Notice of Intent to Adopt a Supplemental Mitigated Negative Declaration

The Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) has prepared an Initial Study with the intent to adopt a Supplemental Mitigated Negative Declaration (SMND) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the Florin Creek Project (Proposed Project), a component of the South Sacramento Streams Group Project. The South Sacramento Streams Project includes a combination of flood protection features for a number of creeks in South Sacramento County, including Florin Creek. In 1998, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB), and SAFCA prepared a joint Environmental Impact Study (EIS)/Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (1998 EIS/EIR) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and CEQA. Following completion of the 1998 EIS/EIR and project approval, the USACE, CVFPB, and SAFCA developed refined design elements, which were evaluated in the South Sacramento Streams Group Project Design Refinements Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact prepared by the USACE in 2004, and in a Supplemental EIR (SEIR) prepared by SAFCA. SAFCA certified the SEIR and approved the project refinements in February 2005. Together, these documents are considered the "Approved Project."

The Proposed Project is located along an approximately one-mile segment of Florin Creek from State Route (SR) 99 to Franklin Boulevard. This stretch of Florin Creek is located partially in unincorporated Sacramento County, with most of its length within the City of Sacramento. Since certification of the Approved Project, refinements have been made to the Proposed Project, which will require adoption of a Supplemental Mitigated Negative Declaration Document. The Proposed Project, in conjunction with the proposed Florin Creek Multi-Use Basin Project, consists of flood protection measures that would be capable of conveying flows of a 100-year flood event within Florin Creek downstream of SR 99. The Proposed Project refinements would include changes to channel widening and flood conveyance design, shortening the length of construction along the creek, and the removal of trees and fences encroaching into the channel right-of-way to meet the USACE engineering requirements. In combination with the Florin Creek Multi-Use Basin Project, under separate consideration by SAFCA, the Project would provide flood protection for up to 450 structures downstream of the Project site.

SAFCA finds that the Proposed Project could have effects on the environment, however with implementation of mitigations, effects would be less than significant, and therefore, a SMND will be prepared. This finding is based on the criteria established in CEQA Guidelines 15064 (Determining Significant Effects), 15065 (Mandatory Findings of Significance), and 15070 (Decision to Prepare a MND), and the findings presented in the Initial Study.

Copies of the Initial Study can be viewed at SAFCA's offices at 1007 7th Street, Sacramento, California from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday or online at http://www.safca.org. The 30-day comment period on the Initial Study starts on April 7, 2014 and ends on May 6, 2014. The SMND will be considered for adoption by the SAFCA Board of Directors at its regularly-scheduled meeting at 3:00 p.m. on May 15, 2014 to be held at the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors Chambers, located at 700 H Street, Sacramento, California, 95814. Comments on the Initial Study can be directed to Pete Ghelfi at the FILED SAFCA address listed above.

SACRAMENTO COUNTY

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