



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, SACRAMENTO
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
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SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814-2922

[DRAFT] FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

**Supplemental Environmental Assessment for the
American River Watershed Common Features Project, Natomas Basin
Reach B Cache Creek Borrow Site, Yolo County, California**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District (Corps) has conducted a Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the *American River Watershed Common Features Project, Natomas Basin* (Project), authorized for construction in Section 7002 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Pub. L. No. 113-121, §7002, 128 Stat. 1193 [2014]). The Final SEA is dated **[to be determined]** and is in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. Reach B of the Project includes, among other features, the construction of seepage berms in Sacramento County, California to reduce the risk of flooding in the Natomas Basin. The action giving rise to the need for the SEA involves the use of the Cache Creek borrow site, located in Yolo County, California, for borrow material to be used in the construction of seepage berms in Natomas Reach B, located in Sacramento County, California. Use of borrow material from the Cache Creek borrow site was not analyzed in prior environmental reviews. The enclosed *Final Supplemental Environmental Assessment for the American River Watershed Common Features Project, Natomas Reach B Cache Creek Borrow Site, Yolo County, California* addresses the use of the Cache Creek borrow site for materials required to complete construction of seepage berms along the Reach B portion of the Natomas Basin. This Final SEA supplements the *Final Environmental Impact Statement on the Natomas Levee Improvement Program, Phase 4a Landside Improvements Project*, dated February 19, 2010 (February 2010 EIS) and the *Final Environmental Impact Statement/Final Environmental Impact Report on the American River Watershed Common Features Project/Natomas Post Authorization Change Report/Natomas Levee Improvement Project, Phase 4b Landside Improvements Project*, dated October 22, 2010 (October 2010 EIS/EIR).

The Final SEA, incorporated herein by reference, evaluated the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative. The Proposed Action includes the use of the Cache Creek borrow site for borrow material to be used in the construction of Reach B. The use of the Cache Creek borrow site includes excavation in two phases, relocation of elderberry shrubs, and implementation of compensatory mitigation to be made through the construction of an elderberry mitigation site to be located within the Natomas Basin. 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 Final SEA will be implemented, as appropriate, to minimize Project impacts. The potential effects of the Proposed Action are catalogued in the table below and further described in the enclosed Final SEA.

Public review of the draft SEA and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was completed on **[date to be determined]**. Comments received during this 30-day public review comment period were incorporated into the Final SEA, as appropriate.

All applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and local government plans were considered in the evaluation of alternatives. Based on the evaluation of the effects as described in the Final SEA; the reviews by other Federal, State, and local agencies; Tribes; input of the public; and the review by my staff, it is my determination that the Proposed Action would not cause significant adverse effects on the quality of the human environment; therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

All practicable and appropriate means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects were analyzed and incorporated into the Proposed Action. Best management practices (BMPs) as detailed in the Final SEA would be implemented, as appropriate, to minimize impacts.

DATE

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

Enclosure:

Table 1: Summary of Potential Effects of the Recommended Plan

	Insignificant effects	Insignificant effects as a result of mitigation ¹	Resource unaffected by action
Aesthetics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Air quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cultural Resources ²	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental justice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fisheries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hazardous Waste and Materials	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Noise levels ³	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public Utilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Special Status Species ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Traffic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vegetation and Wildlife ⁵	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water Quality	<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 Cultural Resources: Potential effects to Cultural Resources would be managed as stipulated in the Programmatic Agreement between the Corps and the California State Historic Preservation Officer regarding the American River Common Features Project, executed September 10, 2015. A detailed discussion of the mitigation measures for Cultural Resources is included in Section 3.2.4 of the Final SEA.

³ Noise Levels: Short-term impacts due to noise and vibration along the haul routes through the city of Woodland would be reduced to less than significant levels with implementation of the mitigation measures described in the Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures included in Section 3.2.10 of the Final SEA.

⁴ Special Status Species: The Proposed Action will result in impacts to 13 elderberry shrubs. To mitigate for adverse impacts to the habitat of the federally listed as threatened valley elderberry longhorn beetle, 1.7 acres of mitigation would be planted with elderberry seedlings and associated native riparian vegetation. A detailed discussion of the mitigation measures for Special Status Species is included in Section 3.2.7 of the Final SEA.

⁵ Vegetation and Wildlife: In order to reduce potential impacts to nesting birds, surveys would be conducted prior to excavation activities. Active nests would be avoided where practicable or monitored as required. A detailed discussion of the mitigation measures for Vegetation and Wildlife is included in Section 3.2.8 of the Final SEA.