



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), Water Resources
Development Act (WRDA) of 2016 Project, Sacramento River East Levee (SREL)
Contract 2, Sacramento, Sacramento County, California

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has conducted an environmental analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 as amended. The ARCF WRDA 2016 Project provides a portfolio of flood risk reduction measures to address underseepage, stability, and erosion along the Lower American River and the Sacramento River between the City of Sacramento and the town of Freeport. The ARCF Project was originally authorized by Section 101(a)(1)(A) of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-303 § 101(a) (1), 110 Stat. 3658, 3662-3663 (1996), as amended by Section 366 of WRDA of 1999, Pub. L. No. 106-53, §366, 113 Stat. 269, 319-320 (1999). Additional authority was provided following the interim general reevaluation study in Section 1322(b) of WRDA 2016, Pub. L. No. 114-322 § 1322, 130 Stat. 1707.

SREL Contract 2 will address seepage and stability risks to the Sacramento River east levee through the construction of seepage cutoff walls near Pioneer Reservoir, Miller Regional Park, and in the Pocket and Little Pocket neighborhoods of Sacramento. The Final Supplemental EA/EIR discusses the environmental effects of the proposed work under Contract 2.

The EA/EIR, incorporated herein by reference, evaluated one structural alternative (Proposed Action) and the no action alternative (No-Action). The Proposed Action includes the installation of cutoff walls. 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 Supplemental EA/EIR will be implemented, as appropriate, to minimize impacts. The potential effects of the Proposed Action are catalogued in the attachment.

A public review of the draft EA/EIR was completed on 22 August 2020. All comments submitted during the public review period were considered and answered in the final Supplemental EA/EIR upon which this FONSI is based. A 45-day state and agency review of the final Supplemental EA/EIR ran concurrently with the public review period. Changes were made to the Section 4.2.2 Air Quality and Section 2.3.6 Construction as a result of state and agency review comments.

Based on the evaluation of the effects from the Proposed Action as described in the final 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 2015 ARCF GRR EIS/EIR; therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Date

James J. Handura
Colonel, U.S. Army
Commander and District Engineer

Summary of Potential Effects of the Proposed Action

	Sacramento River East Levee Contract 2				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 ARCF WRDA 16 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 ²	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vegetation and Wildlife ^{3,4}	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Special-Status Species ⁵	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fisheries ⁶	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hazardous Wastes and Materials ⁷	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 ⁸	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Noise ⁹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

² Air quality: 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 2015 ARCF GRR EIS/EIR. SREL Contract 2 would not be anticipated to exceed general conformity thresholds during the 2021 construction season.

³ Vegetation and wildlife: The 2.51 acres of canopy of riparian trees removed will be mitigated for at the Beach Stone Lakes Mitigation Site (BSLMS) near Freeport, CA, at a 2:1 ratio.

⁴ Special-status species (MBTA): Woody vegetation will be trimmed or removed over the winter to avoid encounters with nesting migratory birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act when construction commences in spring 2021.

Special-status species (ESA): The Proposed Action will result in direct effects to 2 individual elderberry shrubs, which will be transplanted to Beach Stone Lakes along with the planting of 0.17 acres of associated species.

⁶ Fisheries: This action does not include in-water work.

⁷ Hazardous wastes and materials: A Phase 2 site assessment would be conducted before the start of construction and inform material handling requirements for disposal. Subsurface industrial petroleum contamination, arsenic from the railroad, and lead from automobile traffic on Pioneer Bridge are known to occur in soils along the levee sites addressed in Contract 2.

⁸ Traffic: The 2015 American River Common Features General Reevaluation Report Final Environmental Impact Statement/Final Environmental Impact Report (2015 ARCF GRR EIS/EIR) 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). SREL Contract 2 individually would have unavoidable significant traffic effects in the localized area.

⁹ Noise: Nigh-time construction would abide noise levels defined by city code.

	Sacramento River East Levee Contract 2				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 ARCF WRDA 16 GRR EIS/EIR as likely to cause significant adverse effects
Public Utilities and Service Systems ¹⁰	<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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 ¹¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Water Quality and Groundwater Resources ¹²	<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 ¹³	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

¹⁰ Public utilities and service systems: Utility relocations may need to occur as a result of the proposed action. Coordination with the utility owners would occur prior to construction.

¹¹ Cultural resources: One known historic property will be adversely affected. Consultation with Indian Tribes and SHPO is ongoing.

¹² Water quality and groundwater resources: No in-water work is required, therefore no Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required. 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.

¹³ The proposed action would have substantial temporary adverse effects to the Sacramento River Trail used by pedestrians and cyclist. To mitigate this effect, the Corps would implement detours, provide construction information on facility closures, and coordinate with the City of Sacramento to repair the damage to the trail system. The proposed action would also have substantial temporary adverse effects to the Sacramento Railroad Museum Excursion Train. To mitigate this effect, the Corps would coordinate with the museum and conduct construction in this area for weekdays only. The proposed action would also have substantial temporary adverse effects to Zacharias Park. To mitigate this effect, the Corps would coordinate with the City and provide notification to the community of alternative recreation areas.