

**Department of
Conservation and
Development**

30 Muir Road
Martinez, CA 94553

Phone: 1-855-323-2626

**Contra
Costa
County**



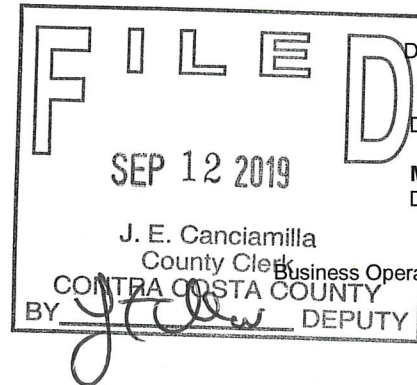
John Kopchik
Director

Aruna Bhat
Deputy Director

Jason Crapo
Deputy Director

Maureen Toms
Deputy Director

Kelli Zenn
Business Operations Manager



September 13, 2019

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC REVIEW AND INTENT
TO ADOPT A PROPOSED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
County File No. 19-25**

Pursuant to the State of California Public Resources Code and the "Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970" as amended to date, this is to advise you that the Department of Conservation and Development of Contra Costa County has prepared an Initial Study for the following project:

^{Title}
PROJECT NAME: Lower Walnut Creek Restoration Project

LEAD AGENCY: Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development.

APPLICANT: Contra Costa County Public Works Department/Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

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 in Central Contra Costa County. APNs: 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.

ZONING: Heavy Industry (HI)

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.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The Initial Study for the proposed project identified potentially significant impacts in the environmental area of biological resources, hydrology and water quality, noise, utilities and service systems, cultural resources, greenhouse gas emissions, transportation, air quality, hazards and hazardous materials, tribal cultural resources. Environmental analysis determined that impacts were less than significant or that measures were available to mitigate potential adverse impacts to less than significant levels. As a result, a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) has been prepared pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080(c), 21063.5, and Article 6 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines.

Pursuant to the requirements of CEQA (CEQA Guidelines Section 15071) the MND describes the proposed project; identifies, analyzes, and evaluates the potential significant environmental impacts, which may result from the proposed project; and identifies measures to mitigate adverse environmental impacts. Mitigations identified in this document designed for the proposed project will ensure that the project will not cause a significant impact on the environment.

A copy of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) and Appendices may be reviewed at the Contra Costa County Public Works Department, 255 Glacier Drive, Martinez, during normal business hours. You may also view the IS/MND and Appendices on the County's webpage: <http://www.contracosta.ca.gov> (Click on Departments and Offices, Conservation and Development, Public Input). All documents referenced in the IS/MND are available on request.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: The period for accepting comments on the adequacy of the environmental document is from **9-13-19 to 10-15-19**. Any comments should be in writing and submitted to the following address and/or mail address:

[Avé Brown](mailto:ave.brown@pw.cccounty.us)
Contra Costa County Public Works Department
255 Glacier Drive
Martinez, CA 94553
ave.brown@pw.cccounty.us

If you have questions regarding the Project itself, please contact Paul Detjens at (925) 313-2394 or paul.detjens@pw.cccounty.us

The environmental document is expected to go before the County Board of Supervisors on **November 19, 2019**. To confirm the Board date, please contact [Ave' Brown](mailto:ave.brown@pw.cccounty.us) at (925) 313-2311.

Attachments: Figure 1: Project Location



SOURCE: ESA, 2019; Digital Globe, 2017

Lower Walnut Creek Restoration . D170378

Figure 1
Project Location