

Smith Canal Gate Project

Environmental Impact Report

Scoping Meeting

Wednesday, July 16, 2014

CEQA Process

**Negative
Declaration**

**Review for
Exemptions**

**Initial
Study**

The EIR Process

Notice of Preparation

Scoping

Draft EIR

State Clearinghouse

Public and Agency Review

Response to Comments

**Review of Responses by
Commenting Agencies**

Final EIR

**Agency Decision/Findings, Statement of Overriding
Considerations, Mitigation Monitoring**

SJAFCA Role and Responsibilities under CEQA

- Lead agency: the agency that will adopt and approve the project
- Responsible for preparation of EIR
- Shall consider EIR in approving the project
- Shall certify EIR and findings
- Shall approve mitigation

What Is *Scoping*?

Scoping is the process used to inform the public of a proposed activity and provide them an opportunity to give input on the range of alternatives, environmental effects, and any issues of concern related to the proposed activity.

Introduction

- Chris Elliott, ICF International, environmental compliance consultant
- SJAFCA is a Joint Powers Authority formed in 1995 between City of Stockton, San Joaquin County, and San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District with the purpose to protect Stockton and surrounding areas from flooding
- SJAFCA is project proponent and lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act

Meeting Agenda

- Meeting Purpose: CEQA and Scoping
- Project Need
- About the Project
- Potential Alternatives
- Environmental Review Process
- Project Timeline and Funding
- Your Input

About CEQA

- Needed when a public agency undertakes a project that calls for governmental approval
- Requires identification of significant effects on built and human environment as well as avoidance/mitigation measures
 - An EIR may be necessary
 - An EIR informs decision-makers and engages public
- Fosters multi-agency coordination
- Increases public participation and disclosure

About Scoping

- Essential part of CEQA compliance
 - Initial part of EIR process
- Allows the public to share specific, local information to inform what is analyzed in the EIR and the design and selection of alternatives
- Your input during scoping is valuable to the development of the Smith Canal Gate Project

Project Need

- Although minimal history of local flooding, FEMA mapping is undergoing change
 - Smith Canal levees do not meet FEMA standards
 - Assessment District formed in July 2013 to protect the community
- Levees would be challenging and expensive to modify
- 8,000 properties and 24,000 people are currently at increased flood risk

About the Project

- Located at the mouth of Smith Canal
- A gate-type structure to isolate the canal from the San Joaquin River during high-water events
- Will meet federal and state flood protection criteria
- Removal from 100-year floodplain; will contribute to 200-year protection, combined with other projects
- Provide FEMA accreditation and eliminate mandatory flood insurance requirement



Jackson Golf
and
Country Club

Atherton Cove

Atherton
Island

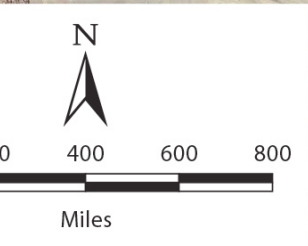
Smith Canal

Louis Park

Dad's Point

Deep Water Ship Channel

Louis Park
Boat Launch



Potential Alternatives

- A fixed-wall structure with an opening gate to allow for passage of boats and tidal flows
 - North tip of Dad's Point to the golf course
- A fixed-wall structure with an opening gate structure extending across the inlet to Smith Canal from Louis Park *and* a 2,300-foot floodwall along the existing levee between Moreing Road and the golf course
- Two fixed-wall structures, each with an opening gate to allow for through passage
 - One structure extending from Louis Park to Atherton Island
 - One extending from the northwestern side of Atherton Island to the golf course

Environmental Process Timeline

- File Notice of Preparation to start EIR
- Solicit input through scoping  **WE ARE HERE**
- Prepare draft EIR (DEIR)
- Circulate DEIR for public/agency review and comment
- Review and respond to DEIR comments and prepare final EIR (FEIR)
- Adopt project and certify FEIR; create mitigation, monitoring, and reporting plan; and record Notice of Determination

Resources Analyzed

The EIR will examine the effects the project could have on:

- Fish and aquatics
- Population and housing
- Visual resources
- Transportation and navigation
- Air quality
- Flood management
- Geomorphology
- Public services
- Water quality
- Groundwater
- Land use and planning
- Cultural resources
- Noise
- Recreation
- Vegetation and wetlands
- Wildlife

Project Timeline

- Submit scoping comments by July 25, 2014
- SJAFCA prepares DEIR
- DEIR scheduled for release in early 2015
 - Public meeting to solicit comments on DEIR
- Project design and permitting occurs fall 2014 to late 2016
- FEIR scheduled for release in fall 2015
- If adopted, construction would begin in fall 2016

Project Funding

- State grant of \$2.4 million for design and environmental work
 - 50/50 cost share between state and locals
- SJAFCA will apply for a state grant to fund share of construction, soon after state releases grant application
- Assessment District pays local share of project design, environmental permitting, construction, and maintenance
- Assessment District directly benefits those paying into it
- Board authorized \$3.5 million contract for design and environmental work

We Want to Hear from You

- Fill out a comment card and turn it in tonight
- Mail us a self-addressed comment card by July 25, 2014
- Send written comments to:
Megan Smith, ICF International
630 K Street, Suite 400, Sacramento, CA 95814
- Send comments via email to megan.smith@icfi.com

**All comments must be received by
Friday, July 25, 2014**

Contact Us

Have questions or concerns
between meetings?

Visit us at www.sjafca.com
for the latest project information

Call to speak to a project team member
(209) 487-1387