

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

To: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Department of Toxic Substances Control
Site Mitigation and Restoration Program
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826

Subject: FILING OF NOTICE OF DETERMINATION IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 21108 OF THE PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE

Project Title: Removal Action Workplan, Sacramento Weir Railroad Embankment Project

State Clearinghouse Number: 2005072046

Project Location: Sacramento Bypass north levee

County: Sacramento

Project Applicant: Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency

Project Description: The project activities involve removal and disposal of rails, ballast, ties, and contaminated soil from the existing Sierra Northern Railway (railroad) embankment. Project activities are detailed in the *Removal Action Workplan, Sacramento Weir Widening Project*, for the impacted soils.

Background: The project site consists of a portion of the American River Common Features (ARCF) flood control project located adjacent to and north of the existing Sacramento Bypass. To accommodate an expansion of the Sacramento Bypass, the existing bypass north levee will be set back approximately 1,500 feet. The setback will be accomplished by two separate projects: 1) the Sacramento Weir Railroad Embankment Project including 2,000 linear feet of setback levee constructed by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE); and 2) the Lower Elkhorn Basin Levee Setback Project including levee setback along the Sacramento Bypass and the Yolo Bypass constructed by the State of California Department of Water Resources. The Sacramento Weir Railroad Embankment Project is the subject of this document.

A rail line operated on the project site since the early 1900s. Historically, it operated for transit and freight between West Sacramento and Woodland and then exclusively for freight between the 1940s and 1960s when trains were powered by diesel locomotives. By the 1980s the rail line was used primarily for an excursion train for tourists. Most recently, it was used by the Sacramento River Train for tourist excursions. The train is currently inactive, and the property was acquired by SAFCA.

As part of the Sacramento Weir Railroad Embankment Project, a portion of the existing railroad embankment will be fully degraded. The adjacent drain channel, west of the embankment, will be filled. The railroad embankment contains approximately 60,000 cubic yards (cy) of material, which is approximately 2,100 feet in length (the portion to be degraded), 19 feet tall, and 15 feet wide at the crown. The top two feet of the embankment is comprised of railroad ballast, ties, and metal track.

A prior investigation of the project site by the USACE indicated the potential presence of metals above applicable screening levels for reuse of the embankment soil as borrow material in the ARCF project. In September 2021, an additional site investigation was conducted and confirmed the presence of metals in soil at concentrations similar to those reported in the USACE sampling. The purpose of the Removal Action Workplan (RAW) is to evaluate and describe actions to address the soil with elevated metals concentrations identified during these site investigations.

Project Activities: Project activities will involve the excavation of approximately 4,900 cy of soil from the railroad embankment due to the presence of arsenic above screening levels and maximum background levels in the zero- to two-foot layer below the ballast. Approximately 3,100 cy of this soil is assumed to have a hazardous characteristic and will require disposal at a Class I Landfill, most likely the Kettleman Hills Hazardous Waste Facility located in Kern County, California. The additional 1,800 cy of soil will be excavated and disposed of as non-hazardous waste at either a Class II or Class III landfill.

The material will be excavated using standard construction equipment, such as graders, excavators, and haul trucks. If it is necessary to stockpile soil material prior to transport, it will be placed on plastic liners and surrounded by fiber rolls to prevent sediment runoff. At the completion of the excavation, a post-excavation survey will be completed to confirm that the entire extent of the impacted soil was removed.

Prior to excavating the impacted soil, the railroad tracks, rail ties, and ballast will be removed from the top of the embankment. Approximately 2,100 feet of steel railroad tracks, 1,400 wooden rail ties, and 2,800 cy of ballast will be removed with specialized equipment. The metal track will be recycled or reused, and the ties will be disposed of at a Class II or Class III landfill. The ballast will be removed to limit removal of any soil underneath the ballast and reused.

Additional in-place soil sampling will be required to confirm removal to the cleanup goal and waste profiling analysis may be required by the disposal facilities to properly profile the material for disposal. Therefore, in-place characterization of the soil will be conducted to allow direct loading into trucks for transport to a disposal facility without having to stockpile the soil.

The following permits will be obtained prior to commencement of project activities:

- Grading Permit from Yolo County Planning and Public Works department.
- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction Activity (General Permit) is required by the California State Water Resources Board (SWRCB) for any land disturbance greater than one acre. Prior to the start of work, the contractor will file a notice of intent for coverage under the General Permit and prepare a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).
- Yolo County Encroachment Permit to implement traffic control measures (e.g., flagging) is expected to be required to safely allow transport trucks to exit and enter the project site. Yolo County requires a traffic control plan and encroachment permit for this activity.
- Temporary Easement for Construction to allow access to the project site through the adjacent properties owned by Sacramento and San Joaquin Drainage District (SSJDD).

The excavation and disposal activities are anticipated to be completed between August and November 2022.

DTSC utilized information and analysis in the *Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for the American River Watershed Common Features General Reevaluation Report* (SCH # 2005072046) (ARCF GRR Final EIS/EIR) and *Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for the American River Watershed Common Features, Water Resources Development Act of 2016 Project, Sacramento Weir Widening* (SCH # 2020070575) (Supplemental EIS/EIR) to support a final determination about the type of environmental document is required to be prepared for the Removal Action Workplan, Sacramento Weir Widening Project, as provided by Sections 15162, 15163, and 15164 of the CEQA Guidelines. For this project, an Addendum to the previous EIS/EIRs was prepared. As a Responsible Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), DTSC approved the above-described project on August 19, 2022 and made the following determinations:

1. The project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures were not made a condition of project approval.
4. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was not adopted for this project.
5. Findings were made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

The administrative record for this project is available to the public by appointment at the following location:

Department of Toxic Substances Control
 8800 Cal Center Drive
 Sacramento, CA 95826
 (916) 255-3545 (call for an appointment)

Additional project information is available on EnviroStor:
www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report?global_id=60003234

Contact Person Gregory Ruiz	Contact Title Project Manager	Phone Number (916) 255-3694
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Approver's Signature:

Date:

August 19, 2022

Approver's Name Hortensia Muniz	Approver's Title Supervising Hazard Substances Eng II	Approver's Phone Number (916) 255-6442
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TO BE COMPLETED BY OPR ONLY

Date Received for Filing and Posting at OPR: