

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
INITIAL STUDY OF
ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE

PROJECT NUMBER: 7520-6B-8285
CP# 19-25

PROJECT NAME: Lower Walnut Creek Restoration Project

PREPARED BY: Environmental Science Associates (ESA)

DATE: September 11, 2019

APPROVED BY: Tejma B. Moreira

DATE: 9/11/2019

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Categorical Exemption: §1530 [Class]

Mitigated Negative Declaration

Environmental Impact Report Required

Conditional Negative Declaration

The project will not have a significant effect on the environment. The recommendation is based on the following: There is no substantial evidence that the project or any of its aspects may cause a significant effect on the environment, pursuant to 15063 (b) (2) of the CEQA Guidelines.

What changes to the project would mitigate the identified impacts: N/A

USGS Quad Sheet: Vine Hill	Base Map Sheet #: E12	Parcel #: 159-250-014, 159-250-018, 159-250-019, 159-260-XXX, 159-310-029, 159-310-030, 159-310-031, 159-310-032, 159-310-033, 159-310-034, 380-020-013.
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GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS:

1. **Location:** The proposed project site is located in unincorporated Contra Costa County approximately 3 miles east of the City of Martinez, along the lower 2.5 miles of Walnut Creek and 1.5 miles of Pacheco Creek.

2. **Project Description:**

The purpose of this project is to restore and enhance wetlands and associated habitats in Lower Walnut Creek and provide sustainable flood management, while allowing opportunities for public access and recreation.

The proposed project would restore and enhance coastal wetlands and adjacent habitats along the southern shoreline of Suisun Bay and from the mouth of Walnut Creek at Suisun Bay upstream along Walnut Creek and Pacheco Creek, improving habitat quality, diversity, and connectivity along four miles of creek channel, over approximately 386 acres in total. Key project elements include:

- Restoration and enhancement of tidal and seasonal wetlands, lowland grasslands, and upland grasslands and scrub in all reaches through invasive plant species control, excavation and grading, and revegetation in all reaches
- Creation of new setback levees in the South and Middle reaches to provide sustainable flood protection
- Creation of new public access opportunities including trails and boardwalks, recreational water access points, and an interpretive center in the North Reach
- Opportunities for the future extension of the Iron Horse Trail in the South Reach
- Protection of existing water and wastewater infrastructure in the South and North Reaches and landfill infrastructure in the Middle Reach.

3. **Does it appear that any feature of the project will generate significant public concern?**

Yes No maybe (Nature of concern):

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4. Will the project require approval or permits by other than a County agency?

Yes **No** US Army Corps of Engineers – 404 and 401D permits; US Fish and Wildlife Service – Biological Opinion; National Marine Fisheries Service – Biological Opinion; California Department of Fish and Wildlife – Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement 1602; California State Lands Commission – Lease Agreement; BCDC – Major Permit and Bay Plan Amendment; United States Bureau of Reclamation – MP620 facility relocation agreement; Contra Costa Water District – Utility Relocation Agreement and Construction Permit(s), .

5. Is the project within the Sphere of Influence of any city? Yes, Martinez