



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

CESPK-PD

JAN 04 2018

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Following the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a draft Interim Feasibility Report/Environmental Assessment (FR/EA) has been prepared for the Yuba River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study (YRER) and is now available for review. The draft FR/EA outlines proposed measures to restore 178 acres of aquatic and riparian habitat along the lower Yuba River, between Englebright Dam and the confluence of the Yuba and Feather Rivers, in Yuba County, California. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District (USACE) initiated the YRER in 2015 at the request of the non-Federal sponsor, the Yuba County Water Agency (YCWA), as authorized by Section 209 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1962, Public Law 87-874. USACE is the Lead Agency for NEPA and YCWA is the non-Federal project sponsor.

The draft FR/EA analyzes the environmental effects associated with implementing aquatic and riparian habitat restoration measures in the lower Yuba River. The Federal planning process for development of water resource projects identified Alternative 5 as the National Ecosystem Restoration (NER) plan, which reasonably maximizes ecosystem benefits compared to cost. The NER plan is the tentatively selected plan (TSP) that is being proposed for Congressional authorization. The TSP would create new and improve existing aquatic and riparian habitat through implementation of the following measures: side channels, backwaters, floodplain lowering, riparian planting, and installation of hydraulic roughness and structural complexity features. The proposed actions would reconnect the river to its floodplain, create rearing habitat for juvenile fish, create riparian habitat, and facilitate improved conditions for the natural recruitment of riparian habitat. All potential adverse effects that could result from implementation of the TSP would result in less than significant effects after mitigation through avoidance and minimization; furthermore, the project would result in long term gains in aquatic and riparian habitat quality and quantity.

The draft FR/EA provides the opportunity for public and agency involvement and comment. During the 45-day public review period, a series of public meetings will be held to discuss the proposed project and encourage public questions and comments on the project. The public workshops dates, times, and locations are:

- Marysville – Tuesday January 16, 2018, 5:00pm – 7:00pm at Yuba County Government Center Marysville and Wheatland Conference Room (915 8th Street, Marysville, CA 95901).
- Sacramento – Monday January 22, 2018, 1:00pm – 3:00pm at John E. Moss Federal Building Stanford Room (650 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, CA 95814).

The draft FR/EA will be available for download on January 8, 2018 at:

- USACE website – <http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental-Projects/Yuba-River-Eco-Study/>

In addition, the draft FR/EA is available at the following locations:

- Sacramento Public Library Central Branch – 828 I Street, Sacramento, Ca 95814
- Nevada County Public Library – 980 Helling Way, Nevada City, Ca 95959
- Yuba County Library – 303 Second Street, Marysville, Ca 95901
- Downieville Branch Library – 318 Commercial Street, Downieville, Ca 95936

Comments on the draft FR/EA will be accepted from January 8, 2018 to February 23, 2018. Written comments on the draft FR/EA may be submitted to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, Attn: Planning Division, 1325 J Street, 10th Floor, Sacramento, California 95814, or by email to Yuba-River-Eco-Study@usace.army.mil. For e-mailed comments, please include “Yuba River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study” in the subject line and include the commenter’s U.S. Postal Service mailing address.

Sincerely,



Alicia E. Kirchner
Chief, Planning Division