



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

Operations and Readiness Branch

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
408 Permission # 19152
Oroville Wildlife Area Flood Stage Reduction
Butte County, California

I have reviewed and evaluated the information presented in the final Environmental Assessment (EA) dated May 2018, for the Oroville Wildlife Area Flood Stage Reduction Project (Project). The Project is located approximately 4.5 miles west of the town of Palermo on the east bank of the Feather River Designated Floodway within the California Department Fish and Wildlife Oroville Wildlife Area in Butte County, California. In compliance with U.S.C. Title 33, Chapter 9, Subchapter 1, Section 408, the Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency (requester) has requested permission through the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB; non-federal sponsor of the federally authorized project) from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to alter the Sacramento River Flood Control Project, an existing federal flood risk management project, authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1917.

The proposed Project includes four main components: construction of a new 400 linear feet rock gabion inflow weir along the northern boundary of the wildlife area; installation of a new permanent connection to the Feather River, consisting of box culverts with sluice gates, along the eastern boundary of the wildlife area; construction of a new 3,000 linear feet berm along the southern boundary of the wildlife area; and, grading improvements to the existing canal. The proposed Project would also include the removal of approximately 700 acres of invasive species and would plant approximately 150 acres of new riparian woodland vegetation. Additional improvements would include: construction of two parking area improvements and new portable restroom facilities; installation of two new recreational footbridges and one new combined recreational footbridge/emergency vehicle access bridge; grading improvements for two new kayak boat launch facilities; construction of a new culvert road crossing with gate; placement of rock fill at the outflow weir sheet pile and installation of a cyclopean concrete road crossing; and the removal of an existing berm and culvert and installation of a cyclopean concrete road crossing.

A public notice was made available from December 23, 2016, to January 30, 2017, on the Corps' website, for public and agency review and comment. Additionally, a notice of the availability of the public notice was sent to a mailing list compiled by SBFCA. No substantive comments were received.

The possible consequences of the work described in the EA have been studied with consideration given to environmental, social, economic, and engineering feasibility. The environmental effects have been coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), and other federal and state resource agencies. The

USFWS issued a biological opinion (BO; 08ESMF00-2017-F-1766), dated April 28, 2017, for effects to giant garter snake and valley elderberry longhorn beetle. The NMFS issued a BO (WCR-2017-8272), dated November 17, 2017, for effects to California Central Valley steelhead, Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon, southern distinct population segment of North American green sturgeon, and their designated critical habitats, as well as, essential fish habitat. The Corps consulted with the SHPO pursuant to the 2013 *Programmatic Agreement among the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency (SBFCA), and the California State Historic Preservation Office Regarding the Feather River West Levee Project (FRWLP) Sutter and Butte Counties, California (PA)*. The SHPO issued a letter, dated May 12, 2017, concurring with the determination of no historic properties affected. Pursuant to Stipulation III(A) of the PA, the Corps engaged United Auburn Indian Community and the Enterprise Rancheria Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe in consultation for the Project via an email, dated March 16, 2017. No tribal responses were received.

Based on my independent review of the EA (incorporated herein by reference), information provided by the requester, and interested parties, I have determined this permission will not have a significant adverse effect on environmental, social, or cultural resources. Based on these considerations, I am convinced that there is no need to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement. Therefore, the EA and FONSI provide adequate environmental documentation to grant 408 permission for the proposed action.

APPROVED BY: 
Rick L. Poeppelman, P.E.
Chief, Engineering Division
Levee Safety Officer

DATE APPROVED: 5/18/18