



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

DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Supplemental Environmental Assessment for the American River Watershed Common Features Project, Natomas Basin Reach D, Pumping Plant 4 Cofferdam, Sutter County, California

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) has conducted a *Supplemental Environmental Assessment for the American River Watershed Common Features Project, Natomas Basin* dated **[date to be determined]** (2020 SEA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The American River Watershed Common Features Project, Natomas Basin (Project), of which the Reach D Pumping Plant 4 is part, provides a portfolio of flood risk reduction measures to address underseepage, stability, and erosion along the Natomas Cross Canal, Pleasant Grove Creek Canal, Natomas East Main Drainage Canal, Sacramento River, and American River. The action giving rise to the need for the 2020 SEA is located where Pumping Plant 4 serves the greater Natomas Basin by pumping drainage from the North Drainage Canal into the Natomas Cross Canal. The enclosed 2020 SEA supplements the *Final Environmental Impact Statement/Final Environmental Impact Report on the American River Watershed Common Features Project/Natomas Post Authorization Change Report/Natomas Levee Improvement Project, Phase 4b Landside Improvements Project*, dated October 22, 2010 (2010 EIS/EIR), and the *Final Supplemental Environmental Assessment for the American River Watershed Common Features Natomas Basin Project, Reach D* and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) signed April 1, 2018 (2018 SEA).

The 2020 SEA, incorporated herein by reference, evaluated one structural alternative (Proposed Action) and the no action alternative (No-Action). The Proposed Action includes the installation of a cofferdam within the North Drainage Canal to dewater the portion of the canal that leads to Pumping Plant 4, facilitating construction in the dried area. The Natomas Reach D Pumping Plant 4 feature of the Project consists of raising the existing pipes going through the levee in order to cross the levee above the 200-year water surface elevation. All practicable and appropriate means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects were analyzed and incorporated into the Proposed Action. Mitigation measures detailed in the 2020 SEA will be implemented, as appropriate, to minimize Project impacts. The potential effects of the Proposed Action are catalogued in the attachment.

Public review of the draft 2020 SEA and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was completed on **[date to be determined]**. All comments submitted during the public review period were responded to in the final 2020 SEA and FONSI.

All applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and local government plans were considered in the evaluation of alternatives. Based on the evaluation of the effects as described in the final 2020 SEA; the reviews by other Federal, State and local agencies; Tribes; input of the public; and the review by my staff, it is my determination that the Proposed Action would not cause significant adverse effects on the quality of the human environment; therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

DATE

James J. Handura
Colonel, U.S. Army
Commander and District Engineer

Attachment:

Table 1: Summary of Potential Effects of the Recommended Plan

	Insignificant effects	Insignificant effects as a result of mitigation ¹	Resource unaffected by action
Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Air quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environmental justice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fisheries ²	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hazardous Waste and Materials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Land use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Noise levels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Public Utilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Special Status Species ³	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Traffic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Vegetation and Wildlife ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water Quality ⁵	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

¹ 40 CFR 1505.2(C) all practicable means to avoid and minimize environmental harm are adopted.

² Fisheries: Instream work would be limited to the areas immediately adjacent to the Pumping Plant 4 construction area. No impacts to special status fish species would occur due to cofferdam placement within the North Drainage Canal due to the warm water nature of the canal itself.

³ Special Status Species: Recommendations from USFWS Biological Opinion would be followed in and near habitat for the giant garter snake (*Thamnophis gigas*).

⁴ Vegetation and Wildlife: In order to reduce potential impacts to nesting birds, surveys would be conducted prior to construction. Where practicable, potential nesting habitat would be removed during the non-nesting season to minimize the potential for loss of active nests.

⁵ Water Quality: In-water construction activities would be monitored at all times and sampled for water quality in compliance with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board.