August 20, 2009

To:       Resident

From:  Stein Buer, Executive Director

Re:      Flood Control Improvement Projects Update

A.  Natomas Levee Improvement Program Pre-Levee Construction Activity in Sacramento River East Levee Project Reach 5A-9B

B.  U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Sacramento River RM 73.5 Bank Protection Project

C.  U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Common Features Site R-1 Project

**NLIP Pre-Levee Construction Activity in SREL Project Reach 5A-9B**

In October of this year, SAFCA is planning to award the contract for Sacramento River East Levee Phase 2A construction. This work involves the relocation of irrigation canals as well as preparing the land side of the Sacramento River east levee for the construction of an adjacent levee in 2010.

In November, contractors will begin the removal and relocation of trees and vegetation located on the land (east) side of the Sacramento River east levee from just north of Elverta Road to just south of Interstate 5 (Reach 5A-9B).

Native trees ranging from two to ten inches in diameter and located within the project footprint are scheduled to be transplanted to areas along the levee outside of the construction footprint of the flood control improvements. The equipment used for transplanting trees will be Vermeer Spades, backhoes, front-end loaders or other machinery capable of extracting large trees. Native trees that are too large or deemed unviable for successful transplantation, as well as non-native trees and vegetation located in the project footprint, will be removed. A qualified biologist will be on-hand to monitor the contractors’ activities.
In addition, this winter SAFCA will be continuing to advance the restoration of woodlands impacted by the NLIP improvements. This restoration will include site preparation activities such as weed and brush removal, herbicide applications and native grass drill seeding and tree planting.

Traffic impacts are anticipated to be minimal due to the nature of the activity, the location of the work and type of equipment used. However, the contractor will take any and all temporary traffic control measures necessary to ensure the safety of the public; which may include flaggers and other traffic control measures to ensure safe exit and entry of work vehicles into and out of the work area from travel lanes.

Detailed information about the NLIP project is available on SAFCA’s web site at www.safca.org. Click on the link “Natomas Levee Improvement Program” located under “Current Construction Projects”.

SAFCA has assigned Gualco Consulting to respond to questions or comments by the community. Please feel free to call Jay Davis or Barbara Gualco at (916) 351-0600 or email jdavis@qualco.com with any questions regarding NLIP.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Bank Protection Activity

The Corps is planning to repair an erosion site along the bank of the Sacramento River at River Mile (RM) 73.5 this summer/fall. RM 73.5 is located between Elverta Road and W. Elkhorn Boulevard and will take place on currently vacant, unimproved parcels. This work is being done under the Sacramento River Bank Protection Project (SRBPP). The SRBPP is a long-range program of addressing bank erosion in the Sacramento River system. Generally, the work consists of the placement of rock revetment on the river bank.

The erosion site at RM 73.5 was identified during annual reconnaissance evaluations of the levee system conducted in 2007 and 2008 with the purpose to monitor and document conditions of previously identified erosion sites, and identify any new erosion sites.

The length of the repair required at RM 73.5 is approximately 1,100 linear feet. The Corps will be conducting the repairs and accessing the site from the levee rather than from a river barge. Use of the Garden Highway will be necessary to deliver the material to the site. The Corps estimates approximately 64 hauling
days to deliver the materials utilizing trucks that can carry 20 cubic yards of material. The project is anticipated to begin in September and will be completed in approximately 150 days. For more information regarding this project, please contact Corps Project Manager, Jim Baker at (916) 557-7550.

**Common Features- Site R-1**

Reclamation District 1000 (RD 1000) maintains a pumping plant next to the Garden Highway near Orchard Lane to move interior drainage from the Natomas Main Canal to the Sacramento River. The water is pumped through four conduits that go through and under the foundation of the levee adjacent to the RD 1000 offices. Several years ago when the Corps constructed slurry wall in the Garden Highway levee, a “window” was left in the slurry where the conduits are located. This was done to allow for additional analyses of the best way to construct the slurry wall while maintaining the integrity of the outlet conduits.

This summer/fall, the Corps will close the 222-foot gap. Construction is expected to begin in early to mid-September and last approximately 8 weeks. The repair will require alternately closing the eastbound and westbound lanes of Garden Highway at the pumping plant location during the eight-week construction period with traffic control in place 24/7.

In order to complete the final connection of the two previously constructed seepage cutoff walls, both lanes of the Garden Highway will be closed for no more than three consecutive days.

Roadside signage will be posted along Garden Highway in advance of any closures and/or detours. For more information on this project, please contact the Corps Project Manager, John Hoge at (916) 557-5304.