



# County of Yolo

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Taro Echiburú, AICP  
DIRECTOR

292 West Beamer Street  
Woodland, CA 95695-2598  
530) 666-8775 FAX (530) 666-8156  
[www.yolocounty.org](http://www.yolocounty.org)

**Environmental Health**  
292 West Beamer Street  
Woodland, CA 95695  
(530) 666-8646

**Integrated Waste Management**  
44090 CR 28 H  
Woodland, CA 95776  
(530) 666-8852

## NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Notice is hereby given that the County of Yolo, as lead agency, has prepared an Initial Study/ Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the below referenced project. The IS/ND analyzes the potential environmental effects associated with the proposed project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In accordance with Section 15072 of the CEQA Guidelines, the Yolo County has prepared this Notice of Intent to provide responsible agencies and other interested parties with notice of the availability of the IS/ND and solicit comments and concerns regarding the environmental issues associated with the proposed project.

**LEAD AGENCY:** Yolo County Administrator's Office  
625 Court Street, Room 202  
Woodland, CA 95695

**CONTACT PERSON:** Elisa Sabatini, Manager of Natural Resources  
530-406-5773  
[Elisa.Sabatini@yolocounty.org](mailto:Elisa.Sabatini@yolocounty.org)

**PROJECT TITLE:** CSA-6 Levee System Maintenance Plan

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The project is located in Yolo County and runs along the Sacramento River's right (west) bank from the Knights Landing Ridge Cut outfall gates downstream to the Fremont Weir.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

#### *Background*

The Knights Landing Levee System is part of the Sacramento River Flood Control Project (SRFCP). The SRFCP was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1917 as Public Law 367 during the 64<sup>th</sup> Congress, and was later modified in 1928, 1937, and 1941. The Knights Landing levee system consists of three levee segments with a total length of approximately 15.19 miles.

Yolo CSA-6, also referred to as Named Area 0022 (NA0022), is the local maintaining agency (LMA) responsible for the operations and maintenance (O&M) of 5.97 miles in the middle of this stretch (Figure 1). Yolo CSA-6's responsibility runs along the Sacramento River's right (west) bank from the Knights Landing Ridge Cut outfall gates downstream to the Fremont Weir. The levee is part of Unit No. 127 of the Sacramento River Flood Control Project with O&M standards prescribed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) *Standard Operation and Maintenance Manual for the Sacramento River Flood Control Project, Unit No. 127, Levees of*

*Knights Landing Ridge Cut and Sacramento and Yolo By-Pass Levees of Reclamation Districts No. 730 and 819 and South Levee of Sycamore Slough.* Maintenance along portions of the Yolo CSA-6 levee have been deferred for many years with regard to repairs and vegetation clearance required as per standards in the O&M manuals, and are currently rated as “unacceptable” or “deficient.”

### *Project*

On May 18, 2017, MBK Engineers submitted a Memorandum of Maintenance Considerations to Yolo County. The purpose of the Memorandum was to perform an assessment to determine which maintenance activities should be prioritized for action in the near term. Resulting from this Memorandum was the identification of eleven recommendations for routine and on-going maintenance. These recommendations, which were adopted by the Yolo County Board of Supervisors on July 18, 2017 as the annual level maintenance plan for fiscal year 2017-2018, are as follows:

1. Mow, graze and/or burn slopes to allow visibility for rodent damage or surface erosion.
2. Clear wild brush and vegetation from levee slopes and 15 feet from the levee toes and trim trees to provide visibility to a minimum of 5 feet above the levee toes and slopes. Work can be performed by spraying and burning; using mechanical equipment such as masticators, mowers, or Brush-Hogs; using hand crews with hand tools; by grazing; or a combination of methods depending on the area. Areas should be treated with herbicide after removal to prevent re-growth.
3. Remove or burn brush piles, pruning piles, fallen trees and limbs.
4. A rodent abatement program should be initiated. This can be done using bait, Rodex gun, fumigation, or other means in areas where rodents are spotted. Areas with existing rodent burrows should be backfilled and compacted. This can be done using excavators or backhoes from the levee crown to burrow as deep into the levee as can be traced, and backfill/compact the excavated holes. Rodent holes can also be grouted using a cement-bentonite-water mixture with methods developed by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR).
5. Once slopes are cleared, larger areas of erosion or depressions should be backfilled and compacted and then levee slopes can be dragged using a Cat track behind a backhoe to repair minor surface erosion rills.
6. Work with property owners to remove or relocate equipment and pruning piles to a minimum of 15 feet from the levee toes and keep agricultural disking operations from scarping the levee toe. Also, property owners should be made aware of the need for clear and visible inspection corridors along the levees and asked to thin or remove landscaping and fences where feasible.
7. Repair the levee toe scarp created by agricultural disking at levee mile (LM) 2.4-2.5. Work with property owner who disked into the levee toe to ensure the levee is avoided during future agricultural operations.

8. Work with DWR Deferred Maintenance Program to inspect and remediate all at grade culvert crossings through levee.
9. Reseed slopes or waterside berms with native grass mixtures to prevent erosion where vegetation is lacking or non-existent.
10. Upon drying, inspect areas that exhibited general seepage or had water against landside toe during 2017 storm events for signs of cracking, sloughing, or other distress.
11. Monitor cracking of pavement along waterside hinge of Front Street for displacement. Displacement could indicate levee slippage and warrant emergent repair.

**PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD:** A 30-day public review period of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration will commence **on January 23, 2018 and end on February 19, 2018** during which interested individuals and public agencies may submit written comments on the document. Any written comments on the IS/MND must be received at the above address within the public review period.

**AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS:** The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration is now available for public review at the following location during normal business hours: Yolo County Administrator's Office, 625 Court Street Room 202, Woodland, CA 95695. **The IS/MND has been posted to the Yolo County Web site and may be downloaded and printed at <http://www.yolocounty.org/community-services/planning-public-works/planning-division/current-projects>.** A PDF digital file of the IS/MND, or a hard (paper) copy of the IS/MND, is also available upon request from the County Administrator's Office at the address or e-mail depicted below.

The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration may be obtained from, and comments (written, e-mailed, or oral) may be directed to:

Elisa Sabatini, Manager of Natural Resources  
County Administrator's Office  
625 Court Street, Room 202  
Woodland, CA. 95695  
530-406-5773  
[Elisa.Sabatini@yolocounty.org](mailto:Elisa.Sabatini@yolocounty.org)

FIGURE 1

