

Report to Congress for Future Water Resources Development (WRRDA 7001) Submission Package

Proposal Name: Proposal to rename the Wichita-Valley Center Flood Control Project and related flood control projects in honor of M.S. “Mitch” Mitchell

Submission Date: 08/04/2017

Proposal ID Number: 176bb4a2-e59f-479f-bbfd-891a7f8ba427

Purpose of Proposal: The purpose of this proposal is to recognize the achievements and efforts of M.S. “Mitch” Mitchell by collectively renaming the Wichita-Valley Center Flood Control Project, the Park City Flood Control Project, and the West Branch Chisholm Creek Channel Improvement Project as “The M.S. ‘Mitch’ Mitchell Floodway.” The mission of the United States Army Corps of Engineers includes “vital public engineering services.” Furthermore, the mission also notes that those services would be used to “energize the economy, and reduce risks from disasters.” The work that Mitch Mitchell assisted with on the flood control projects constituted a “vital public engineering service” that both “energized the economy” and “reduce[d] risks from disaster[ous] floodwaters.” The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was a key participant in the design and construction of all three (3) projects. The projects fit within the mission when they were constructed and they continue to do so today. The renaming of flood control projects as “The M.S. ‘Mitch’ Mitchell Floodway”, would recognize importance of both public works projects and the individuals who work to make such projects a reality. Because the Wichita-Valley Center Flood Control Project, the Park City Flood Control Project, and the West Branch Chisholm Creek Channel Improvement Project were constructed roughly 60 years ago, the proposed new name would need to be established. A legislative enactment that could apply to any future references to the projects in laws, maps, regulations, signs, documents, papers, and other records appears to be the most appropriate way in which to effectuate that change.

1. Administrative Details

Proposal Name: Proposal to rename the Wichita-Valley Center Flood Control Project and related flood control projects in honor of M.S. “Mitch” Mitchell

by Agency: Sedgwick County, Kansas

Locations: KS

Date Submitted: 08/04/2017

Confirmation Number: 176bb4a2-e59f-479f-bbfd-891a7f8ba427

Supporting Documents

File Name	Date Uploaded
088-2017 JOINT ORIDINANCE RESOLUTION M S MITCH MITCHELL FLOODWAY.pdf	08/04/2017
088-2017 JOINT ORIDINANCE RESOLUTION M S MITCH MITCHELL FLOODWAY.pdf	08/04/2017
Flood Control Map July 2017.pdf	08/04/2017
Representative Estes Letter of Support.pdf	08/04/2017

2. Provide the name of the primary sponsor and all non-Federal interests that have contributed or are expected to contribute toward the non-Federal share of the proposed feasibility study or modification.

Sponsor	Letter of Support
Sedgwick County, Kansas(Primary)	<p>The three (3) projects referred to by this proposal comprise what will collectively be referred to within this statement of support as “the Wichita-Valley Center Flood Control Project”. Prior to the project’s construction in the 1950s, disastrous floods were a common occurrence in Wichita and the surrounding area. In order to address the flooding problems, the Wichita-Valley Center Flood Control Project was designed to include a large floodway, which would allow excess water from the Arkansas and Little Arkansas rivers, to go around the core of the city of Wichita. The construction of the project involved the acquisition of rights of way, the relocation of utility lines, and the rerouting of railroads. As a result, the project was both expensive and controversial. At the time of its construction, the Wichita-Valley Center Flood Control Project was one of the largest diversion projects in the nation. M.S. “Mitch” Mitchell, the Flood Control and Maintenance supervisor for the City-County Flood Control office during the construction of the Wichita-Valley Center Flood Control Project, was instrumental in several aspects of the project, which included expressing the need for it, obtaining funding, assisting with the plans and designs, undertaking surveying, and, ultimately, assisting with maintenance efforts after the project was constructed. Mitch Mitchell was also the assistant superintendent of public works maintenance and flood control superintendent for several years after the construction of the Wichita-Valley Center Flood Control Project. Citizens and businesses throughout the region benefit today from the diligent efforts undertaken by Mitch Mitchell. He passed away on March 11, 2017. Both Sedgwick County and the City of Wichita believe that it would be fitting to name the Wichita-Valley Center Flood Control Project after the man who was instrumental in many aspects of this vitally important project.</p>
City of Wichita, Kansas	<p>”From 1950 through 1959 the Wichita-Valley Center Flood Control Project was constructed with funding and assistance from Sedgwick County, the City of Wichita, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, and the federal government. The project runs roughly north to south, beginning to the northwest of Valley Center and terminating just south of Wichita. It is one of the largest flood diversion projects in the United States. The operation of the Wichita-Valley Center Flood Control Project and the corresponding reduction in floodwaters has saved lives, prevented several millions of dollars of property damage, and allowed for expanded growth and opportunities within the region.</p>

3. State if this proposal is for a feasibility study, a modification to an authorized USACE feasibility study or a modification to an authorized USACE project. If it is a proposal for a modification, provide the authorized water resources development feasibility study or project name.

[x] Modification to an Authorized USACE Project : The 3 projects are: (1) Wichita-Valley Center Flood Control Project; (2) The Park City Flood Control Project; and (3) the West Branch Chisholm Creek Channel Improvement Project.

4. Clearly articulate the specific project purpose(s) of the proposed study or modification. Demonstrate that the proposal is related to USACE mission and authorities and specifically address why additional or new authorization is needed.

The purpose of this proposal is to recognize the achievements and efforts of M.S. “Mitch” Mitchell by collectively renaming the Wichita-Valley Center Flood Control Project, the Park City Flood Control Project, and the West Branch Chisholm Creek Channel Improvement Project as “The M.S. ‘Mitch’ Mitchell Floodway.” The mission of the United States Army Corps of Engineers includes “vital public engineering services.” Furthermore, the mission also notes that those services would be used to “energize the economy, and reduce risks from disasters.” The work that Mitch Mitchell assisted with on the flood control projects constituted a “vital public engineering service” that both “energized the economy” and “reduce[d] risks from disaster[ou]s” floodwaters. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was a key participant in the design and construction of all three (3) projects. The projects fit within the mission when they were constructed and they continue to do so today. The renaming of flood control projects as “The M.S. ‘Mitch’ Mitchell Floodway”, would recognize importance of both public works projects and the individuals who work to make such projects a reality. Because the Wichita-Valley Center Flood Control Project, the Park City Flood Control Project, and the West Branch Chisholm Creek Channel Improvement Project were constructed roughly 60 years ago, the proposed new name would need to be established. A legislative enactment that could apply to any future references to the projects in laws, maps, regulations, signs, documents, papers, and other records appears to be the most appropriate way in which to effectuate that change.

5. To the extent practicable, provide an estimate of the total cost, and the Federal and non-Federal share of those costs, of the proposed study and, separately, an estimate of the cost of construction or modification.

	Federal	Non-Federal	Total
Study	\$0	\$0	\$0
Construction	\$0	\$1,760	\$1,760

Explanation (if necessary)

The only costs that are foreseen at this point would be the new and replacement signage to note the renaming. Sedgwick County and the City of Wichita believe that there would be four (4) new signs. The estimated cost for the new signs is \$220.00 apiece, meaning that the new signs would cost \$880.00. Sedgwick County and the City of Wichita also believe that eleven (11) signs would be replaced. The estimated cost for the replacement signs is \$80.00 apiece, meaning that the replacement signs would also cost \$880.00. In sum, Sedgwick County and the City of Wichita estimate that the cost of the new signs and the replacement signs would be \$1,760.00. Sedgwick County and the City of Wichita would intend to share these costs.

6. To the extent practicable, describe the anticipated monetary and nonmonetary benefits of the proposal including benefits to the protection of human life and property; improvement to transportation; the national economy; the environment; or the national security interests of the United States.

It is not anticipated that this proposal would result in any monetary benefits. Nonmonetary benefits of the proposal would include the recognition of: (1) the efforts of M.S. "Mitch" Mitchell; (2) the importance of flood control projects; and (3) perhaps a heightened recognition in the value of public servants who perform public works projects that protect human life and property.

7. Does local support exist? If 'Yes', describe the local support for the proposal.

Yes

Local Support Description

There is a significant amount of local support for the proposal. This can be seen from the text of the attached joint ordinance and resolution, during which the governing bodies of the two (2) largest municipalities in Sedgwick County (and also two of the largest within the state of Kansas) have come together to unanimously urge for the proposed renaming. Furthermore, during the public hearing on this item, the Mayor for the City of Wichita and President/CEO of the Wichita Area Builders Association both voiced their strong support for the proposed renaming.

8. Does the primary sponsor named in (2.) above have the financial ability to provide for the required cost share?

Yes

Primary Sponsor Letter of Support

(As uploaded)

**088-2017 JOINT ORDINANCE RESOLUTION M S MITCH
MITCHELL FLOODWAY.pdf**

**A JOINT ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTION
TO REQUEST THE WICHITA-VALLEY CENTER FLOOD CONTROL
PROJECT TO BE RENAMED IN HONOR OF M.S. "MITCH" MITCHELL**

CITY OF WICHITA ORDINANCE NO. 50-535

Published on May 26, 2017

SEDGWICK COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 088 -2017

Published on May 24, 2017

WHEREAS, from 1950 through 1959, the Wichita-Valley Center Flood Control Project, was constructed, with funding and assistance from Sedgwick County, the City of Wichita, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, and the federal government; and

WHEREAS, the Wichita-Valley Center Flood Control Project runs roughly north to south, beginning northwest of Valley Center and terminating just to the south of Wichita; and

WHEREAS, the Wichita-Valley Center Flood Control Project is one of the largest flood diversion projects in the United States, and contains an extensive combination of channels, drainage canals, levees, connections to existing streams and rivers, and floodway easements; and

WHEREAS, the operation of the Wichita-Valley Center Flood Control Project and the corresponding reduction in floodwaters within much of Sedgwick County has saved lives, prevented several millions of dollars of property damage, and allowed for expanded growth and opportunities within the region; and

WHEREAS, M.S. "Mitch" Mitchell was instrumental to the development and implementation of the Wichita-Valley Center Flood Control Project, including the vision to construct the project and his exemplary work involving the design, surveying, construction, and maintenance of the project; and

WHEREAS, despite numerous contentious encounters and steady opposition, M.S. "Mitch" Mitchell undertook the steps necessary to support, defend, construct, and maintain a flood control project that he believed was essential to protect people and their property from damaging floodwaters; and

WHEREAS, Mitch Mitchell passed away on March 11, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Wichita-Valley Center Flood Control Project and the various component projects that comprise it are known by numerous additional names, including but not limited to: (1) the Wichita-Valley Center Floodway; (2) the Big Ditch; (3) the Wichita-Valley Center Floodway, Lower Reach; (4) the Big Slough – Cowskin Creek Floodway; (5) the Big Slough; (6) the Little Arkansas Floodway; and (7) the Chisholm Creek Diversion; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Sedgwick County and the City Council for the City of Wichita wish to honor the memory of Mitch Mitchell; and

WHEREAS, the governing bodies for Sedgwick County and the City of Wichita request Senator Pat Roberts, Senator Jerry Moran, and Representative Ron Estes to support the enactment of federal legislation to honor the accomplishments of Mitch Mitchell and rename the Wichita-Valley Center Flood Control Project as follows:

The M.S. "Mitch" Mitchell Floodway

WHEREAS, Section 7001 of Water Resources Reform and Development Act ("WRRDA") of 2014 requires that the Secretary of the Army annually submit to Congress a report that identifies, for potential congressional authorization, proposed modifications to authorized projects, which could include the naming or renaming of projects; and

WHEREAS, Section 7001 of the WRRDA requires that proposals be submitted for potential modifications to authorized projects so that such items can be considered for inclusion in the annual report that the Secretary of the Army submits to Congress; and

WHEREAS, for any non-federal interest, which would include both the City of Wichita and Sedgwick County, it must be demonstrated that local support exists for the proposed modification.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WICHITA, KANSAS, THAT:

SECTION 1.

To honor the memory and accomplishments of Mitch Mitchell, the Board of County Commissioners of Sedgwick County and the City of Wichita City Council request that the flood control project commonly referred to as the Wichita-Valley Center Flood Control Project be renamed as follows:

The M.S. "Mitch" Mitchell Floodway

SECTION 2.

The Board of County Commissioners of Sedgwick County and the City of Wichita City Council request that federal legislation be enacted so that the renaming of "The M.S. 'Mitch' Mitchell Floodway" would apply to any future references to the aforementioned flood control project in all laws, maps, regulations, signs, documents, papers, and other records.

SECTION 3.

Upon approval by both governing bodies, a copy of this Joint Ordinance and Resolution shall be sent to Senator Pat Roberts, Senator Jerry Moran, and Representative Ron Estes.

SECTION 4.

This Joint Ordinance and Resolution is intended to serve as an indication that local support exists for the proposed renaming.

SECTION 5.

Pursuant to Section 7001 of the WRRDA, both governing bodies authorize their respective legal counsel to submit this Joint Ordinance and Resolution and any other necessary materials to the Secretary of the Army as a proposal to request the proposed renaming of what is currently referred to as the Wichita-Valley Center Flood Control Project.

SECTION 6.

Upon approval by both governing bodies, a copy of this Joint Ordinance and Resolution shall be published once in the official County and City newspapers.

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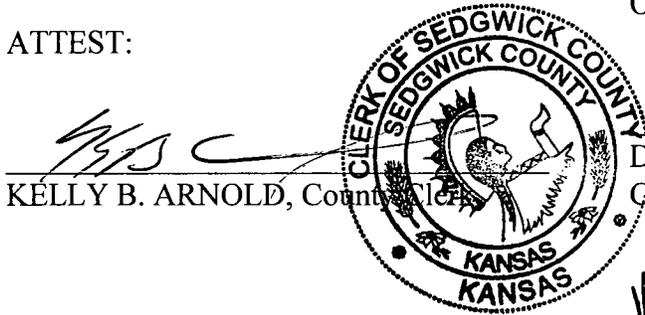
Commissioners present and voting were:

DAVID M. UNRUH	<u>Aye</u>
MICHAEL B. O'DONNELL, II	<u>Aye</u>
DAVID T. DENNIS	<u>Aye</u>
RICHARD RANZAU	<u>Aye</u>
JAMES M. HOWELL	<u>Aye</u>

Dated this 17 day of May, 2017.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS

ATTEST:



KBS
 KELLY B. ARNOLD, County Clerk

David M. Unruh
 DAVID M. UNRUH, Chairman
 Commissioner, First District

M. B. O'Donnell II
 MICHAEL B. O'DONNELL, II, Chair Pro Tem
 Commissioner, Second District

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

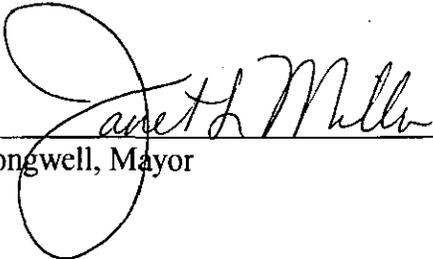
Justin M. Waggoner
 JUSTIN M. WAGGONER,
 Assistant County Counselor

David T. Dennis
 DAVID T. DENNIS
 Commissioner, Third District

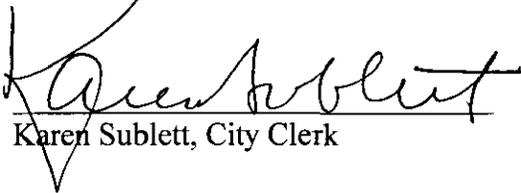
Richard Ranzau
 RICHARD RANZAU
 Commissioner, Fourth District

James M. Howell
 JAMES M. HOWELL
 Commissioner, Fifth District

PASSED by the governing body of the City of Wichita, Kansas, this 23rd day of May, 2017.

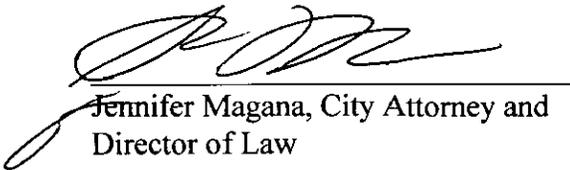

for Jeff Longwell, Mayor

ATTEST:


Karen Sublett, City Clerk



Approved as to Form:


Jennifer Magana, City Attorney and
Director of Law

Other Non-Federal Sponsors Letter(s) of Support

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SECTION 2.

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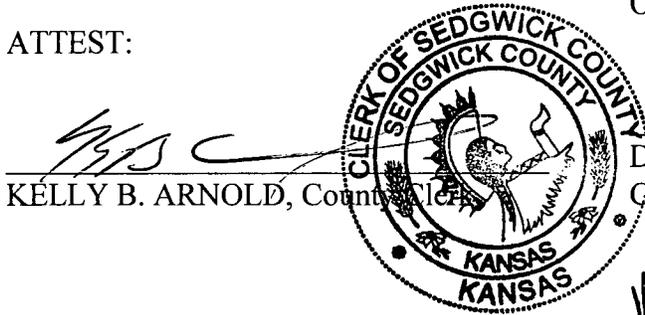
Commissioners present and voting were:

DAVID M. UNRUH	<u>Aye</u>
MICHAEL B. O'DONNELL, II	<u>Aye</u>
DAVID T. DENNIS	<u>Aye</u>
RICHARD RANZAU	<u>Aye</u>
JAMES M. HOWELL	<u>Aye</u>

Dated this 17 day of May, 2017.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS

ATTEST:



Kelly B. Arnold
 KELLY B. ARNOLD, County Clerk

David M. Unruh
 DAVID M. UNRUH, Chairman
 Commissioner, First District

Michael B. O'Donnell, II
 MICHAEL B. O'DONNELL, II, Chair Pro Tem
 Commissioner, Second District

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

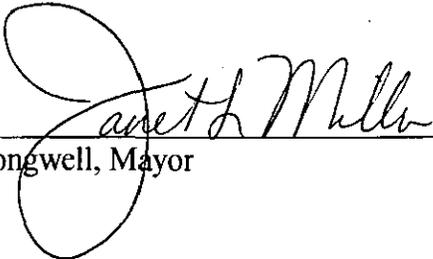
Justin M. Waggoner
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 Commissioner, Third District

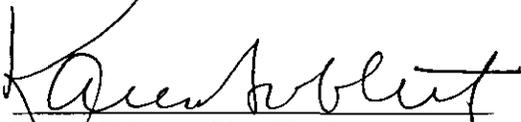
Richard Ranzau
 RICHARD RANZAU
 Commissioner, Fourth District

James M. Howell
 JAMES M. HOWELL
 Commissioner, Fifth District

PASSED by the governing body of the City of Wichita, Kansas, this 23rd day of May, 2017.

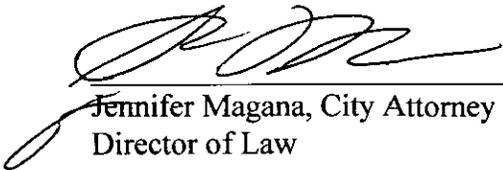

for Jeff Longwell, Mayor

ATTEST:


Karen Sublett, City Clerk



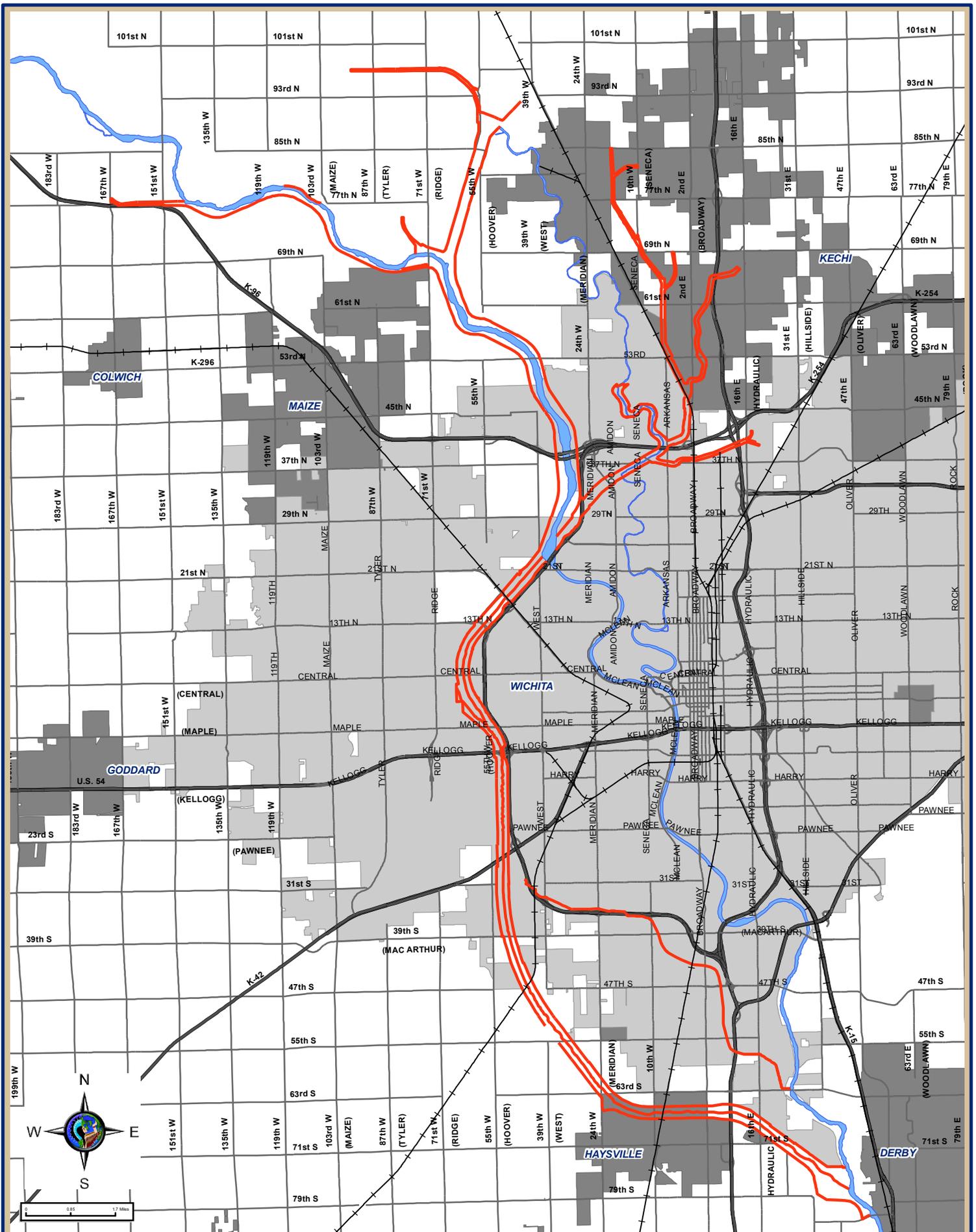
Approved as to Form:


Jennifer Magana, City Attorney and
Director of Law

Map Document

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Flood Control Map July 2017.pdf



Wichita-Valley Center Flood Control Project

Sedgwick County, Kansas

Additional Proposal Information

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Representative Estes Letter of Support.pdf

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1604

July 31, 2017

Mr. Theodore Brown, P.E.
Chief Planning and Policy Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20314-1000

Mr. Brown,

I am writing today to offer my support for the Sedgwick County Commissioner's proposal to request the Wichita-Valley Center Flood Control Project to be renamed in honor of M.S. "Mitch" Mitchell as the "M.S. 'Mitch' Mitchell Floodway."

M.S. Mitchell served Sedgwick County and the City of Wichita as the Flood Control and Maintenance Supervisor for the City Council Flood Control Office from 1958-1963. Under his supervision, the Wichita-Valley Center Flood Control project was completed. The Wichita-Valley Center Flood Control project was designed to include a large waterway that would divert excess water around the city of Wichita. The construction of this project spanned ten years, and included an acquisition of rights of way, relocation of utility lines and the rerouting of railroads. This was one of the largest diversion projects of its time.

Citizens and businesses throughout the region benefit today from the diligent efforts undertaken by Mitch Mitchell. The reduction of floodwaters within Sedgwick County has saved lives, prevented millions of dollars of property damage and allowed for expanded growth and opportunities within the region.

Mitch Mitchell passed away on March 11, 2017. Both Sedgwick County and the City of Wichita believe that it would be fitting to name the Wichita-Valley Center Flood Control Project after the man who was instrumental in many aspects of this vitally important project. As the representative of the 4th District, I support the desire of Sedgwick county and the City of Wichita to honor the life and work of M.S. "Mitch" Mitchell. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,



Ron Estes
Member of Congress