



March 8, 2017

The Honorable Richard Pan, MD
California State Senate
PO Box 942848
Sacramento, CA 94248-0001

Re: SB 580
Position: Sponsor

Dear Senator Pan:

The Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (“SAFCA”) is pleased to sponsor your SB 580. On behalf of SAFCA and the SAFCA Board of Directors, I want to thank you for stepping forward to author the measure, which is critical to maintaining the capital region’s flood control progress.

Purpose of Your Measure

The measure would conform existing State flood control authorizations for the capital region with the Water Infrastructure Investment for the Nation Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-322).

What the Bill Would Accomplish

The bill would update the existing State authorization of the American River Common Features Project by completing the necessary levee improvements along the American and Sacramento Rivers as recommended by the United States Army Corps Chief of Engineers in his report of April 26, 2016 (Chief’s report). The specific steps to be taken to continue to improve the capital's level of flood protection to meet, if not exceed, State Central Valley flood protection requirements include the construction of levee slurry cut-off walls, improved levee bank protection and levee slope stabilization, continued strengthening of levees along the Sacramento River east levee south of the American River and the north area streams levees as well as a comprehensive assessment of erosion potential along the American and Sacramento Rivers. Beyond recommending standard levee improvements, the authorized work includes the benefit of broader improvements to the flood system including widening of the Sacramento Weir and Bypass to reduce flood stages along the Sacramento River.

Important Policy Considerations

- The Congressional action and this measure comport with the recommended “locally preferred plan”, with non-Federal sponsors agreeing to pay excess incremental costs.
- The project would reduce average annual damages in Sacramento by 73 percent.
- The authorized work would advance flood-risk reduction beyond the State mandated 200-year level of protection.
- Total project cost is \$1.596 billion.
- The State and SAFCA would be responsible for providing 44 percent of the total Project cost and could use credits earned through early implementation of improvements to levee systems in the area to cover much of this cost share.
- The benefit-to-coast ratio is 4.6 to 1.
- The Project is technically feasible, economically justified, and environmentally sound.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or our government relations advisors, Jackson R. Gualco and Robert J. Gore of the *The Gualco Group, Inc.*, should you and your staff need additional information as your measure progresses. Thank you for your leadership.

Very truly yours,



Richard M. Johnson
Executive Director

cc: SAFCA Legislative Delegation
SAFCA Board of Directors
Ms. Myda Castillo-Garcia
The Gualco Group, Inc.