

## **Joint Federal Project team, planner Jane Ruhl to receive national awards**

**SACRAMENTO, Calif. (July 7, 2011)** – The Sacramento District will be well-represented at this year’s U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Senior Leaders Conference in New Orleans on Aug. 1. Sacramento will have two award recipients in attendance as the Folsom Dam Joint Federal Project was named the Corps’ 2011 project delivery team of the year and planner Jane Ruhl was selected for the 2010 Planning Excellence Award. The recipients were announced July 5.

“This is a wonderful achievement,” said Col. William Leady, commander for the Sacramento District. “It’s great when you can recognize the talents and hard work of everybody on our team.”

The Joint Federal Project is a cooperative effort between the Corps, Bureau of Reclamation, California Central Valley Flood Protection Board and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency that will help the Sacramento region achieve 200-year level of protection. This means there will be a one-in-200 chance for flooding in any given year, thanks to upgraded reservoir facilities and improved downstream levees.

The Sacramento District is currently completing the third phase of the auxiliary spillway project, consisting of the excavation and construction of a new control structure that will allow dam operators to release water from Folsom reservoir sooner and more safely. It will operate in conjunction with the main dam.

The Bureau of Reclamation completed significant excavation of the auxiliary spillway chute in January 2011 as part of the first two phases of the project. The auxiliary spillway is slated for completion in late 2017.

“I’m really proud of our team,” said project manager Beth Salyers. “We couldn’t be where we are today without everyone’s contributions; and now we’re continuing to push forward to get the job done.”

In another effort to reduce the flood risk for the Sacramento region, planner Jane Ruhl will be recognized with the 2010 Planning Excellence Award for her efforts on the Natomas Basin Interim General Reevaluation report.

Home to the Sacramento International Airport, a sports and entertainment arena, two major transportation corridors, and thousands of businesses and residents, Natomas is one of the top priorities for the Corps as its bowl-like geography and aging levees make it the most at-risk community in the Sacramento region.

Working through a broad investigation area and in close proximity to numerous ongoing flood risk reduction efforts, Ruhl’s mentoring and guidance of the Sacramento District’s Natomas team through the detailed planning process was instrumental to the project’s positive progress.

“Having Jane has been a big win-win,” Leady said. “It showed the Corps’ flexibility and willingness to bring on experts when they were needed to get the job done, plus Jane passed on a great amount of expertise to our other staff.”

“I’m proud to have her as part of our team,” Leady added.

At last year’s conference, project manager Creg Hucks received the Ronald J. Ruffennach Communicator of the Year award and the Utah Resident Office’s resident engineer Tim Willard received the Construction Management Excellence Award.

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