

Notice of Preparation

To: State Clearinghouse

(Agency)

1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

(Address)

From: Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency

(Agency)

1227 Bridge Street, Suite C
Yuba City, CA 95991

(Address)

Subject: Notice of Preparation of Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for the Feather River West Levee Project

Introduction. In April 2013, the Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency (SBFCA) completed a Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR) for the Feather River West Levee Project (FRWLP) (SCH #2011052062), a locally driven flood risk reduction project. SBFCA prepared the Final EIR as lead agency in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The primary purpose of the FRWLP is to reduce flood risk for the Sutter Basin, which includes portions of Sutter and Butte Counties, by addressing known levee deficiencies along the Feather River West Levee. SBFCA's goal is to achieve a minimum of 200-year flood protection for the more urbanized areas having population centers and 100-year flood protection for the remaining more rural, agricultural portions of the basin. Through the FRWLP, SBFCA is implementing a combination of construction measures to remediate the identified levee deficiencies and thereby reduce risk. Construction of the FRWLP began in the summer of 2013 and is still underway.

In order to achieve the goal of the FRWLP, two additional necessary actions have been identified that modify the original project. The first is modification of the levee repair design along the southernmost 2,450 feet of the levee analyzed previously as part of the FRWLP and extension of the slurry wall southward by an additional 2,450 feet from the original project boundary in Sutter County (this entire 4,900-foot stretch is referred to as the Laurel Avenue Critical Repair site). The second is repair of an approximately 600-foot long erosion site within the project boundary along the Feather River near the town of Gridley in Butte County (this action is referred to as the Gridley Bridge Erosion Site Repair). As these actions will require the issuance of permits from state agencies and may result in a new significant impact based on previously unknown cultural resources information, SBFCA is preparing a Supplemental EIR in accordance with CEQA.

The Supplemental EIR will revisit each resource topic, including cumulative effects, to determine whether the two new FRWLP actions would result in new or substantially more severe significant effects that were not analyzed in the previous Final EIR. As necessary, impact discussions from the Final EIR will be updated and/or expanded based on inclusion of the new actions, and any new impacts attributable to the two new actions will be described.

Laurel Avenue Critical Repair

For the southernmost 2,450 feet analyzed previously as part of the FRWLP, remedial construction measures analyzed in the Final EIR were a slurry wall and 100-foot seepage berm. Under the refined design, the slurry wall will still be constructed, but the seepage berm will not. The only other element to be constructed in this 2,450-foot stretch will be the filling of a ditch located to the landside of the levee with earthen material for 300 feet. The refined design also calls for a slurry wall to be constructed within the levee for 2,450 feet beyond the southernmost

boundary originally analyzed in the Final EIR, making the total length of the Laurel Avenue Critical Repair Site 4,900 feet long. On the landward side of the extended slurry wall span, a swale will be filled with drainage material for 300 feet. The Notice of Preparation issued in 2011 for the original FRWLP included this entire stretch of the levee in the anticipated project boundary.

Gridley Bridge Erosion Site Repair


Recent topographic and bathymetric surveys have identified two areas within the FRWLP boundary that have erosion along the waterside of the levee. These eroded areas are located within 550 feet of each other and are approximately 600 linear feet in combined length. One erosion feature is located upstream of the East Gridley Road Bridge and is approximately 450 feet long. The other is located just downstream of the East Gridley Road Bridge and is approximately 150 feet long. Together, these two erosion features are known as the Gridley Bridge Erosion Site. The erosion at these two areas is considered critical, and the levee is in need of repair in order to meet the goal of the FRWLP (200-year flood protection of urban areas). The new actions would repair the two eroded areas by placing rock slope protection along the waterside of the levee.

Responsible and Trustee Agencies. Responsible and trustee agencies under CEQA may include the Central Valley Flood Protection Board; Cities of Yuba City, Live Oak, Gridley, and Biggs; Sutter and Butte Counties; California Department of Fish and Wildlife; California Department of Water Resources; Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board; State Lands Commission; California Air Resources Board; Butte County AQMD; Feather River AQMD; and California Department of Parks and Recreation.

Your Input Requested. SBFCA seeks your input regarding the scope and content of the environmental information for these new actions. Comments are requested by November 3, 2015. Please provide a name for a contact person in your agency, and mail or otherwise deliver your comments to:

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