



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

408 Permission Section

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO ALTER A U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS PROJECT UNDER SECTION 408

**TITLE:** Caltrans I-80 Bridge Widening American River (19620)

**PUBLIC NOTICE COMMENT PERIOD:**

Begins: February 01, 2022

Ends: March 03, 2022

**REQUESTER:** In compliance with U.S.C. Title 33, Chapter 9, Subchapter 1, Section 408, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans; requester) has requested permission through the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (non-federal sponsor of the federally authorized project) from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to alter the Sacramento River Flood Control Project & the American River Flood Control Project, existing federal flood risk management projects, authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1917 & the Flood Control Act of 1954, respectively.

**LOCATION:** American River, Sacramento County, CA (Attachment 1).

**REQUESTER'S PROPOSED ACTION:** To remove the existing Interstate 80 concrete bridge deck and construct a new Interstate 80 bridge deck over the American River (River); construction would involve temporary cofferdams and temporary access piers for access to build the new bridge concrete deck. The project would construct a new median barrier, remove and replace the steel girder post tensioning systems in bridge spans 1 and 2, install sheet piling around piers for scour mitigation, construct concrete catcher blocks, and widen the bridge superstructure. The project also involves realigning the existing bike path on the right bank of the River; constructing a bike and pedestrian access trail on both the right and left bank levees of the River; raising the levee crown and offsetting the landside levee toes 30 feet to build new embankments; constructing a retaining wall and soundwall for freeway widening on the left bank of the River; and excavating approximately 20,000 cubic yards of in-channel material to facilitate access, and planting of riparian vegetation (Attachment 2 & Attachment 3).

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF PROPOSED ACTION:** The Interstate 80 proposed replacement project is located across both the left and right bank of the American River and would occur directly adjacent to the Sutter's Landing Regional Park. The project site provides suitable habitat for the threatened valley elderberry longhorn beetle (VELB), threatened Central Valley Spring-run (CVSR) Chinook salmon Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU), endangered Sacramento River Winter-run Chinook salmon ESU, threatened California Central Valley (CCV) steelhead DPS, and the threatened southern DPS

(sDPS) of North American green sturgeon. Critical habitats for the threatened CVSR Chinook salmon ESU and threatened CCV steelhead DPS exist within the project area.

Caltrans is acting as the lead federal agency on the behalf of USACE for required consultations under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Caltrans consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and received Biological Opinions for impacts to USFWS and NMFS species.

Using the January 2014 First Amended Programmatic Agreement among the Federal Highway Administration, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the California State Historic Preservation Officer, and the California Department of Transportation Regarding Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Caltrans completed consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office and Native American Tribes pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

**AUTHORITY:** The authority to grant permission for temporary or permanent use, occupation or alteration of any USACE civil works project is contained in Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, as amended, codified at 33 U.S.C. 408 ("Section 408"). Section 408 authorizes the Secretary of the Army, on the recommendation of the Chief of Engineers, to grant permission for the alteration or occupation or use of a USACE project if the Secretary determines that the activity will not be injurious to the public interest and will not impair the usefulness of the project. The Secretary of Army's authority under Section 408 has been delegated to the USACE, Chief of Engineers. The USACE Chief of Engineers has further delegated the authority to the USACE, Directorate of Civil Works and Division and District Engineers, depending upon the nature of the activity.

**LIMITS OF SECTION 408 AUTHORITY:** A requester has the responsibility to acquire all other permissions or authorizations required by federal, state, and local laws or regulations, including any required permits from the USACE Regulatory Program under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. Section 1344), and/or Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1413). In addition, an approval under Section 408 does not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges nor does it authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.

**EVALUATION FACTORS:** The decision whether to grant the requested permission for project alteration under Section 408 will be based on several factors. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. Review of requests for alteration will be reviewed by a USACE technical review team considering the following factors:

1) Impair the Usefulness of the Project Determination. The review team will determine if the proposed alteration would limit the ability of the USACE project to function as authorized, or would compromise or change any authorized project conditions, purposes or outputs. In order for an alteration to be approved, the requester must demonstrate that the alteration does not impair the usefulness of the federally authorized project.

2) Injurious to the Public Interest Determination. Proposed alterations will be reviewed to determine the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, on the public interest. Factors that may be relevant to the public interest evaluation depend upon the type of USACE project being altered and the nature of the proposed alteration and may include, but are not limited to, such things as conservation, economic development, historic properties, cultural resources, environmental impacts, water supply, water quality, flood hazards, floodplains, residual risk, induced damages, navigation, shore erosion or accretion, and recreation. This evaluation will consider information received from the interested parties, including tribes, agencies, and the public. The benefits that reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be compared against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The decision whether to approve an alteration will be determined by the consideration of whether benefits are commensurate with risks and by the net impact of the alteration on the public interest using the public interest factors.

3) Environmental Compliance. A decision on a Section 408 request is a federal action, and therefore subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other environmental compliance requirements. While USACE is responsible for ensuring environmental compliance, the requester is responsible for providing all information that the Sacramento District identifies as necessary to satisfy all applicable federal laws, executive orders, regulations, policies, and procedures. NEPA and other analysis completed to comply with other environmental statutes (e.g. Endangered Species Act) should be commensurate with the scale and potential effects of the activity that would alter the USACE project. The Sacramento District will work with the requester to determine the requirements, which will be scaled to the likely impacts of the proposed alteration and should convey the relevant considerations and impacts in a concise and effective manner.

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:** The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; tribes; and other interested parties regarding the Caltrans I-80 Bridge Widening, a proposed alteration to an existing federally authorized project. Comments received within 30 days of publication of this notice will be used in the evaluation of potential impacts of the proposed action on important resources and in the evaluation of whether the proposed alteration would be injurious to the public interest and/or would impair the usefulness of the authorized project. Only the specific activities that have the potential to occupy, use or alter the Sacramento River Flood Control Project & the American River Flood Control Projects will be evaluated. Please limit comments to the area of the alteration and those adjacent areas that would be directly or indirectly affected by the alteration to the Sacramento River Flood Control Project & the American River Flood Control Project. Please note that all comment letters received are subject to release to the public through the Freedom of Information Act.

**SUBMITTING COMMENTS:** Written comments, referencing Identification Number 19620 must be submitted to the office listed below on or before March 03, 2022.

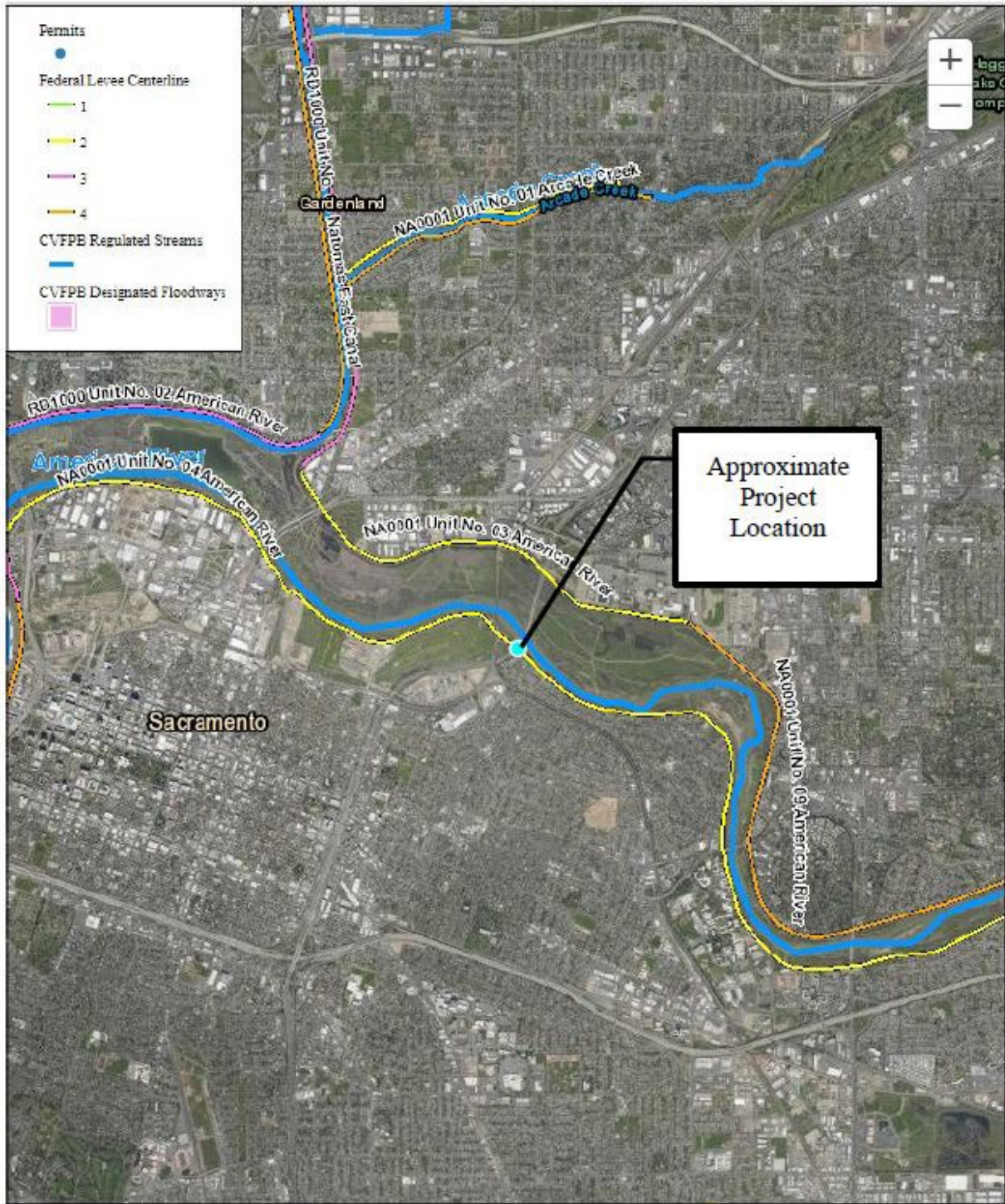
Oren M. Ruffcorn, Biologist  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District  
1325 J Street, Room 1460  
Sacramento, California 95814-2922

Email: *CESPK-408-PN@usace.army.mil*

Attachments:

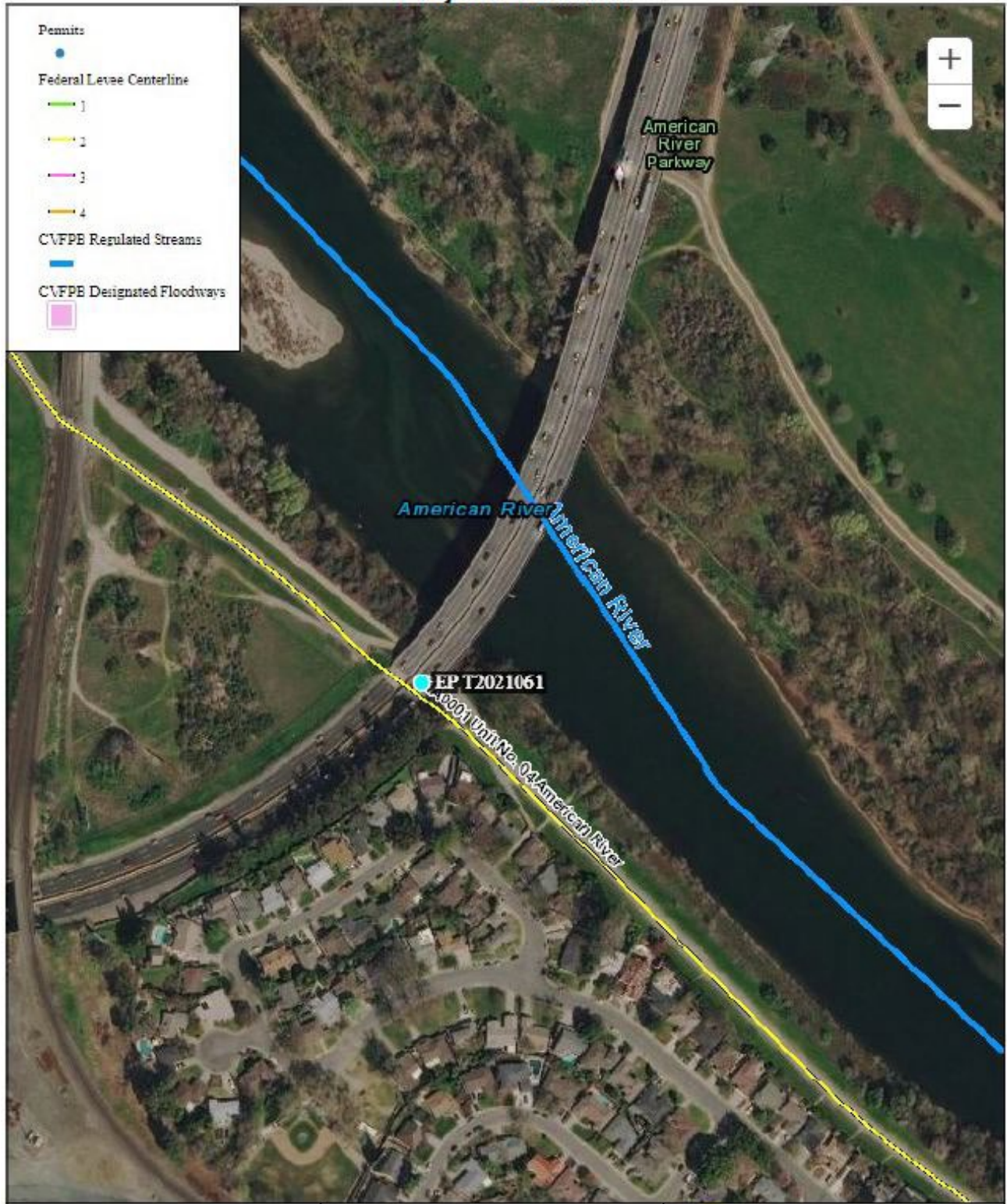


### Project Vicinity





### Project Location



2) Proposed project location map

### Project Footprint



3) Approximate project footprint map