

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

NOTICE is hereby given that a Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (DEIS/EIR) has been prepared by the County of Sacramento, State of California, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and is available for public review pursuant to State of California, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines.

TITLE: SOUTH SACRAMENTO HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

CONTROL NUMBER: 2003-0637

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER: 2008062030

APN: Various

LOCATION:

The Planning Area encompasses approximately 317,655 acres within south Sacramento County. The Planning Area includes Galt and Galt's sphere of influence, and the portion of Rancho Cordova that is located south of U.S. Highway 50. The geographical boundaries of the Planning Area are U.S. Highway 50 and White Rock Road to the north, the Sacramento River levee and County Road J11 (Walnut Grove-Thornton Road) to the west, the Sacramento County line with El Dorado and Amador Counties to the east, and with the San Joaquin County line to the south.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The DEIS/EIR document evaluates the environmental consequences of approving incidental take permits under the federal and state Endangered Species Acts and implementing new urban development and associated infrastructure projects within southern Sacramento County, California, pursuant to a proposed Habitat Conservation Plan and associated Aquatic Resources Program (ARP). The South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan (SSHCP) would be a multi-jurisdiction partnership that includes Sacramento County; the cities of Rancho Cordova and Galt; the Sacramento County Water Agency; and the Capital SouthEast Connector Joint Powers Authority.

Almost all incidental take of covered-species is expected to occur inside an area referred to as the Urban Development Area or UDA. The UDA corresponds to land within the County's Urban Services Boundary (USB), and to land within the city limits of Rancho Cordova and Galt, and within Galt's adopted sphere of influence. A limited amount of infrastructure development, such as planned road widening projects and recycled water conveyance pipelines would occur in the SSHCP Planning Area outside the UDA.

The SSHCP will consolidate mitigation in areas with high habitat value, thereby enhancing the long-term viability of species populations and habitat. Within the SSHCP plan area, 36,282 acres would become part of an interconnected preserve system, including approximately 1,000 acres of vernal pool habitat. Twenty-eight plant and wildlife species and the natural habitats that support these species would be conserved in south Sacramento County under the Plan. In order to implement the SSHCP, the County and its Plan Partners would adopt a participant-paid fee that would be based on loss of habitat acreage, habitat type, long-term management costs and costs to administer the SSHCP. Fees would fund the habitat conservation and restoration/creation activities, management elements of the proposed SSHCP and Plan administration. Supplementary funding sources would be sought from grants or other sources to acquire preserve lands that would contribute to the recovery of covered species, but which are not required as mitigation for covered activities.

The ARP is a regional conservation approach for aquatic resources located within the SSHCP Plan Area; this approach minimizes impacts to aquatic resources, avoids impacts to a significant amount of high quality aquatic resources and directs mitigation at a landscape level to preserve largely intact watersheds including their associated aquatic resources. A primary goal of ARP implementation is to achieve no net loss of aquatic function and services. The ARP is directly tied to, and is a fully integrated element of the SSHCP.

REVIEW:

The DEIS/EIR as well as other project documents and details may be reviewed at the internet and/or physical address below:

<https://planningdocuments.saccounty.net/ViewProjectDetails.aspx?ControlNum=2003-0637>

**County of Sacramento, Office of Planning and Environmental Review
827 7th Street, Room 225, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 874-7914**

The DEIS/EIR has identified no significant unavoidable impacts. Similarly, no project impacts have been identified that would require mitigation measures to reduce to a level of less-than-significant. Net benefits to most biological resources and aquatic resources are expected, compared to conventional project-by-project authorization processes. The proposed project and other action alternatives would have minor impacts to other resources, none of which are significant.

The review period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report begins **June 2, 2017** and ends on **September 5, 2017**. Comments regarding the DEIR should be directed to the Sacramento County Environmental Coordinator and emailed to SSHCP@saccounty.net or mailed to either of the following addresses:

Environmental Coordinator
County of Sacramento
Planning and Environmental Review
827 7th Street, Room 225
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 874-7914

Jan C. Knight, Deputy Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Sacramento Field Office
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605
Sacramento, CA 95825
(916) 414-6700

Comments must be received by **September 5 2017**. Failure to comment will not preclude your right to testify at a future public hearing for the proposed project.

The date, time, and place of the public hearing are presently unknown. A second notice providing the date, time, and place of the public hearing will be provided by the hearing body authorized to conduct the public hearing for the proposed project. Three public workshops will also be held on the SSHCP at the following times and locations:

Meetings: The meeting dates are:

1. June 21, 2017, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Wilton Community Center, 9717 Colony Road, Wilton, CA 95693.
2. June 26, 2017, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Rancho Cordova City Hall, American River Room North, 2729 Prospect Park Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670.
3. July 6, 2017, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Littleton Community Center, 410 Civic Drive, Galt, CA 95632.