



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

Environmental Resources Branch

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Upper Yuba Levee Improvement Project
(Simpson Lane to the Goldfields)
Yuba County, California

I have reviewed and evaluated the information presented in this Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared for proposed Federal levee alterations, pursuant to 33 USC 408, in Yuba County, California. The work is being performed by Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority.

The possible consequences of the work described in the EA have been evaluated with consideration given to environmental, socioeconomic, cultural, and engineering feasibility. The environmental effects have been coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), the California Department of Fish and Game, and the Feather River Air Quality Management District (FRAQMD).

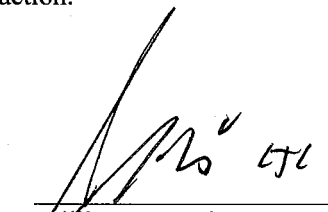
Formal Section 7 consultation with USFWS on Federally-listed species has been completed and effects on the habitat of the valley elderberry longhorn beetle will be mitigated below the level of significance through transplanting impacted shrubs and compensation plantings at a mitigation site. The Biological Opinion based compensation at an increase of 2.5 times the standard ratio due to the proponent's intent to transplant outside of the dormant period; informal consultation has already begun to conduct transplanting during the dormant period which would reduce compensation to the standard ratio. Effects on the habitat of the vernal pool fairy shrimp and vernal pool tadpole shrimp have been mitigated below the level of significance through avoidance and minimization measures and best management practices. The Corps has consulted with the SHPO and the local Native American tribes and has received concurrence that there would be no adverse effect to historic properties. Potential effects to air quality have been mitigated below the level of significance through the purchase of offset mitigation as part of the Carl Moyer Program in agreement with FRAQMD.

No significant impacts on resources would result from the project. Best management practices, avoidance protocols, and minimization measures would be utilized during construction to reduce effects related to air quality, sensitive biological resources, cultural resources, water quality, noise, and utility systems to levels below significance.

Based on my review of the EA, I have determined that the proposed levee improvement project would have no significant, long-term effects on the environment. Based on these considerations, I am convinced that there is no need to prepare an environmental impact statement. The EA and Finding of No Significant Impact provide adequate environmental documentation for the proposed action.

29 DEC 2010

Date


William J. Leady, P.E.
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Engineer