




December 22, 2008

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: 
Stein Buer, Executive Director
Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency

RE: **Natomas Levee Improvement Program—Natomas East Main Drainage Canal (NEMDC) Update**

Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) contractors have been actively collecting engineering and environmental data along the NEMDC since 2007. Preliminary analysis of the data has shown that many portions of the west levee will require work to meet new and more stringent U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) certification criteria, mainly to control deep underseepage and improve slope stability. As stated in the recent Natomas Levee Improvement Program (NLIP) update mailed to you on November 13, 2008, construction will likely begin along the NEMDC in 2011.

Although SAFCA and its engineering consultants are still collecting and analyzing data to determine the improvements required along the NEMDC, the majority of resources are currently being dedicated to the projects underway along the Natomas Cross Canal and Sacramento River east levee. As this work is completed, we will turn to correcting deficiencies along the NEMDC. We are committed to sharing with you information about proposed work along the NEMDC as early in the process as possible, when we have tangible information to share about the likely design approach and footprint of the work.

While preliminary analyses show many portions of the NEMDC levee will require work, the type of improvements and specific locations where these improvements will be necessary are not yet fully determined. Some areas will require no improvement, other areas will involve installation of a seepage cutoff wall in place, while others may require the raising and widening of a levee section.

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One of the first steps in preparing and proposing a design plan is the production of a project Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Statement (EIS). For the portion of the NEMDC from Elkhorn Boulevard south to Northgate Boulevard, SAFCA and the USACE will release a Draft EIS/EIR in late January to early February 2009. A notice will be sent to you announcing its release. SAFCA and the USACE will hold a public meeting in the area to describe the document, answer any questions and accept comments on the project. A draft Final EIS/EIR will then be prepared and released a few months following that for additional public review and comment. This document will respond to previous comments received and reflect any more detailed refinements to the project.

Following that process, SAFCA will offer to meet with any property owners that may be directly affected by the project during which the proposed project plan will be presented and discussed. SAFCA will carefully consider any proposals for improving the project design and minimizing potential impacts on individual property owners, as well as the region as a whole.

For the portion of the NEMDC from Sankey Road south to Elkhorn Boulevard, the release date of a Draft EIS/EIR has not yet been determined. However, when it is, a notice of preparation will be sent to you.

SAFCA values feedback from the community on the program and encourages you to attend any of the many public meetings that will be held if you have questions, concerns or suggestions. Relevant information about the NLIP is also posted regularly on the SAFCA website (www.safca.org) under the link titled "SAFCA Projects". In addition, Gualco Consulting has been assigned by SAFCA to respond to questions and comments by the community. Please feel free to contact Barbara Gualco or Jay Davis by telephone at (916) 351-0600 or by email at jdavis@gualco.com if you would like additional information about the NLIP.