

## ITEM 1

Agenda of December 20, 2012

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

**FROM: Richard M. Johnson, Executive Director  
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**SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT FOR DECEMBER 20, 2012**

### **REGIONAL FORUM ON U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS CIVIL WORKS TRANSFORMATION**

On Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, Steve Stockton, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Director of Civil Works in Washington D.C. and Joe Calcara, South Pacific Division Director of Programs held a regional forum in San Francisco. In attendance were flood control representatives from across California and Arizona. The purpose of the forum was to have a candid conversation about the USACE's new planning process. The new process will affect how the USACE proceeds with the General Reevaluation Report.

### **RISK CHARACTERIZATION FOR LEVEES - USACE LEVEE SAFETY PROGRAM**

According to the USACE, its levee safety program mission is to assess, communicate, and manage the risks to people, property, and the environment from inundation that may result from breach or malfunction of components of levee systems.

Decisions for all aspects of the levee safety program are risk informed. A portfolio risk management process is used to nationally prioritize each levee system for action to reduce risk. The risk assessment and prioritization of risk management actions for the portfolio of levees are centrally managed by headquarters of USACE while levee safety risk management actions are executed at the local district level.

A levee safety action classification (LSAC) system is used to guide decisions in the portfolio management process. Attachment 1 displays the USACE LSAC system, which is intended to provide consistent and systematic guidelines for actions to address safety issues in the USACE levee safety program. All levee systems are assigned an LSAC.

LSAC Classes: The five action classes used in the USACE levee safety portfolio risk management process shown in Attachment 1 depict the range of levee systems in terms of the combination of likelihood and consequences of inundation.

- Class I - Extremely high risk warranting 'Urgent and Compelling' actions to reduce risk.
- Class II - Very high risk warranting 'Urgent' actions to reduce risk.
- Class III - Moderate to high risk warranting 'High Priority' actions to reduce risk.
- Class IV - Low to moderate risk warranting 'Priority' actions to reduce risk.
- Class V - Very low risk considered tolerable, 'Normal' levee safety activities continue.

The LSAC assignment occurs at the District level. The next level of review is completed by the Levee Safety Senior Oversight Group (LSOG). The LSOG is chaired by the Special Assistant for Dam and Levee Safety with members drawn from USACE Headquarters and Division and District experts from around the country. Representatives of the local sponsor may be invited to participate in the LSOG process.

The LSOG met December 4 - 6 at the USACE Hydrologic Engineering Center in Davis. SAFCA participated in the proceedings. The final ratings will be released in the spring.

### **REQUEST TO FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)**

For your information, on November 20, 2012, the City of Sacramento and the Counties of Sacramento and Sutter jointly submitted to FEMA an A99 flood insurance rate map revision request for the Natomas Basin. This would allow FEMA to initiate the review process while awaiting a Federal authorization.

Table 3.1 - USACE Levee Safety Action Classification Table* 29 December 2011		
* At any time, a levee system from any action class can become an emergency requiring activation of the emergency action plan		
Levee Safety Action Class	Characteristics of this class	Actions for levee systems in this class <i>Additional actions apply for 1) USACE Operated, and Maintained Levee Systems; and 2) Other Levee Systems in USACE Program</i>
I Urgent and Compelling (Unsafe)	Probability of inundation due to breach prior to overtopping, overtopping with subsequent breach, and system component failure in combination with loss of life, economic, or environmental consequences results in <b>extremely high</b> risk.	Immediately perform levee system inspection; communicate risk findings to sponsor, state, Federal, Tribe, local officials, and public; stress improved floodplain management to include: immediate verification that warning, evacuation and emergency action plans are viable; flood inundation maps are current; there is an active community hazard awareness program; recommend purchase of flood insurance; and vigilant levee monitoring program is in place.  1) Take urgent action to reduce the likelihood of a breach prior to overtopping and mitigate overtopping and breach consequences through implementation of interim risk reduction measures. Support portfolio priorities for studies and risk reduction actions.  2) Advise responsible entity to take urgent action to implement interim risk reduction measures. Support portfolio priorities for studies and risk reduction actions.
II Urgent (Unsafe or Potentially Unsafe)	Probability of inundation due to breach prior to overtopping, overtopping with subsequent breach, and system component failure in combination with loss of life, economic, or environmental consequences results in <b>very high</b> risk.	Perform levee system inspection; communicate risk findings to sponsor, state, Federal, Tribe, local officials, and public; stress improved floodplain management to include: verification that warning, evacuation and emergency action plan are viable; flood inundation maps are current; there is an active community hazard awareness program; recommend purchase of flood insurance; and vigilant levee monitoring program is in place.  1) Take immediate action to implement interim risk reduction measures. Support portfolio priorities for studies and risk reduction actions.  2) Advise responsible entity to take immediate action implement interim risk reduction measures. Support portfolio priorities for studies and risk reduction actions.
III High Priority (Potentially Unsafe)	Probability of inundation due to breach prior to overtopping, overtopping with subsequent breach, and system component failure in combination with loss of life, economic, or environmental consequences results in <b>moderate to high</b> risk.	Verify inspection is current; communicate risk findings to sponsor, state, Federal, Tribe, local officials, and public; stress improved floodplain management to include: verify that warning, evacuation, and emergency action plan are viable; flood inundation maps are current; there is an active community hazard awareness program; and routine levee monitoring program is in place; recommend purchase of flood insurance; develop and execute levee monitoring program.  1) Implement interim risk reduction measures; schedule development of risk reduction studies. Support portfolio priorities for studies and risk reduction actions.  2) Advise responsible entity on development of interim risk reduction and risk remediation plans. Support portfolio priorities for studies and risk reduction actions.
IV Priority (Marginally Safe)	Probability of inundation due to breach prior to overtopping, overtopping with subsequent breach, and system component failure in combination with loss of life, economic, or environmental consequences results in <b>low to moderate</b> risk and the levee system does not meet all essential USACE guidelines.	Continue routine levee safety activities, stress improved floodplain management to include: verify that warning, evacuation, and emergency action plan are viable; flood inundation maps are current; there is an active community hazard awareness program; recommend purchase of flood insurance; develop and execute levee monitoring program.  1) Support portfolio priorities.  2) Support portfolio priorities.
V Normal (Adequately Safe)	There is a very low probability of inundation due to breach prior to overtopping, overtopping with subsequent breach, and system component failure. Levee system is considered adequately safe in that it meets essential USACE guidelines and the incremental risk is considered tolerable.	Continue routine levee safety activities, operation and maintenance, normal inspections, stress improved floodplain management to include: annually ensure that warning, evacuation and emergency action plan are functionally tested; recommend purchase of flood insurance; maintain levee monitoring program.