

Agenda of November 15, 2018

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

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

**SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 15, 2018**

**Water Resources Development Act of 2018**

Both the House and Senate passed and sent to the President the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018, which includes the Water Resources Development Act of 2018. While there are no specific provisions requested by SAFCA, there are some provisions that may prove useful to SAFCA as it moves forward. The President signed it into law October 23, 2018.

**American River Watershed Common Features Natomas Basin Project**

For reference, Attachment 1 is included showing the USACE designation for the various construction reaches.

Construction is underway at Reach D. The excavation of the new Vestal Drain is underway. Currently, the site is being buttoned down for the winter. The remainder of the Vestal Drain will be completed during the 2019 construction season. In 2019, the contractor will also perform the required modifications to the pump station.

The contractor is getting started on the work for Contract 1, Reach I. The contractor mobilized to Discovery Park last week. The schedule is pending from the contractor. The plan is to initiate construction of a seepage blanket under I-5 and the relocation of water lines in 2018. This work will be completed in 2019, along with the construction of two miles of cutoff wall, which will require the closure of Garden Highway. When the contractor's schedule is received by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), it will be shared with SAFCA and the public.

The solicitation for the work for Reach H was issued on November 5, 2018. The bid opening will be on December 7, 2018. The plan is to award a construction contract by the end of the calendar year. So far, the new procurement method of low bid among the list of prequalified contractors has worked to avoid protests; hopefully this will continue. Construction in Reach H will include three miles of cutoff wall and will be accomplished during the 2019 and 2020 construction seasons.

### **Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Projects Update**

As previously discussed, Congress provided emergency supplemental appropriations for disaster relief on February 9, 2018. The American River Watershed Common Features, WRDA 2016 project received \$1,565,750,000 in construction funding and the American River Watershed, Folsom Dam Raise Project received \$216,523,185 in construction funding.

There has been a flurry of activity over the last few months trying to get teams created and activities moving forward. It will be a joint effort among the USACE, the State, and SAFCA to provide enough resources to be able to accomplish all this work.

The Sacramento District has until November 16, 2018 to submit schedules for both projects to the South Pacific Division and Headquarters for review and approval. The requirements they are trying to meet is to have construction initiated in 2019 and all construction completed by 2024. After the schedules are submitted, there will be some back and forth before the final schedules are approved. We anticipate this will occur sometime after the first of the year. At that point, we will have a better picture of how things will be accomplished to share with the Board.

This process will make it difficult for SAFCA, with our limited number of staff, to participate in the same manner in the projects as we have in the past. The USACE is standing up numerous delivery teams. We are working with the State and USACE to get the number of teams and meetings quantified. Many of the teams are going to have to be meeting at the same time. SAFCA simply does not have enough personnel to physically cover all the anticipated meetings. SAFCA will likely have to depend on consultant help to represent us as members of many of the teams.

We will be presenting to the Board our plan on how to accomplish this within the next couple of months. Additionally, we are developing a plan for how to keep track of all the decisions made, SAFCA commitments, and how to keep SAFCA team members informed as to what all the various teams are deciding. This will also be shared with the Board once it is finalized.

At the November 2018 Board meeting, the Board is asked to approve a lease of office space in the same building that houses the USACE Sacramento District. In this space, there will be a conference room and some offices. This space will allow SAFCA employees and consultants to work more directly with the USACE and the State in accomplishing these projects. The USACE has been very supportive of this effort.

The other component that SAFCA will be responsible for is providing the real estate and encroachment removals in a very compressed timeframe. I anticipate that by the February 2019 Board meeting, we will have the USACE schedule and be able to lay out for the Board a plan for how we are going to accomplish this in a timely manner that will clear the path for construction by the USACE.

These are very challenging times, but also very exciting to be able to accelerate the flood-risk reduction for this community.