

ITEM 1

Agenda of August 15, 2013

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

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

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT FOR AUGUST 15, 2013

Lower American River And Sacramento River Levee Evaluation Update

At the July 2013 Board meeting, an update was presented on the evaluation of the lower American River and the Sacramento River levee system. In it SAFCA staff identified levee sections that required more analysis or remediation in order to meet Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requirements under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) for levee certification. Two paths forward were identified: the first would allow the process to be handled under the Corps of Engineer's General Reevaluation Report (GRR) while the second would explore the possibility of addressing sections of levees that need remediation under FEMA requirements in advance of the GRR. The second path is similar to how the State and SAFCA addressed Natomas levees. In order to make this a viable option for SAFCA Board action, there were some action items that required identification.

The key action would be to identify a Locally Preferred Plan (LPP) by the State and SAFCA that could be submitted to the Corps as part of the GRR which would allow the non-Federal partners to address the areas needing FEMA remediation to sustain 100 year certification in advance of the other elements of the GRR. The goal here is to have the LLP developed to bring to the SAFCA Board around the February 2014 timeframe.

In order to develop the LPP in the timeframe suggested, we will need to take the information identified to date by the levee evaluation team and develop it into a formal plan. This entails more evaluation to more closely refine the areas that need remediation, identify the specific work and method for accomplishing that work, and develop an estimated cost for that specific plan. Once a plan is developed, then a decision can be made, and staff would bring a recommendation to the Board for consideration.

As I indicated at the July Board meeting, in order to keep this option moving forward, SAFCA staff issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to identify qualified firms that could assist SAFCA in developing a program to remediate the levees where necessary to meet applicable FEMA and State standards. Item 8 on today's Agenda presents the result of this process and requests that the Board approve the selection of two firms to continue this work.

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In addition, SAFCA and the State have been and will continue to work out details on how to jointly proceed with this plan formulation effort. Both SAFCA and the State have continued to work with the Corps on a financing plan to complete the GRR that would maintain the possibility of adding a LPP to the alternatives considered.

Water Resources Development Act Update

There has been a significant amount of activity on the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). I have attached an article from the publication "*POLITICO*" which presents a fairly good explanation of the bill status (see Attachment 1). The House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has completed its preparation of the draft bill and is preparing for the next steps, which could include a committee markup in late September 2013. Attachment 2 is a copy of Chairman Shuster's official release which is posted on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee webpage. The important thing to note here is that the release indicates the plan has received the support of Speaker of the House John Boehner and House Majority Leader Eric Cantor and a commitment to consider WRDA on the House floor sometime this Fall 2013.

Though significant obstacles and uncertainty remain, there is a chance that the House will move a bill in the September/October 2013 timeframe. Based on the most current information available, the draft House bill is a blend of earmark-avoiding projects, Corps process reforms and policy changes. The draft bill will likely be released sometime in September 2013. Regardless of the specifics, the key now is for the House process to continue. WRDA project sponsors need to get a House-passed bill so the House and Senate can get into conference in order to resolve differences in the legislation. We understand that, as with the Senate version of the bill, the House version will authorize the Natomas levee project and address other matters of interest to SAFCA.

RJ/lr/Ed Report August 15 2013.bd.doc
Attachment(s)