

ITEM 1

Agenda of December 18, 2014

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

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

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT FOR DECEMBER 18, 2014

January Executive Committee Meeting

Please be advised that the SAFCA Board of Director's Executive Committee meetings are usually held the first Thursday of each month. In the case of the January 2015 meeting, the meeting would occur on January 1, 2015. At the December Executive Committee meeting it was decided to move the meeting to January 8, 2015 in Sacramento County Administrative Building, Hearing Room 2.

Federal Fiscal Year 2015 Appropriations

On December 11, 2014, the U.S. House of Representatives passed an appropriations bill for Federal Fiscal Year 2015, which began October 1, 2014. The Federal Government has been operating under a Continuing Resolution Authority (CR) which expired December 11, 2014. A new CR was passed and signed into law on December 11, 2014 to keep the government functional until December 13, 2014. This was to allow the Senate time to act on the House bill. The Senate passed the bill on December 13, 2014.

Generally, Federal appropriations are funded through a series of 12 appropriations bills. Sometimes Congress will combine them all into one "Omnibus" bill.

The legislation the House passed on December 11th is being referred to as a "CRomnibus" bill. It's a cross between a CR and "omnibus" spending bill. It is comprised of full appropriation bills for 11 of the 12 categories, and a CR for the Department of Homeland Security which would only be funded until March 2015 or earlier.

The "CRomnibus" bill includes the full funding that the President requested for SAFCA projects and will include a work plan for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to allocate funding to projects as required. The following table shows the amount for SAFCA projects in the President's budget and in the CRomnibus bill.

Project	Funding Category	President's Budget Request FY 2015
American River Watershed (Common Features)	Investigation	0.675
American River Watershed (Folsom Dam Modification) (Joint Federal Project)	Construction	92.6
American River Watershed (Folsom Dam Raise)	Construction	1.2
TOTAL		94.475

Levee Accreditation and General Reevaluation Report

At the November 2014 Board of Director's meeting, I noted that we are working through the final issues on the American River Watershed Common Features General Reevaluation Report (GRR) and that the USACE plans on releasing the Draft GRR early in the new year. Once the draft GRR is released, the non-Federal sponsors (the State and SAFCA) can apply for consideration of credits for the work we are doing on the levee accreditation program, which is an early implementation of work proposed in the GRR.

I wanted to make the Board aware that I am sending a letter to the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (the official non-Federal sponsor of the GRR) requesting that the process be initiated to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to allow non-Federal sponsor costs to be considered for credit under the provisions of Section 221 of the Flood Control Act of 1970, as amended by Section 2003 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007. We hope to have the MOU ready to be executed shortly after the release of the Draft GRR.

Potential New Federal Flood Risk Management Standard On November 21, 2014, two congressional lawmakers (Senator Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) and Representative Bill Cassidy (R-La.)) released a press statement indicating they wrote to President Obama requesting that an administration effort to update flood risk standards for Federal investments be halted until Congress and stakeholders can weigh in.

According to the Department of Homeland Security's *Climate Action Plan*, the agency is working with an interagency group and the National Security Council to develop a Federal

Flood Risk Management Standard that would take into account future risks associated with climate change and sea-level rise.

The interagency task force, the Mitigation Framework Leadership Group, chaired by FEMA with members from a wide array of Federal agencies, has a goal of redefining permissible floodplain activities. The new standard, which is treated as a national security initiative aimed at increasing resiliency for communities and Federal assets, will direct Federal agencies to increase floodplain requirements as a means to protect against projected sea-level rise and other anticipated climate change impacts.

Shortly after the press release, the National Waterways Conference and the National Levee Issues Alliance put out a factsheet with the information they were able to obtain on the new Federal Flood Risk Management Standard.

As background, Executive Order 11988, *Floodplain Management*, originally issued in 1977 by President Jimmy Carter, established protections for the nation's floodplains. EO 11988 has used the 100-year Base Flood Elevation (BFE) standard to determine whether its requirements apply. Base Flood Elevation is the elevation to which floodwater might rise during a 100-year flood. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), similar to EO 11988, uses the 100-year standard in most cases to determine whether an area is subject to Federal floodplain management requirements, including mandatory flood insurance purchase and building restrictions.

This factsheet states that the new standard could change the conditions of eligibility for Federally-funded activities in the floodplain in several possible ways, including by modifying the current 100-year standard to one or more of the following:

- BFE plus additional safety "freeboard"
- A redefined Federal flood hazard area from the current 100-year BFE (1.0-percent-annual-chance flood) to a higher standard such as the "500-year" or 0.2-percent-annual-chance flood

The "CRomnibus" bill contains language prohibiting the administration from utilizing any funding to implement the new standards until the Administration has solicited and considered input from Governors, mayors, and other stakeholders.

Transition to Self-Administration

SAFCA has received the CalPERS actuarial analysis. It is being reviewed by SAFCA's actuarial consultant to ensure that it is understood and there are no disagreements. If there are no issues with the review, we will be engaging in the contracting phase with CalPERS. Shortly after the first of the year, staff will be bringing the final documents and a transition plan schedule worked out with CalPERS, the City and the County. We will also provide the Board with a briefing on the actuarial analysis.

Folsom Dam Joint Federal Project

With the recent storm events, water was expected to rise for the first time on the Temporary Embankment Dam (TED). Because this is the first time water will have been against it, the USACE contractor has been conducting extra oversight. No issues have arisen to date.

Below are a few of the latest progress photos.



Downstream Elevation View



Upstream Elevation View



Upstream Excavation – Note Temporary Embankment Dam



Downstream Stepped Chute