



**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 (ARCF) Project  
Sacramento, California  
Sacramento River Erosion Contract 4  
Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) XII

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District (Corps) has conducted a Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the project set forth in the plans and specifications of the proposed Sacramento River Erosion Contract 4, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. Sacramento River Erosion Contract 4 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 (PL 114-322) and related authorities.

Sacramento River Erosion Contract 4 addresses erosion and levee failure risk to the Sacramento River east levee through the placement of rock revetment adjacent to the Little Pocket neighborhood of Sacramento. The Supplemental Environmental Assessment analyzes the environmental effects of the elements of Contract 4 that were not considered in the 2016 ARCF General Reevaluation Report Final Environmental Impact Statement/Final Environmental Impact Report (2016 ARCF FEIS/FEIR) because the detailed design of the contract was not completed until 2023. The Sacramento River Erosion Contract 4 Supplemental Environmental Assessment is incorporated herein by reference.

The Supplemental Environmental Assessment evaluated a No Action Alternative and two Action alternatives. The No Action Alternative assumes that levee improvements have been constructed as described under Alternative 2 in the 2016 ARCF FEIS/FEIR and as described in the Proposed Action analyses of the following associated supplemental environmental documents: Sacramento River East Levee (SREL) Contract 1 Supplemental Environmental Assessment/Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEA/SEIR) (2019), SREL Contract 2 SEA/SEIR (2020), SREL Contract 3 SEA/SEIR (2021), and SREL Contract 4 SEA (2022); Sacramento Weir joint SEIS/SEIR (2021); and Sacramento River Erosion Contract 1 SEA/SEIR (2021); and Sacramento River Erosion Contract 2 SEA/SEIR (2022).

Alternative 1 consists of the following project elements: an access route, staging area, and modifications to the standard rock revetment described in the 2016 ARCF FEIS/FEIR. These modifications are rock tiebacks and a launchable rock toe. Alternative 2 consists of the same elements as Alternative 1 except that it features a biotechnical alternative to rock placement along the shoreline between elevations 7 and 13 feet (NAVD 88<sup>1</sup>). Alternative 2 is the Preferred Alternative. A summary assessment of potential effects of the Preferred Alternative is listed in Table 1.

**Table 1: Summary of Potential Effects of the Preferred Alternative (Alternative 2)**

	<b>Sacramento River Erosion Contract 4</b> Less than significant effects	<b>Sacramento River Erosion Contract 4</b> Less than significant effects as a result of mitigation	<b>Sacramento River Erosion Contract 4</b> Resource unaffected by action	<b>Program Level</b> Program elements beyond the scope of this contract disclosed in the 2016 FEIS/FEIR as likely to cause significant adverse effects
Geological Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land Use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hydrology and Hydraulics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water Quality and Groundwater Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vegetation and Wildlife	<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"/>
Special-Status Species	<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"/>
Transportation and Circulation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate Change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Noise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Visual Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Public Utilities and Service Systems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hazardous Wastes and Materials	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Socioeconomics and Population	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental Justice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

All practicable and appropriate means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects were considered and incorporated into the Preferred Alternative. Best management practices (BMPs) as detailed in the Sacramento River Erosion Contract 4 Supplemental Environmental Assessment will be implemented to minimize or offset anticipated impacts.

The Preferred Alternative will result in the following unavoidable adverse impacts to endangered species habitat: approximately 0.7 to 0.8 acres of delta smelt and 2.1 to 3.2 acres of salmonid/sturgeon habitat would be lost due to vegetation removal and rock placement. Impacts to these habitats would be offset by establishing new habitat at an offsite mitigation area within 50 river miles of the project impacts, or by purchasing an appropriate number of credits (in accordance with directives from the National Marine Fisheries Service) at a qualified mitigation bank.

The ARCF project, including the Preferred Alternative, is anticipated to exceed air quality thresholds for nitrous oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>). The Corps will purchase air emissions offsets on an annual basis to compensate for this adverse effect to air quality.

### **Clean Water Act**

Pursuant to the Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended, a programmatic Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Water Quality Certification was issued for the ARCF Project and a Report Type I Monthly Report – Notice of Intent) will be filed separately for the Preferred Alternative. A consistency review under Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act was conducted and is included in Appendix D of the Supplemental Environmental Assessment. The Preferred Alternative will discharge approximately 44,661 cubic yards of material into Waters of the United States. 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 Clean Water Act Section 402 National Pollutant Elimination System (NPDES) and to have in place a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP) and a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures Plan (SPCCP). With these certifications and permits in place, and implementation of the avoidance, minimization and other mitigation measures summarized in the Sacramento River Erosion Contract 4 Supplemental Environmental Assessment, the Preferred Alternative will be reduced to less than significant. No effect on groundwater resources is anticipated.

### **Endangered Species Act**

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service issued Biological Opinions which cover the following species that may be impacted by the Preferred Alternative: western yellow-billed cuckoo, delta smelt, green sturgeon, steelhead, and winter-run Chinook salmon. All terms and conditions, conservation measures, and reasonable and prudent alternatives and measures set forth in these Biological Opinions shall be implemented in order to minimize take of endangered species and avoid jeopardizing the species. Effects of the Preferred Alternative on special-status species would be less than significant as a result of this mitigation.

### **National Historic Preservation Act**

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the Corps has consulted with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and other parties and has executed a Programmatic Agreement with the SHPO. The Programmatic Agreement establishes the process the Corps must follow for compliance with Section 106, taking into consideration the views of the signatory and concurring parties and interested Native American Tribes. All terms and conditions set forth in the Programmatic Agreement would be implemented in order to minimize adverse impacts to historic properties.

### **Clean Air Act**

Pursuant to the Clean Air Act of 1972, an air quality general conformity analysis was completed for the entire ARCF program that addresses the annualized emission

effects from implementation of the entire program on the 5-year schedule. The Preferred Alternative would cause marginally more severe air quality impacts than the estimated impacts addressed in the 2016 ARCF FEIS/EIR due to the compressed 5-year construction schedule as compared to the 10-year period analyzed in the 2016 FEIS/EIR. Nevertheless, the air quality impacts anticipated from implementation of the Preferred Alternative would be less than significant with mitigation.

Public review of the draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment for Sacramento River Erosion Contract 4 concluded on April 14, 2023. Comment letters were received from one Native American Tribe (Yoche Dehe Wintun Nation), one federal agency (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), three state or regional agencies (California State Lands Commission, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, and Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District), one municipal agency (City of Sacramento Department of Transportation), and two private citizens. All comments have been considered and the Final Supplemental Environmental was updated, as appropriate. None of the updates change the analyses or the conclusions reached in the document. Appendix C of the Supplemental Environmental Assessment contains the comment letters and the Corps' and partner agency's responses to those comments.

All applicable environmental laws have been considered and coordination with appropriate agencies and officials has been completed. Effects of the Preferred Alternative on vegetation and wildlife would be similar to those described in the 2016 ARCF FEIS/EIR in the short-term, and beneficial in the long-term. The biotechnical slope protection measure incorporates native tree and shrub plantings. These plantings are functional elements of the biotechnical slope protection. They also replace trees and shrubs removed from the site to accomplish construction.

All applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and local government plans were considered in the evaluation of the alternatives. Based on the evaluation of the effects of the Preferred Alternative as described in the final Supplemental Environmental Assessment, the reviews by other Federal, State, and local agencies, Tribes, input of the public, and the review by my staff, I find that the Preferred Alternative would cause no new significant environmental impacts not already disclosed in the 2016 FEIS/FEIR. Accordingly, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

1 September 2023

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Date

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Dianna C. Lively  
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army  
Acting Commander and District Engineer