Mitigated Negative Declaration
The Rivers Erosion Site Project

The West Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (WSAFCA), acting as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency and project proponent, has reviewed the proposed project described below to determine whether substantial evidence supports a finding that project implementation could have a significant effect on the environment. "Significant effect on the environment" means a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in the any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project, including land use, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance.

Name of Project: The Rivers Erosion Site Project

Project Location: The project area is located along the base of the right bank of the Sacramento River, north of the intersection of Riverbank Road and Todhunter Avenue in the City of West Sacramento, California.

Project Description: The proposed project consists of constructing 65 linear feet of erosion site repairs. The erosion site is near the base of the riverbank and consists of bare soil with rock and concrete debris scattered through the area. The erosion scarp at the site was caused by a drainage swale that concentrates sheet flows from rain events to a single discharge point, and fluvial forces from the Sacramento River have exacerbated erosion at the site. The purpose of the project is to address existing erosion problems, enhance fish habitat values, and prevent future erosion from encroaching on the levee, a levee maintenance road, and adjacent recreation features.

The proposed project includes installing a ScourStop™ channel at the top of the scarp, placing vegetated mechanically stabilized earth (VMSE) along the erosion site, and constructing a longitudinal stone toe at the base of the site. Placement of the VMSE would restore the slope of the bank to match the slope upstream and downstream of the erosion site, as well as help retain soil placed as part of the project. The longitudinal stone toe would retard erosion from fluvial forces, boat wake, and discharged flows from the ScourStop™ channel, and provide a platform to anchor instream woody material. The purpose of the proposed project is to address the existing erosion problems, enhance fish habitat values, and prevent future erosion from encroaching on the levee, a levee maintenance road, and adjacent recreation features.

Construction of the proposed project would occur over 2 weeks in the fall of 2014. No known hazardous waste sites exist in the project area.

Findings: The attached Final Initial Study identifies one or more potentially significant effects on the environment. After consideration of the analysis contained in the Final Initial Study, WSAFCA finds the proposed project described above will not have a significant effect on the environment following implementation of mitigation measures described therein and listed below.

Effect	CEQA Finding	Finding with Mitigation	Mitigation Measure
3.3 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES			
Impact BIO-1: Disturbance or Loss of VELBs and Their Habitat (Elderberry Shrub)	Significant	Less than significant	Mitigation Measure BIO-MM-1: Establish Buffers around Elderberry Shrubs Mitigation Measure BIO-MM-2: Conduct Mandatory Contractor/Worker Awareness Training for Construction Personnel
Impact BIO-2: Disturbance or Loss of Western Pond Turtles and Their Habitat	Significant	Less than significant	Mitigation Measure BIO-MM-3: Conduct Preconstruction Surveys for Western and Pacific Pond Turtles and Exclude Turtles from Work Area Mitigation Measure BIO-MM-2: Conduct Mandatory Contractor/Worker Awareness Training for Construction Personnel
Impact BIO-3: Loss of Foraging and Nesting Habitat for Swainson's Hawk and other Migratory Birds and Raptors	Significant	Less than significant	Mitigation Measure BIO-MM-4: Conduct Preconstruction Nesting Bird Surveys Mitigation Measure BIO-MM-2: Conduct Mandatory Contractor/Worker Awareness Training for Construction Personnel
3.8 CULTURAL RESOURCES			
Impact CUL-1: Inadvertent Damage of Buried Cultural Resources during Ground Disturbance	Significant	Less than significant	Mitigation Measure CUL-MM-1: Stop Work, Assess Resource Significance, and Mitigate If Needed
Impact CUL-2: Inadvertent Damage of Human Remains during Construction	Significant	Less than significant	Mitigation Measure CUL-MM-2: Stop Work and Treat Remains in Accordance with State Laws

Public Review Period: The Rivers Erosion Site Project Initial Study and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) was available for review and comment from March 27, 2014, to April 28, 2014. The Supplemental Initial Study and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (Supplemental IS/MND) was available for review and comment from May 3, 2014, to June 3, 2014. The IS/MND and Supplemental IS/MND were available for public review at the following locations and upon request.

- WSAFCA: 1110 West Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento, CA 95691
- online at http://www.cityofwestsacramento.org/city/flood/library.asp.

Public Comment: WSAFCA received three comment letters on the Draft IS/MND and two comment letters on the Supplemental IS/MND. In response to public comment and additional lead agency review, the following changes were made to finalize the Initial Study.

- Page 3.2-3: Information added to clarify that in-water work is not expected to restrict recreational boating on the Sacramento River.
- Pages 3.8-14 to 3.8-16: Cultural Resources impact statements and mitigation measures were updated to include information collected from records searches.
- Page 3.9-1: At the request of the Central Valley Flood Protection Board, an analysis of hydraulic impacts that may relate to the project was added. The project was determined to have no impact to hydraulics, hydrology, or water quality.

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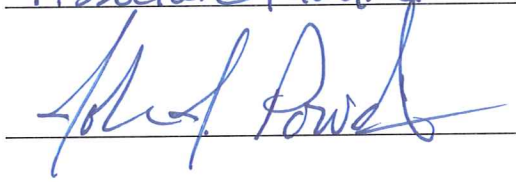
Title: Associate Planner

Signed: 

Date: 7/14/14