



Sacramento
Area Flood
Control
Agency

November 26, 2014

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Attn: CECW-CE (Lisa Kiefel)
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20314-1000

Subject: Proposals from Non-Federal Interests for Proposed Feasibility Studies and Proposed Modifications to Authorized Water Resources Development Projects or Feasibility Studies for Inclusion in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Annual Report

Dear Ms. Kiefel:

We have received mixed messages from the USACE on the need to submit a letter for an ongoing feasibility study, so we are submitting this letter to ensure we are in compliance.

The Sacramento District of the USACE is preparing the American River Watershed Common Features General Re-evaluation Report (GRR). The current schedule anticipates a Chief's Report to be completed in calendar year 2015. It is anticipated that the Chief's Report would then be transmitted to Congress with a recommendation for authorization.

The non-Federal sponsor for the GRR is the State of California Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) and the local sponsor is the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency. Attached is the letter CVFPB recently sent to the Corps requesting a locally preferred plan and expressing support for the GRR (Attachment 1).

The GRR evaluates two alternatives (Alternatives 1 and 2) for improving levee performance and reducing the risk of levee failure along the Lower American and Sacramento Rivers and their tributaries in the North Sacramento area.

Alternatives 1 and 2 would build on the accomplishments of previously authorized projects in the American River watershed including the American River Watershed Common Features Project features authorized in 1996 and 1999, the Folsom Dam Joint Federal Project, the Folsom Dam Raise Project, and the recently authorized American River Watershed Common Features Project Natomas Basin features.

Alternatives 1 and 2 contain several common elements:

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Proposals and Modifications to Authorized Projects

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- Levee seepage and underseepage remediation along the Sacramento River east levee, the Natomas East Main Drainage Canal (NEMDC) east levee, the Arcade Creek north and south levees, and the Dry/Robla Creek south levee;
- Erosion control along the American River north and south levees and the Sacramento River east levee; and
- Raising and strengthening the Magpie Creek Diversion Channel west levee.

Alternatives 1 and 2 differ in their approach to addressing the risk of levee overtopping along the Sacramento River east levee, the NEMDC east levee, the Arcade Creek north and south levees; and the Dry/Robla Creek south levee. Under Alternative 1, this risk would be addressed entirely by levee raising. Under Alternative 2, this risk would be addressed mainly by widening the Sacramento Weir and Bypass, which is located along the west bank of the Sacramento River, upstream of the confluence of the Sacramento and American Rivers.

The USACE is currently working on the cost estimates for the alternatives. It is anticipated that alternatives will cost in the \$1.3 to \$1.5 billion range.

There are over 600,000 people in the floodplains in the study area, over 98 thousand structures and over \$23.8 billion in damageable property. Preliminary numbers the USACE has shared showed a benefit to cost ratio of approximately 4 to 1, with net annual flood damage reduction benefits of over \$200 million.

Please let me know if any additional information is required. I can be contacted at (916) 874-7606 or at johnsonr@saccounty.net.

Thank you,



Richard M. Johnson
Executive Director

CENTRAL VALLEY FLOOD PROTECTION BOARD

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November 14, 2014

Colonel Michael J. Farrell
District Commander
Sacramento District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1325 J Street
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Non-federal Sponsor's Request for A Locally Preferred Plan (LLP) for the American River Common Features General Reevaluation Report (GRR)

Dear Colonel Farrell:

This letter is in response to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) request for a statement of non-federal intent to financially support the incremental difference between the LPP and the National Economic Development (NED) plan, as defined in the subject study.

The LPP consists of improvements to the existing Sacramento and American River levees and widening the Sacramento Bypass. We strongly support the LPP because it includes the bypass widening, which is consistent with the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) of 2012. We believe that from a resiliency standpoint, the LPP will better align the region to prepare for the future for such things as climate change. We encourage USACE to continue to consider allowing other benefits to factor in to federal interest decision-making.

The GRR serves as the vehicle for identifying the levee and related improvements which, in combination with the authorized Folsom Dam Modifications (Joint Federal Project) and Folsom Dam Raise Project, would provide the Sacramento area with higher level of protection consistent with State law.

We understand that the Draft GRR will be released for public review with a recommendation that the LPP be the Tentatively Selected Plan, with the federal share calculated based on the NED increment. While we would prefer federal cost-share in the LPP increment between the NED and the LPP, the State will work with the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency towards financing that critically important increment. We recognize that the Non-federal cost for the increment has been estimated to cost up to \$160,000,000 and that this amount will change as assumptions are scrutinized and design and estimates are refined during finalization of the study. The CVFPB is supportive of this project and the Board intends to enter into design and construction agreements with the federal cost share requirements and financing options for project implementation. Please note that this letter of intent is not an obligation of future appropriations of State funds by the State Legislature.

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If you have any questions, please contact Michael Sabbaghian, Chief, Local Assistance Programs Branch, at (916) 574-1404 or Mahyar.Sabbaghian@water.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Leslie M. Gallagher
Acting Executive Officer
Central Valley Flood Protection Board

cc: Richard Johnson
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