

Smith Canal Gate Project Draft Environmental Impact Report Fast Facts - July 2015

BACKGROUND

The San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency, or SJAFCA, is proposing the Smith Canal Gate Project to reduce flood risk in and around the Smith Canal area of Stockton and unincorporated San Joaquin County. The Smith Canal Gate Project (project) proposes to build, operate, and maintain a fixed wall with a gate structure near the mouth of Smith Canal that would isolate the Smith Canal area from the San Joaquin River during high tide and flow events. The project would also provide recreational and habitat improvements to Dad's Point and include installation of culverts under Moreing Road to improve water circulation in that area.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

SJAFCA has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) to satisfy the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for disclosing impacts on the physical environment likely to be caused by the proposed project and its alternatives, as well as recommending mitigation measures to reduce such impacts. The DEIR analyzes the potential direct, indirect, cumulative, and growth-inducing environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed project, alternatives to the project, as well as the impacts of not undertaking the project. SJAFCA will utilize the DEIR and related public comments to make a decision on approval or disapproval for the project.

The resources analyzed in the DEIR include:

- Flood Risk, Hydrology and Geomorphology
- Water Quality
- Transportation and Navigation
- Air Quality
- Greenhouse Gases and Climate Change
- Noise
- Vegetation and Wetlands
- Fish and Aquatic Resources
- Wildlife
- Visual Resources
- Recreation
- Public Services and Utilities
- Public Health and Hazards
- Cultural Resources

Mitigation measures that avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce, eliminate, or compensate for significant impacts are described in the DEIR. Some of the resources analyzed above would have significant impacts that would cause a substantial adverse change in the physical conditions of the environment; however, feasible mitigation is available that would avoid or reduce the environmental impacts to less-than-significant levels. Other impacts that cannot be reduced to a less-than-significant level by mitigation are significant and unavoidable, meaning the impact would cause a substantial adverse change in the environment that cannot be avoided or mitigated to a less-than-significant level if the project is implemented. Several impacts related to noise, recreation and visual resources are significant and unavoidable.

ALTERNATIVES

The DEIR evaluates three alternatives. The alternatives were selected to be analyzed based upon their ability to meet the project purpose and objectives. All three of these alternatives include variations of a gated fixed wall structure, as well as recreational and habitat improvements to Dad’s Point and installation of culverts under Moreing Road to improve water circulation in that area. A description of each alternative and its features is outlined below.

Alternative 1 Single Gated Wall to Dad’s Point (Proposed Project)	Alternative 2 Atherton Cove floodwall with Smith Canal Gate	Alternative 3 Dual Gated Walls to Atherton Cove and Smith Canal
Features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One fixed wall (800 feet long) with single gate from Dad’s Point to right bank of San Joaquin River at the Stockton Golf and Country Club • Six 36-inch culverts with slide gate closures through fixed wall • Grade raise at Dad’s Point • Culverts under Moreing Road • \$29 million to construct 	Features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One fixed wall (225 feet long) with single gate across Smith Canal • 2,300-foot floodwall along Atherton Cove • Two 36-inch culverts with slide gate closures through fixed wall • Culverts under Moreing Road • \$51 million to construct 	Features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two fixed walls with single gates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smith Canal wall: Louis Park to Atherton Island (250 feet) • Atherton Cove wall: Atherton Island to the Stockton Golf and Country Club (400 feet) • Two 36-inch culverts with slide gate closures through fixed walls • Culverts under Moreing Road • \$42 million to construct

PUBLIC COMMENT

The DEIR is available for public comment as part of a 45-day public review period that began June 24, 2015 and concludes August 10, 2015. Members of the public are invited to review the document and provide comments on its contents. The document is available for review at the following locations:

- On SJAFCA’s website (http://www.sjafca.com/smith_canal_closure.php)
- At the Stockton Cesar Chavez Central public library, 605 N. El Dorado Street, Stockton
- At Stockton City Hall, 425 N. El Dorado Street, Stockton

Comments can be submitted via mail or email by **August 10, 2015**, to:

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