

Certification of Consistency

C20227

Step 1 - Agency Profile

A. GOVERNMENT AGENCY: **State Agency**
Government Agency: Central Valley Flood Protection Board
Primary Contact: Kalia Schuster
Address: 3310 El Camino Ave Suite 170
City, State, Zip: Sacramento, CA 95821
Telephone/Fax: (916) 574-1429
E-mail Address: kalia.schuster@water.ca.gov

B. GOVERNMENT AGENCY ROLE IN COVERED ACTION:

Will Approve / Will Fund

Step 2 - Covered Action Profile

A. COVERED ACTION PROFILE: **Project**

Title: American River Watershed Common Features, Sacramento River East Levee Contract 4 Project

B. PROPONENT CARRYING OUT COVERED ACTION (If different than State or Local Agency):

Proponent Name: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Address: 1325 J street
City, State, Zip: Sacramento, CA 95814

C. OPEN MEETING LAWS

Agencies whose actions are not subject to open meeting laws (Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act [[Gov. Code sec 11120 et seq.](#)] or the Brown Act [[Gov. Code sec 54950 et seq.](#)]) must post their draft certification on their website and in their office for public review and comment, and mail to all persons requesting notice (Administrative Procedures Governing Appeals, Rule 3). A state or local public agency that is subject to open meeting laws is encouraged to post the draft certification on their website and in the office for public review and comment and to mail to all persons requesting notice.

Any state or local public agency that is subject to open meeting laws with regard to its certification is also encouraged to take those actions. It is encouraged to upload any evidence that the project, plan or program went through for public review and comment as part of a Bagley-Keene or Brown Act meeting.

Is your agency subject to open meeting laws (Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act [[Gov. Code sec 11120 et seq.](#)] or the Brown Act [[Gov. Code sec 54950 et seq.](#)])?

(Note: Select "Yes" if your agency or organization is subject to open meeting laws. Select "No" if your agency or organization is not subject to open meeting laws.) Yes

Please attach any supporting evidence of the public review and comment period by clicking the upload button. Such evidence could include but is not limited to: a meeting agenda and attachment demonstrating that this certification was made publicly

available, a screenshot with date and link to a website where the materials were posted, or other similar documentation.

Note: Any public comments received during this process must be included in the record submitted to the Council in case of an appeal.

[September-2022-Agenda-1-1.pdf](#), [October-2022-Agenda-Final.pdf](#)

D. COVERED ACTION SUMMARY: (Project Description from approved CEQA document may be used here)

The SREL C4 project includes levee improvements consisting of an approximately 12,880 cumulative feet (less than 3 miles) of levee raises, flood walls, cut off walls, seepage berm, and other levee improvements along the Sacramento River's east levee in Sacramento, California. The proposed project includes cutoff wall installation, seepage berm installation, and remediation at one isolated utility location ("window") along the Sacramento River, including:

- A shallow cutoff wall adjacent and upstream of the I Street Bridge.
- A jet-grout cutoff wall near the Pioneer Bridge.
- A cutoff wall including both soil bentonite cutoff wall and jet grout cutoff wall along the levee at the north end of the Little Pocket neighborhood.
- A cutoff wall segment at the confluence of the Pocket Canal and the Sacramento River.
- A levee raise adjacent to Freeport Blvd and the Lynn Robie Off-Leash Dog Park; and a utility window remediation adjacent to Freeport Blvd. near its intersection with Stonecrest Ave.
- A shallow cutoff wall extending from the Bill Conlin Sports Complex to near Cliff's Marina.
- A flashboard retrofit, existing levee raise, and cutoff wall at Cliff's Marina, and a seepage berm to the south of Cliff's Marina.

The project site includes the levee prism and areas on the landside of the levee where cutoff walls, and seepage berms will be installed; roadways and haul routes used to transport material to and from work areas; and several parking areas, parks, and vacant lots used for staging areas.

E. STATUS IN THE CEQA PROCESS: NOD has been filed

F. STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER:(if applicable) 2005072046

G. COVERED ACTION ESTIMATED TIME LINE:

ANTICIPATED START DATE: (If available) 12/01/2022

ANTICIPATED END DATE: (If available) 12/31/2023

H. COVERED ACTION TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COST: \$25,000,000

I. IF A CERTIFICATION OF CONSISTENCY FOR THIS COVERED ACTION WAS PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED, LIST DSC REFERENCE NUMBER ASSIGNED TO THAT CERTIFICATION FORM:

J. Supporting Documents:

[D_SREL Alt Memo - 102915.pdf](#), [A_Consistency Certification Narrative_C4_12102022.pdf](#), [B_Mitigation Measure Comparison_C4_12102022.pdf](#), [SREL C4 Final SEIR-SEA Appendices.pdf](#), [SREL C4 Final SEIR-SEA.pdf](#)

Step 3 - Consistency with the Delta Plan

DELTA PLAN CHAPTER 2

[G P1/Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5002](#) - Detailed Findings to Establish Consistency with the Delta Plan.

G P1/Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5002 identifies what must be addressed in a certification of consistency filed by a State or local public agency with regard to any covered action and only applies after a "proposed action" has been determined by a State or local public agency to be a covered action because it is covered by one or more of the regulatory policies listed under Delta Plan Chapters 3, 4, 5, and 7 of this form. Inconsistency with this policy may be the basis for an appeal.

A certification of consistency must include detailed findings that address each of the regulatory policies identified in Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, §§ 5002-5013 and listed on this Form that is implicated by the covered action.

As outlined in Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5002 (b)(1), the Delta Stewardship Council acknowledges that in some cases, based upon the nature of the covered action, full consistency with all relevant regulatory policies may not be feasible. In those cases, the agency that files the certification of consistency may nevertheless determine that the covered action is consistent with the Delta Plan because, on whole, that action is consistent with the coequal goals. That determination must include a clear identification of areas where consistency with relevant regulatory policies is not feasible, an explanation of the reasons why it is not feasible, and an explanation of how the covered action nevertheless, on whole, is consistent with the coequal goals. That determination is subject to review by the Delta Stewardship Council on appeal.

Specific requirements of this regulatory policy:

a. [G P1\(b\)\(1\)/Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5002, subd. \(b\)\(1\)](#) - Coequal Goals

As outlined in **Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5002 (b)(1)**, the Delta Stewardship Council acknowledges that in some cases, based upon the nature of the covered action, full consistency with all relevant regulatory policies may not be feasible. In those cases, the agency that files the certification of consistency may nevertheless determine that the covered action is consistent with the Delta Plan because, on whole, that action is consistent with the coequal goals. That determination must include a clear identification of areas where consistency with relevant regulatory policies is not feasible, an explanation of the reasons why it is not feasible, and an explanation of how the covered action nevertheless, on whole, is consistent with the coequal goals. That determination is subject to review by the Delta Stewardship Council on appeal.

Is the covered action consistent with this portion of the regulatory policy?

N/A

Answer Justification:

See attached consistency certification narrative. [A Consistency Certification Narrative_C4_12102022.pdf](#)

b. [G P1\(b\)\(2\)/Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5002, subd. \(b\)\(2\)](#) - Mitigation Measures

G P1(b)(2)/Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5002, subd. (b)(2) provides that covered actions not exempt from CEQA, must include all applicable feasible mitigation measures adopted and incorporated into the Delta Plan as amended April 26, 2018, (unless the measure(s) are within the exclusive jurisdiction of an agency other than the agency that files the certification of consistency), or substitute [mitigation measures](#) that the agency that files the certification of consistency finds are equally or more effective. For more information, see Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5002, and Delta Plan Appendix O, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, which are referenced in this regulatory policy.

Is the covered action consistent with this portion of the regulatory policy?

Yes

Answer Justification:

Delta Plan Mitigation Measures and the Project-specific Environmental Commitments and/or Mitigation Measures for the Proposed Action demonstrate compliance with, or effective substitution for, the Delta Plan Mitigation Measures. See attached Mitigation Measure Comparison. [B Mitigation Measure Comparison_C4_12102022.pdf](#)

c. [G P1\(b\)\(3\)/Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5002, subd. \(b\)\(3\)](#) - Best Available Science

G P1(b)(3)/Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5002, subd. (b)(3) provides that, relevant to the purpose and nature of the project, all covered actions must document use of best available science. For more information, see [Appendix 1A](#), which is referenced in

this regulatory policy.

Is the covered action consistent with this portion of the regulatory policy?

Yes

Answer Justification:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is implementing the proposed project, and all project improvements are designed based on the results of detailed geotechnical engineering studies and required to comply with standard engineering practices for levee design, which constitute best practices (see Attachment D, SRELIP Memo). See attached Consistency Certification Narrative and SRELIP Alternatives Evaluation Memo. [D_SREL Alt Memo - 102915.pdf](#), [A_Consistency Certification Narrative_C4_12102022.pdf](#)

d. [G P1\(b\)\(4\)/Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5002, subd. \(b\)\(4\)](#) - Adaptive Management

G P1(b)(4)/Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5002, subd. (b)(4) provides that an ecosystem restoration or water management covered action must include adequate provisions, appropriate to its scope, to assure continued implementation of adaptive management. For more information, see [Appendix 1B](#), which is referenced in this regulatory policy. Note that this requirement may be satisfied through both of the following:

(A) An adaptive management plan that describes the approach to be taken consistent with the adaptive management framework in Appendix 1B; and

(B) Documentation of access to adequate resources and delineated authority by the entity responsible for the implementation of the proposed adaptive management process.

Is the covered action consistent with this portion of the regulatory policy?

N/A

Answer Justification:

The proposed project does not include ecosystem restoration or water management. USACE will compensate for removing 2.75 canopy acres of riparian habitat at a 2:1 ratio by planting 5.5 acres of new riparian habitat at the Beach/Stone Lakes Mitigation Site (BSLMS).

DELTA PLAN CHAPTER 3

[WR P1 / Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5003](#) - Reduce Reliance on the Delta through Improved Regional Water Self-Reliance

Is the covered action consistent with this portion of the regulatory policy?

N/A

Answer Justification:

The proposed project does not export water from, transfer water through, or use water in the Delta.

[WR P2 / Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5004](#) - Transparency in Water Contracting

Is the covered action consistent with this portion of the regulatory policy?

N/A

Answer Justification:

The proposed project does not involve water supply or water transfer contracts from the State Water Project or Central Valley Project.

DELTA PLAN CHAPTER 4

[Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5002, subd. \(c\)](#) - Conservation Measure

Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5002, subd. (c) provides that a conservation measure proposed to be implemented pursuant to a natural community conservation plan or a habitat conservation plan that was: (1) Developed by a local government in the Delta; and (2) Approved and permitted by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife prior to May 16, 2013 is deemed to be consistent with the regulatory policies listed under Delta Plan Chapter 4 of this Form (i.e. sections 5005 through 5009) if the certification of consistency filed with regard to the conservation measure includes a statement confirming the nature of the conservation measure from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Is the covered action consistent with this portion of the regulatory policy?

N/A

Answer Justification:

The SRCSD borrow site is located in the plan area for the South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan (SSHCP) which was adopted after May 16, 2013.

[ER P1 / Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5005](#) - **Delta Flow Objectives**

Is the covered action consistent with this portion of the regulatory policy?

N/A

Answer Justification:

The proposed project does not significantly affect flow in the Delta.

[ER PA/Cal. Code Regs., tit.23, § 5005.1](#) - **Contributions to Restoring Ecosystem Function and Providing Social Benefits**

Effective Date April 1, 2025

Is the covered action consistent with this portion of the regulatory policy?

Answer Justification:

[ER P2 / Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5006](#)- **Restore Habitats at Appropriate Elevations**

For covered actions with a Notice of Preparation, Negative Declaration, or Mitigated Negative Declaration issued before April 1, 2025, the effective date of the amended policy is April 1, 2027.

Is the covered action consistent with this portion of the regulatory policy?

Yes

Answer Justification:

Riparian replacement habitat will be created in accordance with the 2013 ARCF GRR Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report.

[ER P3 / Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5007](#) - **Protect Opportunities to Restore Habitat**

For covered actions with a Notice of Preparation, Negative Declaration, or Mitigated Negative Declaration issued before April 1, 2025, the effective date of the amended policy is April 1, 2027.

Is the covered action consistent with this portion of the regulatory policy?

N/A

Answer Justification:

This policy covers all proposed projects in the priority habitat restoration areas depicted in Figure 4-6 of the Delta Plan. It does not cover actions outside those areas. The project site is not in a priority habitat restoration area.

[ER P4 / Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5008](#) - **Expand Floodplains and Riparian Habitats in Levee Projects**

For covered actions with a Notice of Preparation, Negative Declaration, or Mitigated Negative Declaration issued before April 1, 2025, the effective date of the amended policy is April 1, 2027.

Is the covered action consistent with this portion of the regulatory policy?

Yes

Answer Justification:

The levee improvements that are a part of the proposed project are directly adjacent to residential areas and the use of setback levees would be infeasible. Please refer to the attached Consistency Certification narrative. [A_Consistency_Certification_Narrative_C4_12102022.pdf](#)

[ER P5 / Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5009](#) - Avoid Introductions of and Habitat for Invasive Nonnative Species

Is the covered action consistent with this portion of the regulatory policy?

Yes

Answer Justification:

In-water construction activities (i.e., work below the OHWM) will be limited to the work window of July 1 to October 31. The in-water work window could be extended with NMFS approval. Additionally, disturbed areas will be regraded and reseeded with native vegetation after construction is completed. Vegetation will be established in the impact area below the OHWM prior to rewetting of the area. Please refer to the attached Consistency Certification Narrative and Mitigation Measure Comparison. [A_Consistency_Certification_Narrative_C4_12102022.pdf](#), [B_Mitigation_Measure_Comparison_C4_12102022.pdf](#)

DELTA PLAN CHAPTER 5

[DP P1 / Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5010](#) - Locate New Urban Development Wisely

Is the covered action consistent with this portion of the regulatory policy?

N/A

Answer Justification:

The proposed project does not involve new residential, commercial, or industrial development.

[DP P2 / Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5011](#) - Respect Local Land Use When Siting Water or Flood Facilities or Restoring Habitats

Is the covered action consistent with this portion of the regulatory policy?

Yes

Answer Justification:

See attached Consistency Certification Narrative. [A_Consistency_Certification_Narrative_C4_12102022.pdf](#)

DELTA PLAN CHAPTER 7

[RR P1 / Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5012](#) - Prioritization of State Investments in Delta Levees and Risk Reduction

Is the covered action consistent with this portion of the regulatory policy?

Yes

Answer Justification:

The proposed project is located in a “very high priority” area for levee improvements. See attached Consistency Certification Narrative. [A_Consistency_Certification_Narrative_C4_12102022.pdf](#)

[RR P2 / Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5013](#) - Require Flood Protection for Residential Development in Rural Areas

Is the covered action consistent with this portion of the regulatory policy?

N/A

Answer Justification: The proposed project does not include residential development.

[RR P3 / Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5014](#) - **Protect Floodways**

Is the covered action consistent with this portion of the regulatory policy?

Yes

Answer Justification: The proposed project would not encroach on floodways.

[RR P4 / Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5015](#) - **Floodplain Protection**

Is the covered action consistent with this portion of the regulatory policy?

Yes

Answer Justification: The proposed project would not encroach in floodplain areas.

10/31/2022