



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

Environmental Resources Branch

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

**The draft Environmental Impact Statement/draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIS/DEIR) for the American River Watershed Common Features Project (Common Features)/ Natomas Levee Improvement Program (NLIP), Phase 4b Landside Improvements Project (Phase 4b Project) and the draft Natomas Post-authorization Change Report (Natomas PACR) are now available for public review.** The DEIS/DEIR has been prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Sacramento District and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), with USACE as the lead agency for NEPA compliance and SAFCA as the lead agency for CEQA compliance.

The DEIS/DEIR evaluates the potential significant environmental impacts of the Phase 4b Project, and will be submitted to Congress in late 2010 to support potential approval of USACE's Common Features/Natomas PACR, which is an element of the Common Features General Re-evaluation Report (GRR). The Post-Authorization Change Report contains a reanalysis of a previously authorized project, using current planning criteria and policies, which is required due to changed conditions and/or assumptions. The results may affirm the previous plan; reformulate and modify it, as appropriate; or find that no plan is currently justified.

The overall purpose of the NLIP is to bring the entire 42-mile Natomas Basin perimeter levee system into compliance with applicable Federal and State standards for levees protecting urban areas. The NLIP Landside Improvements Project consists of four phases (1, 2, 3, and 4a and 4b). The Phase 4b DEIS/DEIR is the final subphase of the NLIP Landside Improvements Project, and consists of improvements to the remaining portions of the Natomas Basin's perimeter levee system in Sutter and Sacramento Counties, California, and associated landscape and irrigation/drainage infrastructure modifications.

If the Common Features/Natomas PACR is authorized by Congress, USACE would implement the Phase 4b Project. If authorization is not granted, SAFCA could choose to implement the Phase 4b Project. In readiness for the latter scenario, SAFCA is requesting permission from USACE pursuant to Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (Section 408) for alteration of Federal project levees; Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (Section 404) for the placement of fill in jurisdictional waters of the United States; and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (Section 10) for work performed in, over, or under navigable waters of the United States. Construction of the Phase 4b Project is planned for 2012–2016, assuming receipt of Congressional authorization, funding (if SAFCA pursues without Federal participation), and all required environmental clearances and permits.

#### Project Location

The NLIP encompasses the 53,000-acre Natomas Basin in northern Sacramento and southern Sutter Counties, California. The Natomas Basin is bounded by the Natomas Cross Canal to the north, the Sacramento River to the west, the American River to the south, and the Pleasant Grove Creek Canal and the Natomas East Main Drainage Canal to the east. All project construction activities would take place within the Natomas Basin. Based on an extensive records search, no known hazardous materials sites are located within the specific sites proposed for project-related excavation; however, Phase I Environmental

Site Assessments, completed for project planning purposes, indicate possible contamination issues associated with historic land uses. As part of the Phase 4b Project, mitigation would be implemented to ensure that contaminants are not present at unacceptable levels on these sites, near the location of project construction activities.

Significant Impacts Identified in the DEIS/DEIR

The DEIS/DEIR describes the purpose and need for the project, identifies the Proposed Action and alternatives to the Proposed Action, and presents an analysis of the project's potential environmental impacts and mitigation measures. The Proposed Action would result in significant and unavoidable adverse impacts on agricultural resources; land use, socioeconomics, and population and housing; biological resources; cultural resources; transportation and circulation; noise; recreation; visual resources; and hazards and hazardous materials.

DEIS/DEIR Review Period, Document Availability, and Public Meeting

**The 45-day public review period for the DEIS/DEIR and Natomas PACR begins on July 2, 2010 and closes on August 16, 2010.** The DEIS/DEIR and Natomas PACR is being provided to public agencies. Other interested parties may review a printed copy of the DEIS/DEIR during the public review period at the following locations during normal business hours:

- USACE, Sacramento District: 1325 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
- SAFCA: 1007 7<sup>th</sup> Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sacramento, California 95814
- Sacramento Central Library: 828 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
- Sutter County Library: 750 Forbes Avenue, Yuba City, CA 95991

The DEIS/DEIR is also available at USACE's Web site: [www.spk.usace.army.mil](http://www.spk.usace.army.mil) or SAFCA's Web site: [http://www.safca.org/Programs\\_Natomas.html](http://www.safca.org/Programs_Natomas.html). CD copies of the DEIS/DEIR or Natomas PACR may be requested from USACE by contacting Ms. Holland (see below). Please provide any written comments by 5:00 p.m. on **August 16, 2010** to:

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USACE, Sacramento District  
1325 J Street  
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Or John Bassett, Director of Engineering  
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1007 7<sup>th</sup> Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
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Fax: (916) 874-8289  
E-mail: [BassettJ@saccounty.net](mailto:BassettJ@saccounty.net)

A CEQA public meeting will be held before the SAFCA Board of Directors on July 15, 2010, at 3:00 p.m. in the Sacramento City Council Chambers located at 915 I Street, Sacramento, California. An additional public workshop will be held on July 21, 2010, from 5:30 to 7:30, at the Sacramento County Administration Building, 700 H Street, Hearing Room 1.

For further information, please contact Ms. Holland at (916) 557-6763 or Mr. Bassett at (916) 874-7606.

Sincerely,



Alicia E. Kirchner  
Chief, Planning Division