraded and rebuilt. However, when construction is complete you will be better protected during flood events from levee seepage and the risk of levee failure.

9. How can I stay informed?

A virtual public meeting will be held on July 22, 2020, from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM to present details of the project and to receive comments. Instructions to access the online meeting, sign up to receive email updates, and view a copy of the draft document can be found at the following website: www.sacleveeupgrades.com. Stakeholders can also obtain a copy of the draft document from the site and sign up to receive future project-related email updates.

Residents can also contact the USACE Public Affairs Office

directly at: Phone: (916) 557-5100
E-mail: spk-pao@usace.army.mil
Facebook: www.facebook.com/sacramentodistrict
Twitter: www.twitter.com/usacesacramento

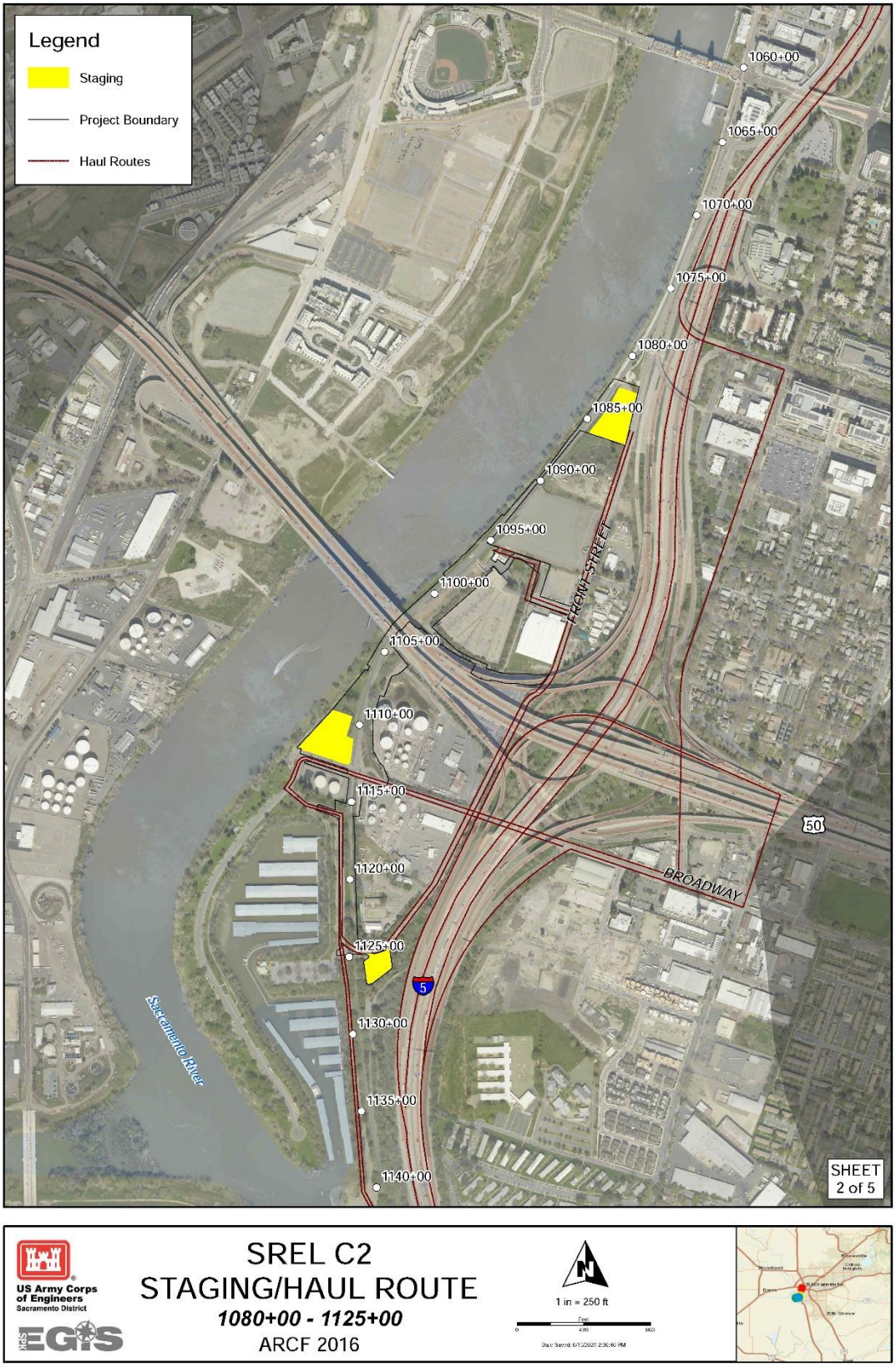

Figure 2. Project Site with Potential Staging Areas and Haul Routes (Map 1 of 4)

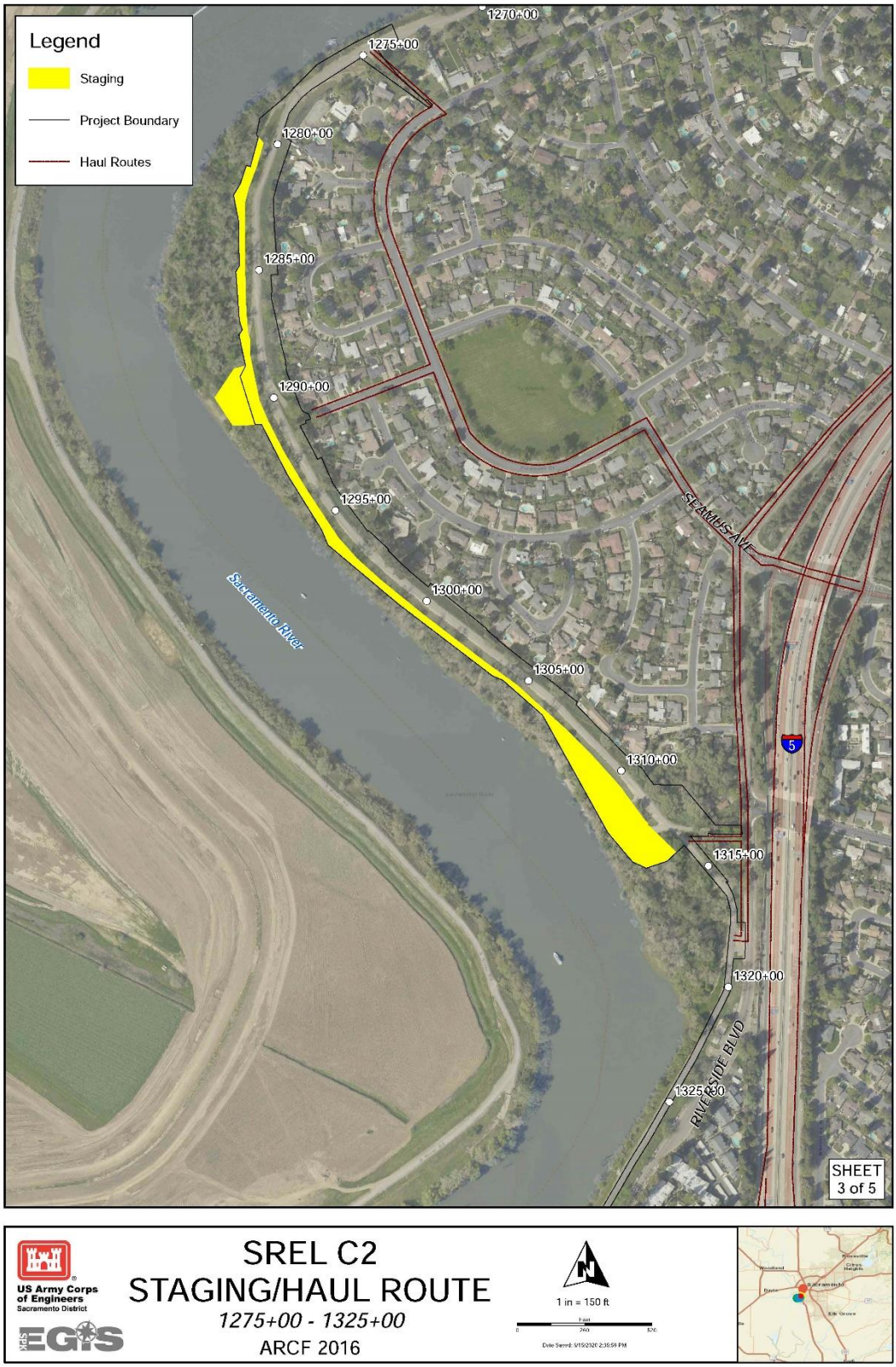

Figure 3. Project Site with Potential Staging Areas and Haul Routes (Map 2 of 4)

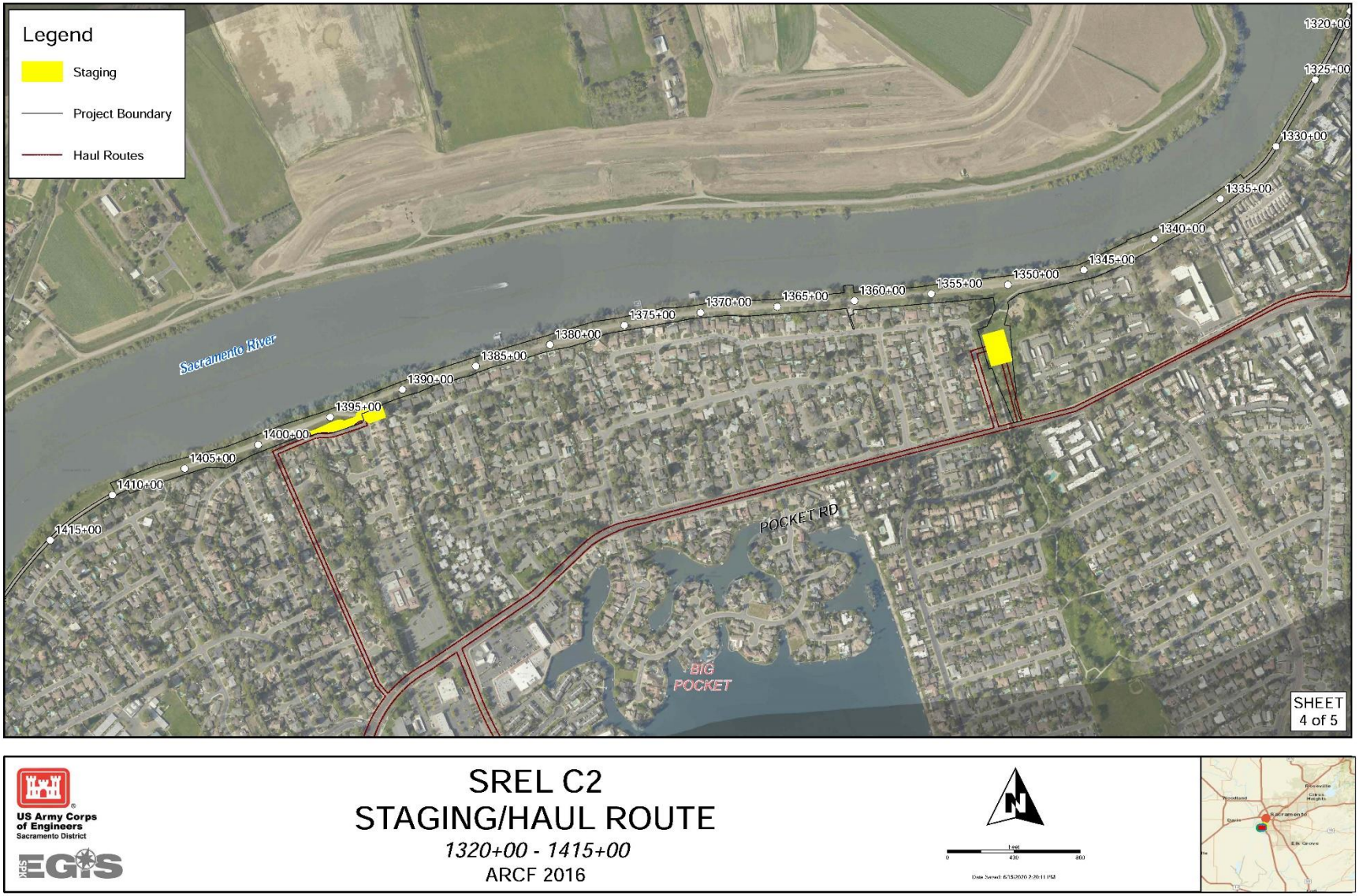

Figure 4. Project Site with Potential Staging Areas and Haul Routes (Map 3 of 4)

Figure 5. Project Site with Potential Staging Areas and Haul Routes (Map 4 of 4)

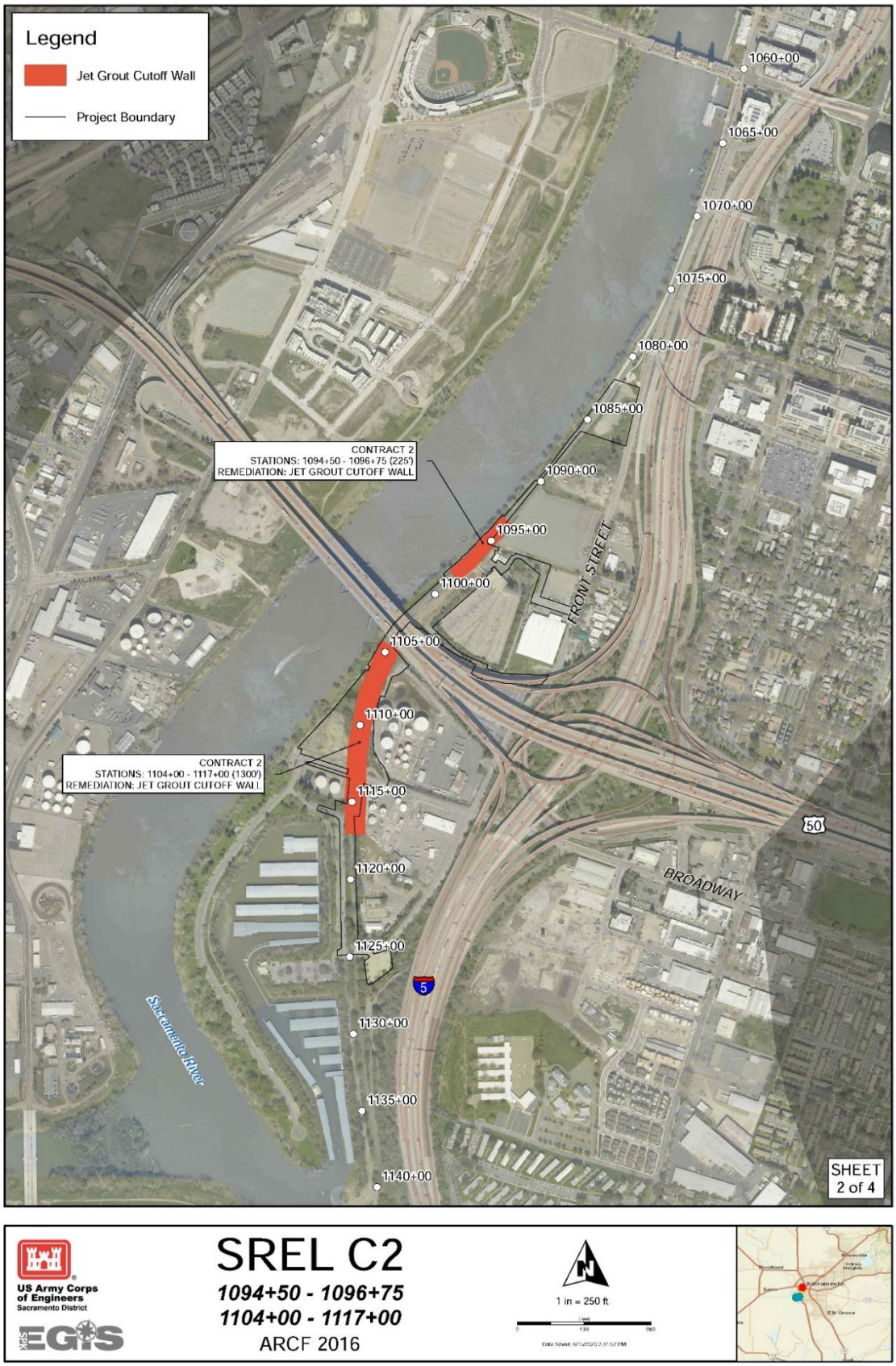

Figure 6. Proposed Improvements (Map 1 of 3)

Figure 7. Proposed Improvements (Map 2 of 3)

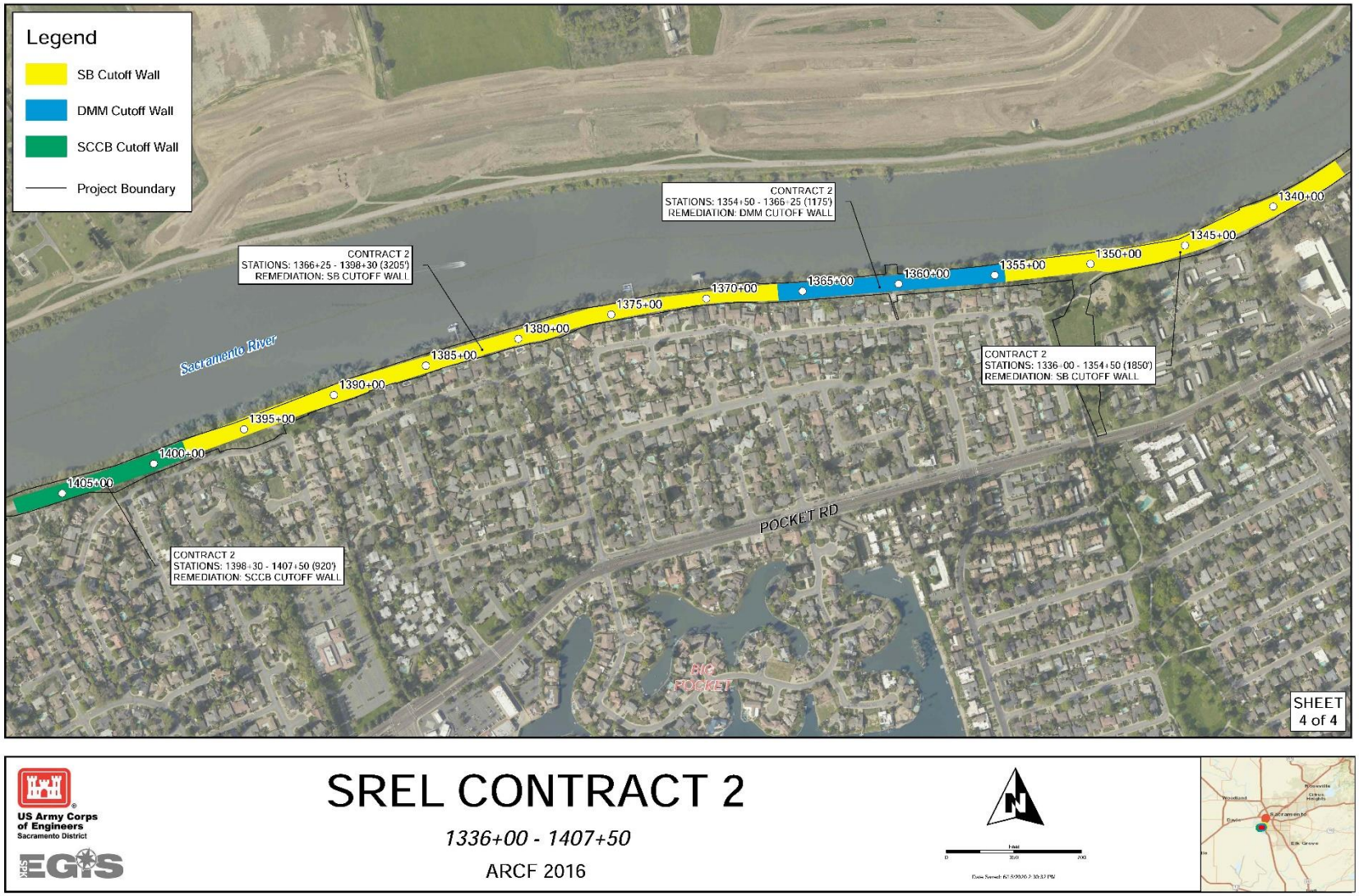

Figure 8. Proposed Improvements (Map 3 of 3

Figure 9. Beach Stone Lakes Mitigation Site Project Vicinity.

Figure 10. Beach Stone Lakes Mitigation Site.