

Natomas Levee Improvement Program (NLIP) Update, February 21, 2008

On January 18, 2008, the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) approved a 33 USC Section 408 request for the Sacramento River East Levee Phase 1 Improvement Project; approved an encroachment permit for the NCC South Levee Phase 2 Improvements; and approved a request for Section 104 credit for both the Sacramento River Phase 1 and the Natomas Cross Canal Phase 2 construction projects. The CVFPB will consider approval of an encroachment permit for the Sacramento River East Levee Phase 1 Improvement Project at its March 22 meeting. If approved as expected, this would complete CVFPB approvals for the 2008 construction program. The CVFPB has made an extraordinary effort to expedite preparation of Board briefing and action documents, resulting in rapid completion of the requisite permits, despite the administrative burden of reorganization of Board functions in compliance with SB 17 (Nunez, 2007).

In the aftermath of the Corps' January 15, 2008 announcement that it could not support an AR zone designation for Natomas Basin National Flood Insurance Rate Map update purposes, there has been intense interest in SAFCA's execution schedule for NLIP. The schedule, which is updated regularly to reflect current project status and planning assumptions, has been made available to interested parties for detailed scrutiny, with the goal of assuring that every reasonable measure for fast-tracking the Natomas levee improvements is employed. The City of Sacramento (City) is in the process of conducting such a review with expert consultant support. We are currently awaiting the results of the City's review.