

**Notice of Availability
of the
Draft Environmental Impact Report
and Notice of Public Meetings
for the Natomas Levee Improvement Program—Bank Protection
Project**

Date: September 14, 2007

To: Responsible Agencies and Other Interested Parties

From: John Bassett, Director of Engineering, SAFCA

The Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) is pleased to announce the release for public review and comment of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) on the Natomas Levee Improvement Program (NLIP) Bank Protection Project. The DEIR analyzes the waterside components of the NLIP that are proposed for construction in 2008 through 2010. The DEIR was prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations [CCR Title 14, Section 1500 et seq.]).

Project Location

The NLIP Bank Protection Project is located within the Natomas Basin, along the Sacramento River in northern Sacramento and southern Sutter counties.

Project Description

SAFCA is proposing to implement bank protection measures at nine sites along the east (left) bank of the Sacramento River in order to control erosion that threatens the integrity of the flood control system protecting the Natomas Basin in Sacramento and Sutter Counties. The nine sites are located between River Mile (RM) 69 (upstream of the confluence with the American River at approximately the Interstate 5 river crossing) and RM 79 (the confluence with the Natomas Cross Canal).

The project objectives are to: (1) prevent erosion that could undermine or increase seepage through the existing levees by installing hardscape and vegetation to prevent further retreat of the existing riverbank as a result of floodflow scour and wave erosion; (2) allow as much of the existing vegetation as possible to remain in areas where work will be performed; (3) re-create riparian habitat and SRA cover in areas where bank protection work takes place; (4) mitigate any loss of riparian habitat and SRA cover associated with the project at the project site; and (5) provide net increases in riparian habitat that can offset future levee-tree removals for various sites throughout the project reach or adjacent reaches.

The DEIR analyzes the bank protection components of the NLIP that are proposed for construction in 2008 through 2010 and is tiered from the analysis in SAFCA's EIR on Local Funding Mechanisms for Comprehensive Flood Control Improvements for the Sacramento Area (February 2007). Bank protection measures may be implemented using water-based construction options such as barges, or land-based construction options such as trucks and excavators. Both options have been evaluated in this DEIR. The DEIR also evaluates options for completing construction in 1, 2, or 3 years.

Significant Environmental Impacts

SAFCA has determined that the Bank Protection Project may have significant effects on the environment. The DEIR identifies impacts of these proposed activities in the following areas that would be reduced to a

less-than-significant level with mitigation: water quality, fish and aquatic resources, terrestrial biological resources, cultural resources, transportation and circulation, air quality, noise, and visual resources.

The following impacts would be reduced with mitigation, but not to a less-than-significant level:

- Temporary reduction in riparian vegetation/habitat and gaps in riparian corridor
- Increase in construction emission compared to regulatory thresholds
- Construction noise exceeding county noise limits, including nighttime noise

Other resource categories for which impacts were found to be less than significant include hydraulics and flood safety, agricultural and land use, geology and soils, paleontological resources, utilities and service systems, hazards and hazardous materials.

Listed Toxic Sites

Based on information known to date, the project site(s) are not listed toxic sites.

Document Availability

Copies of the DEIR are available for public review at the following locations:

Location	Address
SAFCA	1007 7 th Street, 7 th Floor Sacramento, CA 95814
Sacramento Central Library	828 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814
Sutter County Library	750 Forbes Avenue Yuba City, CA 95991

The document may also be viewed at SAFCA’s website: www.safca.org. Printed or CD copies of the DEIR may be requested from SAFCA by emailing BassettJ@SacCounty.net or calling John Bassett at (916) 874-7606.

Public Comment Period

The public comment period for the DEIR begins on September 14, 2007 and closes on October 29, 2007. Please submit written comments on the DEIR by **5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 29, 2007** to:

John Bassett/NLIP Landside DEIR Comments
 Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency
 1007 7th Street, 7th Floor
 Sacramento, CA 95814
 Fax: (916) 874-8289
BassettJ@SacCounty.net

If comments are provided via e-mail, please *include the project title in the subject line, attach comments in MS Word format, and include the commenter’s U.S. Postal Service mailing address.*

Public Meetings

SAFCA will hold a public hearing to receive input on the DEIR as the regular meeting of the SAFCA Board to be held on October 18, 2007 at 3 p.m. in of the city of Sacramento Council Chambers, 915 I Street, Sacramento, California.