

ITEM 1

Agenda of April 19, 2012

**TO: Board of Directors
Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency**

**FROM: Richard M. Johnson, Executive Director
(916) 874-7606**

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT FOR APRIL 19, 2012

We are bringing a number of items to the Board this month including:

- Information on the closing statistics on the Consolidated Capital Assessment District Bond sales to finance SAFCA's portion of the ongoing work at Folsom Dam, along the American River levee, and the South Sacramento Streams Group;
- Contract and other actions in support of SAFCA's entire program;
- Grant agreement action in support of the South Sacramento Streams Group Project and other general information regarding this Project and;
- Real Estate, cost sharing agreement and contract actions in support of and information on the Natomas Levee Improvement Program.

SAFCA Washington D.C. Trip Report

Every year SAFCA representatives travel to Washington D.C. to work with the various Congressional Committees, Representatives, and Agencies in seeking support for SAFCA projects. This year SAFCA Board of Directors Chair Steve Cohn, Vice-Chair Phil Serna and SAFCA Executive Director Rick Johnson went to Washington D.C. March 19 through March 23.

Purpose:

Coordination and advocacy with Federal officials (congressional and agency) in Washington, D.C. on SAFCA authorization, funding and policy matters

Participants:

Steve Cohn, Chairman, SAFCA Board of Directors
Phil Serna, Vice-Chairman, SAFCA Board of Directors
Rick Johnson, Executive Director, SAFCA

Mike Strachn, SAFCA Consultant
Bory Steinberg, SAFCA Consultant (Meeting with HQUSACE and OASA(CW))
Rich Worthington, SAFCA Consultant (Meetings with HQUSACE)

Conclusions:

Significant progress was made with Members of Congress and congressional staff members in explaining the extreme jeopardy the community is in without a timely authorization of the Natomas Levee Improvement Program and the arbitrary and adverse consequences that have resulted from an absolute "earmark" ban. Though there were no breakthroughs per se, officials better understand the dire nature of our situation in Natomas and are committed to working to develop an improved approach that would allow the project to move forward.

We received encouraging statements of commitment from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other Army officials of continued funding support for our critical needs for Natomas, the Joint Federal Project, the General Reevaluation Report and the South Sacramento Stream Group Project.

We had productive discussion with officials in the agencies as well as in Congress on levee vegetation, credits and Permanent Operation of Folsom Dam.

Several follow-up commitments are pending.

Itinerary:

Monday, March 19, 2012

- Travel from Sacramento, CA. to Washington, D.C.
- Meeting with consultant to discuss and prepare for Congressional and agency meeting

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

- Meeting with Minority staff of Senate Environment & Public Works Committee
Rm. 456 Dirksen Bldg.
- Meeting with Director of Civil Works and staff, Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 St., NW
- Meeting with Majority staff of Senate Appropriations Committee, Energy & Water Development Subcommittee
Rm. 184 Dirksen Bldg.

- Meeting with office of House Majority Whip, Representative Kevin McCarthy (R-CA-22) Rm. 326 Cannon Bldg.

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

- Meeting with Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) Rm. 3E446 Pentagon
- Meeting with Majority staff of Senate Environment & Public Works Committee Rm. 410 Dirksen Bldg.
- Meeting with office of Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) Rm. 112 Hart Bldg.
- Meeting with Minority staff of House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, Water Resources & Environment Subcommittee Rm. 2253 Rayburn Bldg.
- Meeting with Representative Dan Lungren (R-CA-3rd Cong. Dist.) and staff Rm. 2313 Rayburn Bldg.

Thursday, March 22, 2012

- Meeting with Representative John Garamendi (D-CA-10th Cong. Dist.) and staff Rm. 228 Cannon Bldg.
- Meeting with Majority and Minority staff of House Appropriations Committee, Energy & Water Development Subcommittee Rm. 2362 Rayburn Bldg.
- Meeting with Representative Doris Matsui (D-CA-5th Cong. Dist.) and staff Rm. 222 Cannon Bldg.
- Meeting with office of Representative Tom McClintock (R-CA-4th Cong. Dist.) Rm. 428 Cannon Bldg.
- Meeting with office of Speaker of the House John Boehner (R-OH-8th Cong. Dist.) and House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA-7th Cong. Dist.) Rm. H-419 Capitol Bldg.
- Meeting with Majority staff of House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, Water Resources & Environment Subcommittee Rm. B-370A Rayburn Bldg.
- Meeting with office of Senator Diane Feinstein (D-CA) Rm. 331, Hart Bldg.

Friday, March 23, 2012

- Meeting with Deputy Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation (External & Interagency Affairs)
Rm. 7637, 1849 C Street, NW
- Meeting with Chief, Water and Power Branch, Office of Management and Budget
Rm. 8116, New Executive Office Building, 725 17th Street, NW
- Meeting with Majority Staff, House Rules Committee
Rm. H-312 Capitol Bldg.
- Travel from Washington, D.C. to Sacramento, CA

Summary:

Meetings occurred with Federal policy- and decision-makers to address and advocate for a number of SAFCA initiatives, including:

- Congressional authorization of the Natomas Levee Improvement Program. Stressed the urgent need to authorize the Natomas Levee Improvement Program in 2012 due to the scheduled stoppage of work this summer. The authorization is currently being delayed because of the nationwide moratorium on broadly-defined "earmarks" in Congress.
- Fiscal Year 2013 funding. Emphasized the need to fully fund SAFCA's projects in the President's FY13 Budget and to increase funding amounts commensurate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers capability.
- South Sacramento Stream Group funding. Sought restoration of funding by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the South Sacramento Streams Group Project in FY13 as needed to complete the Project.
- Common Features General Reevaluation Report. Pressed for assurances from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that efforts on the GRR would continue in FY13 even though it is not specifically addressed in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' budget.
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers vegetation policy. Sought clarification and flexibility from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in implementing its newly published proposed policy on restricting vegetation and encroachments on levees.
- Credits for non-federal work. Sought clarification and flexibility from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in implementing its newly published policy on limiting

the ability of non-Federal project sponsors to receive full credit for work on federal projects.

- Folsom Dam Permanent Operation Development. Stressed the need for a coordinated and responsive effort to determine the optimum flood control operational regime for the Folsom Dam.
- Folsom Dam Joint Federal Project. Emphasized the need to continued progress, cooperation and funding for completion of the JFP.

SAFCA Board Member Tour of Folsom Dam Construction Activities

SAFCA Executive Director Rick Johnson along with Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials led a tour of construction on the new spillway at Folsom Dam on April 3rd. Joining him for a tour of the new facility as well as a look inside the 57 year old dam were SAFCA Vice-Chair Phil Serna and Board Member Susan Peters. Work to make dam safety improvements coupled with the new spillway installation and a look at the Mormon Island Auxiliary Dam improvements helped Board members understand how our local assessment dollars are being spent in conjunction with state and federal funds. Improvements are helping Sacramento to attain minimum 200-year flood protection levels. Another tour is being set up for Board Members that were not able to attend this tour.

Local Congressional Delegation Activity Since Last Board Meeting March 15

There has been a lot of press coverage of local activity by our Congressional delegation since the last Board Meeting March 15th. Some of these include the following:

March 16, 2012 - Sacramento Bee Editorial and other news coverage about Congressman Lungren's March 12th tour of the levees in Natomas with House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner.

April 10, 2012 - Press coverage about Congresswoman Doris Matsui's tour of the levees in Natomas with Senator Dianne Feinstein.

More information on this and other news and activities affecting SAFCA will soon be available on a new news page. The link will be found on www.safca.org.

RJlr/Exec Dir April 2012