

**Addendum No. 6 (North Sacramento Streams) to the
Environmental Impact Report on the
North Sacramento Streams, Sacramento River East Levee,
Lower American River, and Related Flood Improvements
Project**



Prepared for:



Sacramento Area Flood
Control Agency

April 2019

State Clearinghouse
No. 2014052038

Prepared by:



Consulting
Engineers and
Scientists

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April 2019

Project No. 1601100

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

| | |
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| ARCF GRR | American River Common Features General Reevaluation Report |
| CEQA | California Environmental Quality Act |
| EIR | Environmental Impact Report |
| LAP | Levee Accreditation Project |
| MMRP | Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program |
| NEMDC | Natomas East Main Drainage Canal |
| SAFCA | Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency |
| USACE | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers |

1. Introduction

This Addendum No. 6 to the Final Environmental Impact Report for the North Sacramento Streams, Sacramento River East Levee, Lower American River, and Related Flood Improvements Project (State Clearinghouse No. 2014052038), also referred to as the Levee Accreditation Project (LAP), addresses proposed modifications and refinements to the North Sacramento Streams component of the LAP. These proposed modifications and refinements involve enclosing three City of Sacramento sump vaults with an 8-foot-tall, 8-foot by 14-foot chain-link fence to avoid misuse of and damage to the vaults, as shown on Figure 1 and described in more detail in Section 4, “Modifications and Refinements to the Project,” below.

2. Summary of Previous Environmental Review Process

The Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA), as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA),¹ prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the North Sacramento Streams, Sacramento River East Levee, Lower American River, and Related Flood Improvements Project, and distributed the Draft EIR on March 18, 2015 for a 45-day public review period. Five public meetings were held in Sacramento during the public review period. These meetings were held jointly with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Sacramento District, and included information on both the LAP and the USACE’s American River Common Features General Reevaluation Report (ARCF GRR) Project. The ARCF GRR covers a range of actions in the Sacramento region, including not only the LAP but also additional actions along the Lower American River, and an expansion of the Sacramento Weir and Bypass, among other improvements. The LAP is a subset, or early implementation project, of the ARCF GRR.

The public review period on the Draft EIR closed on May 1, 2015. A Final EIR and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) were released on June 8, 2015 and sent to agencies, organizations, and individuals who had commented on the Draft EIR within the 45-day public review period. The June 2015 Final EIR was subsequently updated to respond to additional comments received after the close of the public review period, and a second Final EIR was released on July 8, 2015. At its July 16, 2015 meeting, SAFCA’s Board of Directors deferred action on the EIR certification and approval of the LAP. A revised Final EIR was subsequently prepared incorporating revisions from the second Final EIR as well as responses to the comments received after July 8, 2015, and was released

¹ CEQA is found at California Public Resources Code, Sections 21000 et seq., and the State CEQA Guidelines are found at California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15000 et seq.

Figure 1: Sump Vault Locations



Figure Source: GEI Consultants, Inc. 2019.

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in June 2016. The SAFCA Board of Directors certified the EIR, adopted the associated MMRP, and approved the LAP on July 21, 2016. The Draft and Final EIRs, MMRP, and Addenda (described below) are available at SAFCA's offices at 1007 7th Street, 7th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814, and online at SAFCA's Web site (www.safca.org/protection/Environmental_Public_Review.html).

Addendum No. 1 (North Sacramento Streams) to the North Sacramento Streams, Sacramento River East Levee, Lower American River, and Related Flood Improvements Project was approved by SAFCA's Board of Directors on December 15, 2016. Addendum No. 1 addressed modifications and refinements to the project, including the adjusted location of a staging area; two additional temporary crossings of Arcade Creek; modifications to haul truck routes to permit empty trucks to return from the Arcade Creek levees to the haul road entrance at West El Camino Avenue via Norwood Avenue and Rio Linda Boulevard; and refinements to the tree removal impacts and the mitigation approach.

Addendum No. 2 (North Sacramento Streams) to the North Sacramento Streams, Sacramento River East Levee, Lower American River, and Related Flood Improvements Project was approved by SAFCA's Board of Directors on March 15, 2018. Addendum No. 2 addressed modifications and refinements to the project, including changes to the timing of the construction; several adjusted staging areas; and modification to haul truck routes to permit empty trucks to return from the Arcade Creek levees and Staging Area 3 via Pamela Drive and Arcade Boulevard, joining the route along Rio Linda Boulevard and El Camino Avenue approved in Addendum No. 1.

Addendum No. 3 (North Sacramento Streams) to the North Sacramento Streams, Sacramento River East Levee, Lower American River, and Related Flood Improvements Project was approved by SAFCA's Board of Directors on May 17, 2018. Addendum No. 3 addressed modifications and refinements to the project, including modification to haul truck routes to permit on-road hauling from the 2K Borrow Site and the Twin Rivers School stockpile to the staging areas and levee improvement sites along the Arcade Creek levees. The changes analyzed in Addendum No. 3 limit the use of the on-road hauling route to transportation of 9,100 cubic yards of material during May and June 2018.

Addendum No. 4 (North Sacramento Streams) to the North Sacramento Streams, Sacramento River East Levee, Lower American River, and Related Flood Improvements Project was approved by SAFCA's Board of Directors on June 21, 2018. Addendum No. 4 addressed modifications and refinements to the project, involving dewatering a 20-foot by 40-foot area at the approach to the temporary bridge at the 2K Borrow Site. The temporary bridge was part of the project approved by the SAFCA Board of Directors in 2016.

Addendum No. 5 (Sacramento River East Levee) to the North Sacramento Streams, Sacramento River East Levee, Lower American River, and Related Flood Improvements Project was approved by SAFCA's Board of Directors on February 21, 2019. Addendum No. 5 addressed modifications and refinements to the project, including modifications to the timing of construction, and modifications to the size and location of woodland mitigation sites.

3. Summary of the Levee Accreditation Project

SAFCA is implementing improvements to the flood management system protecting portions of the City and County of Sacramento along the Lower American and Sacramento Rivers and their tributaries outside of the Natomas Basin (project area). The proposed improvements (referred to herein as the “LAP” or “project”) would reduce flood risk and bring the flood management system in the project area into compliance with applicable engineering standards established under the National Flood Insurance Program. In addition, the project, in combination with other ongoing improvements to the flood management system along the American River, would allow the flood management system in the project area to meet the urban levee design standards established by the California Department of Water Resources in connection with the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan.

As described in the EIR and Addenda, SAFCA plans to implement levee accreditation improvements, a creek corridor management plan, and a mitigation and conservation strategy during the next 5–7 years, following receipt of all required environmental permits, authorizations, and permissions. Specifically, SAFCA will be implementing the following elements:

- **North Sacramento Streams Levee Improvements** – Improve approximately 4 miles of levees along the Natomas East Main Drainage Canal (NEMDC)/Steelhead Creek East Levee and Arcade Creek North and South Levees to mitigate seepage, meet embankment and foundation stability requirements, and remove high-hazard encroachments and vegetation that threaten levee integrity to allow accreditation of the levees. In addition to levee improvements, riparian plantings associated with the project’s Conservation Strategy would be implemented at several sites.
- **Sacramento River East Levee Improvements** – Improve approximately 6 miles of the Sacramento River East Levee, including the Little Pocket and Pocket areas, to address seepage and meet embankment and foundation stability requirements; mitigate approximately 3,000 feet (approximately 0.6 mile) of erosion at several sites on the Sacramento River East Levee; and remove high-hazard encroachments and vegetation that threaten levee integrity to allow accreditation of the levee.
- **American River and Beach Lake Levees High-Hazard Levee Encroachment and Vegetation Removal** – Remove high-hazard encroachments and vegetation to allow accreditation of segments of the American River North and South Levees and the Beach Lake Levee.
- **Natomas East Main Drainage Canal/Steelhead Creek Corridor Management Plan** – Reduce channel roughness, increase floodwater conveyance capacity, and provide essential fish habitat for salmon and steelhead in the Dry Creek and the NEMDC/Steelhead Creek channels, and for warm-water species in the Arcade Creek channel.
- **The Levee Accreditation Mitigation and Conservation Strategy** – Protect, avoid, minimize, reduce, and mitigate impacts on sensitive habitats and special-status species that may be temporarily or permanently affected by the LAP improvements.

4. Modifications and Refinements to the Project

At three existing City of Sacramento sumps (Sumps 103 and 154 on Arcade Boulevard, and Sump 159 on Altos Avenue), approximately 8-foot-by-14-foot vaults have been constructed at the top of levee elevation to accommodate equipment used to operate the systems that discharge water from the sump through the reconstructed levee into Arcade Creek. At each of these three locations, the City of Sacramento has requested that SAFCA enclose the vaults with 8-foot-tall chain-link fence to avoid misuse of and damage to the vaults. The fenced enclosures would be 8 feet by 14 feet, enclosing the approximately 112-square-foot vaults. The fences are not part of the LAP and were not evaluated in the previous EIR or Addenda.

5. Standard for Preparation of an Addendum

If, after adoption of an EIR, altered conditions or changes or additions to a project are proposed, the State CEQA Guidelines provide four ways to address these changes: a Subsequent EIR (Section 15162), a Supplemental EIR (Section 15163), an Addendum (Section 15164), or no further documentation (Section 15162[b]).

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162² describes the conditions when Subsequent EIR may be prepared.³ A Subsequent EIR is appropriate if the lead agency determines, on the basis of substantial evidence in light of the whole record, that one or more of the following conditions is met:

- Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions of the previous EIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;
- Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous EIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or

² See State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15162(a)(1)-(3).

³ A Supplemental EIR is required if any of the conditions described in Section 15162 would require preparation of a Subsequent EIR, but only minor additions or changes would be necessary to make the previous EIR adequate. State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15163(a)(1)-(2).

- New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR was certified, shows any of the following:
 - The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR;
 - Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR;
 - Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible, and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative; or
 - Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15164 states that a lead agency may prepare an Addendum to a certified EIR if some changes or additions are necessary, but none of the conditions described above in Sections 15162 or 15163 calling for the preparation of a Subsequent or Supplemental EIR, respectively, have occurred.

As explained in the analysis in Section 6, “Environmental Analysis,” the proposed modifications and refinements to the project would not:

- result in any new significant or potentially significant environmental effects, or
- result in a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant or potentially significant effects.

In addition, there is no new information of substantial importance which shows that:

- the project would have new significant or potentially significant effects,
- the project would have substantially more severe effects,
- mitigation measures previously found to be infeasible would in fact be feasible, or
- mitigation measures that are considerably different from those analyzed in the EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant or potentially significant effects on the physical environment.

Because none of the conditions described in Section 15162 and Section 15163 of the State CEQA Guidelines calling for preparation of a Subsequent EIR or Supplemental EIR have occurred, an Addendum to the EIR, consistent with Section 15164 of the State CEQA Guidelines, is the appropriate CEQA document to evaluate the proposed modifications and refinements to the project and explain, based on substantial evidence, that none of the conditions described in Section 15162 have occurred.

6. Environmental Analysis

This section of Addendum No. 6 analyzes the potential effects on the physical environment from implementation of the proposed modifications and refinements to the LAP. This analysis has been prepared to determine whether any of the conditions in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 (described in Section 1.4) would occur as a result of the proposed modifications and refinements.

The proposed project modifications and refinements (i.e., enclosing three City of Sacramento sump vaults with an 8-foot-tall, 8-foot by 14-foot chain-link fence to avoid misuse of and damage to the vaults) would not cause any new significant or potentially significant impacts or a substantial increase in the severity of the impacts analyzed and disclosed in the prior EIR for the following topic areas, because the activities associated with the proposed modifications and refinements would result in negligible additional impacts that would not substantially increase the magnitude from the prior EIR:

- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources – Fisheries
- Biological Resources – Terrestrial
- Cultural Resources
- Geology, Soils, and Paleontological Resources
- Geomorphology
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrologic and Hydraulic Resources
- Land Use and Planning, and Population, Housing, and Employment
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Recreation Resources
- Transportation and Traffic
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Water Quality and Groundwater Resources

The proposed modifications and refinements to the project have the potential to affect the Aesthetics analysis provided in the prior EIR; therefore, the potential aesthetics impacts of the proposed project modifications and refinements are described below.

6.1 Aesthetics

The proposed modifications and refinements consist of construction of fencing around three existing sump vaults. Each sump vault is built with its top elevation at the height of the levee top, with a waist-height metal hand rail around three sides of the vault. A manual closure device extends approximately 6 feet above the top of the vault enclosure, and a metal grate covers the top of the vault, flush with the top elevation of the vault. An 8-foot-high chain link fence, constructed with small links to inhibit climbers, is proposed to enclose each of the three vaults. Each fenced enclosure would be 8 feet by 14 feet.

The area around the Arcade Creek levees is heavily developed and urbanized. As described in the prior EIR, views of Arcade Creek from the homes in the surrounding neighborhoods are generally blocked by the existing levees, and most houses are surrounded by fencing, most commonly chain-link but also wood plank, iron bar, and picket. Overhead utility lines and poles are also a prominent part of the visual character of the area. The Sacramento Northern Bikeway passes near the Sump 159 and Sump 103 vaults. The Bikeway's bridge crossing at Arcade Creek is enclosed by approximately 5-foot-high chain-link fencing.

The sump vaults are not located in proximity to any scenic highways. The chain-link fencing enclosures would be similar to existing fencing at other homes and facilities in the vicinity, the sump enclosures themselves currently have chain-link fencing and barbed wire, and nearby residences and parcels have a range of fence sizes and materials in both front and rear yards. The Sacramento Northern Bikeway bridge, the primary public location with views of Sumps 159 and 103, is itself enclosed by a chain-link fence. The proposed fencing at the vault locations would have a less-than-significant effect related to changes in scenic vistas and existing visual character, similar to the effect described in the prior EIR.

7. Conclusions

As described in the preceding sections, the proposed modifications and refinements to the project do not require any revisions to the prior EIR because no new or substantially more severe significant environmental impacts or potentially significant environmental impacts would result from the proposed modification and refinements to the project. Therefore, none of the conditions listed in Section 15162 thresholds would occur.

- Based on the analysis in Section 6, “Environmental Analysis,” the proposed modifications and refinements to the project as described in this Addendum No. 6 would not result in any of the conditions described in Section 15162 and Section 15163 of the State CEQA Guidelines calling for preparation of a Subsequent EIR or Supplemental EIR, respectively. New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR was certified as complete, does *not* show any of the following:
 - The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR;
 - Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR;
 - Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible, and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative; or
 - Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the prior EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the physical environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.

These conclusions confirm that a Subsequent or Supplemental EIR is not warranted, and this Addendum No. 6 to the prior EIR pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15164 is the appropriate CEQA document to evaluate and document the environmental effects of the proposed modifications and refinements to the project (i.e., enclosing three City of Sacramento sump vaults with an 8-foot-tall, 8-foot by 14-foot chain-link fence to avoid misuse of and damage to the vaults), and resulting impacts thereof. No changes are needed to the certified EIR or the adopted MMRP for the project.

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