



THREE RIVERS LEVEE IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY

1114 Yuba Street, Suite 218

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Date: February 11, 2010

To: Interested Parties

From: Paul Brunner, P.E., Executive Director, Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority

Subject: Notice of Intent to Adopt a Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Upper Yuba Levee Improvement Project

The Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority (TRLIA) has prepared an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposed Upper Yuba Levee Improvement Project (UYLIP), which is located in the southern portion of Yuba County along the Yuba River South Levee, approximately one mile south of the Yuba River. The project area is upstream of the confluence of the Yuba River and the Feather River and east of the City of Marysville. The UYLIP proposes improvements along the Yuba River South Levee between Simpson Lane and the Yuba Goldfields. The project would involve installing slurry walls, seepage berms, levee geometry corrections, levee slope erosion protection, and relief wells in the project area.

TRLIA has prepared a Draft IS/MND in accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines. To implement the proposed project, TRLIA also requires permission from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) pursuant to Section 408 of the Rivers and Harbors Act for alteration of a federal project levee. A separate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental document will be prepared by the USACE to evaluate those impacts associated with their decision making processes for Sections 408 and potential future federal funding. TRLIA is moving forward with the separate IS/MND at this time to provide environmental documentation necessary to facilitate the initiation of right of way acquisitions and State and/or local approvals needed for construction of the project in 2010.

The Draft IS/MND identifies potentially significant impacts related to: air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, noise, public services, and transportation and circulation. All impacts are reduced to less-than-significant levels with implementation of recommended mitigation measures.

The Draft IS/MND is being circulated for public review and comment for a 30-day period beginning on February 11 and ending on March 15, 2010. The Draft IS/MND may be reviewed at TRLIA's Web site, <http://www.trlia.org/>, at the Yuba County Library, 303 Second Street, Marysville; and at the Sutter County Library, 750 Forbes Ave, Yuba City. For questions regarding the Draft IS/MND and documents referenced in the Draft IS/MND, contact Laurie Warner Herson, HDR inc., (916) 569-1000, Laurie.WarnerHerson@hdrinc.com.

Please send written comments on the Draft IS/MND to Paul Brunner, P.E., Executive Director, Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority, 1114 Yuba Street, Suite 218, Marysville, CA 95901, fax (530) 749-6990. Comments may also be sent via e-mail to pbrunner@co.yuba.ca.us. For e-mailed comments, please include the project title in the subject line, attach comments in MS Word format, and include the commenter's U.S. Postal Service mailing address.

TRLIA will be holding a public information meeting for the project on March 8, 2010, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Yuba County Government Center Board Chambers at 915 Eighth Street, Marysville. TRLIA intends to consider adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration at its regularly scheduled board meeting on April 6, 2010, at 3:30 p.m. at the Yuba County Government Center Board Chambers at 915 Eighth Street, Marysville. This meeting will be open to the public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul G. Brunner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and "B".

Paul G. Brunner, P.E.
Executive Director
Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority

Enclosure:
Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration

PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Title:	Upper Yuba Levee Improvement Project
2. Lead Agency Name and Address:	Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority 1114 Yuba Street, Suite 218 Marysville, CA 59501
3. Contact Person and Phone Number:	Paul Brunner, Executive Director, (530) 749-7841
4. Project Location:	Simpson Lane to the Yuba Goldfields, along the south levee of the Yuba River, Yuba County, California
5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address:	Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority 1114 Yuba Street, Suite 218, Marysville, CA 95901
6. General Plan Designation:	Valley Agriculture
7. Zoning:	Exclusive Agricultural; Ag/Rural Residential
8. Description of Project: (Describe the whole action involved, including but not limited to later phases of the project, and any secondary, support, or off-site features necessary for its implementation. Attach additional sheets if necessary.)	
<p>The purpose of the proposed project is to correct levee deficiencies and improve flood protection on the Yuba River South Levee, located east of the City of Marysville and south of the Yuba River from approximately Simpson Lane to the Yuba Goldfields. The total length of the project is approximately 3.8 miles. The project would involve installing slurry walls, seepage berms, levee geometry corrections, levee slope erosion protection, and relief wells in the project area. The proposed project would provide a minimum 200-year level of flood protection in the project area and ensure that the project area meets the minimum requirements of Federal and State laws.</p>	
9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting: (Briefly describe the project's surroundings)	Undeveloped land, sand and gravel business, agriculture (orchards) and open space on the waterside. Residential neighborhoods, roads, and agricultural land on the land side of the levee.
10: Other public agencies whose approval is required: (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement)	CDFG, USACE, RWQCB, USFWS, CARB, CVFPB, FRAQMD

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

<input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forestry Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils
<input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazards/Hazardous Materials	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise
<input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic	<input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems	<input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance

DETERMINATION (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

I find that although the proposed project COULD have a significant effect on the environment, there WILL NOT be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Paul G. Brunner

Signature

2-11-2010

Date

PAUL G. BRUNNER

Printed Name

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Title

TRLIA

Agency