

ITEM 14

Agenda of October 15, 2009

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

**FROM: Stein M. Buer, Executive Director
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**SUBJECT: INFORMATION – NATOMAS LEVEE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
UPDATE**

OVERVIEW:

This update includes a status of the construction, design, permitting and right of way activities for the Natomas Levee Improvement Program.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Board receive and file this report.

MEASURES/EVALUATION:

This is an ongoing item. Success will be measured by implementation of the program on schedule and within budget.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This information item does not have a fiscal impact.

DISCUSSION

Construction, real estate acquisition, permitting activities and encroachment inventory and evaluation for the Natomas Levee Improvement Program (NLIP) are progressing on schedule for completion of the Natomas Cross Canal and Sacramento River Reaches 1-15. The entire program is currently divided into four major phases, as shown in the attached Figure, "Construction Phasing Map". Phases 1 and 2 of the program are in construction. SAFCA staff and consultants are working closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to complete NEPA/CEQA, obtain permits and completed the design for Phases 3 and 4a. SAFCA staff is also working closely with the Corps to transition Phase 4b of NLIP to the Corps for them to complete as part of the Common Feature Project. The following is a summary of the status of key elements of the program.

Organization

The nomenclature used in NLIP for the various geographic and temporal program elements has evolved as the various technical specialists have contributed to the can be confusing. The attached Construction Phasing Map serves as a visual cross reference for planning phases, levee reaches, and construction phases. In general, all planning documents refer to "planning phases", surveying and design are referenced to "levee reaches", and construction contracts are organized for most efficient execution of the work in "construction phases".

Status of Construction Efforts

SREL Reaches 1-4A Private Irrigation Facility Relocation Project - Contract 4007

This construction contract was awarded in December 2008. The contract includes construction of a replacement canal and water wells in the Phase 2 adjacent levee and canal footprint. Testing of new wells in progress, contract is nearly complete.

SREL Phase 2 Structure Demolition and Tree Removal Project - Contract 4020

This construction contract was awarded in December 2008. The contract includes the demolition of structures in the Phase 2 adjacent levee and canal footprint. Work on this contract is nearly complete.

NCCSL Phase 2/SREL Phase 1 (Reach 1) - Contract 3980

Teichert Construction began the work on the Natomas Cross Canal south levee (NCCSL) during the week of June 8, 2009. Teichert has completed the installation of the Soil Bentonite cutoff wall on the NCCSL. Teichert is currently constructing embankment and performing finish grading on the NCCSL. This operation is scheduled for completion in early November of this year.

The Sacramento River East Levee (SREL) - 1 portion of the project is currently under construction. The backfill of the cutoff wall in this phase of work is scheduled for completion by October 9, 2009. The levee embankment construction will resume as soon as the cutoff wall has cured, near the end of October. The levee reach is scheduled for completion in mid-November of this year.

SREL Phase 1B (Reaches 2-4B), Elkhorn Irrigation Canal Phase 1 and GGS/Drainage Canal Phase 1 - Contract 4032

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Independent Construction is currently preparing submittals, installing erosion control and environmental measures required for the commencement of construction activities. A significant portion of the work is located on property owned by the Sacramento County Airport system, thus requiring advanced approval from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Airport. Approval from the FAA is anticipated by October 12, 2009. The canal work from Teal Bend Golf Club to the Prichard Pumping Plant is anticipated to commence on October 12, 2009 and this portion of work is scheduled to be completed this year. Only a limited reach of levee improvements are anticipated to be constructed this year due to the late award of the contract.

SREL Phase 2A (Reaches 5A-9B) Structure Demolition and Tree Removal, Elkhorn Irrigation Canal Phase 2A and GGS/Drainage Canal Phase 2A - Contract 4037

This construction contract has been released for bid and is scheduled for award at the October 15, 2009 SAFCA Board meeting. The contract includes the Elkhorn Irrigation Canal Phase 2A Relocation and the Giant Garter Snake/Drainage Canal Phase 2A Construction. This contract will also include demolition of structures in the adjacent levee and canal footprint and the removal of trees in the canal footprint. The goal of this construction contract is to relocate the canals and demolish the structures in advance of the levee construction to prepare the footprint for 2010 construction of the adjacent setback levee and berms along the Sacramento River East Levee in Reaches 5A-9B can be completed in 2010.

NLIP – Phase 2 Woodland Corridor Project - Contract 4043

This contract involves planting trees and creating associated habitat along a corridor that parallels the landside of Reaches 1 and 2 of the Sacramento River East Levee in accordance with the approved NLIP habitat conservation and mitigation plan.

SREL Phase 2B (Reaches 5A-9B) and Phase 3A (Reaches 10-15) - Contract 4044

The Sacramento River East Levee Phase 2B (Reach 5A through 9B) and Phase 3A (Reach 10 through 15) Tree Removal Project, Sacramento County, California, Contract 4044, will include the removal of trees in the adjacent levee and canal footprint in SREL Reaches 5A through 15 to prepare for levee construction in 2010 and 2011.

Work in Progress/Public Updates

SAFCA currently posts weekly construction updates on its website at www.safca.org/programs.natomas.html to inform the public of current and pending impacts to the community including working hours and impacts on traffic.

Right-of-Way Update

SAFCA staff and the NLIP consultant team are moving forward with the appraisal and acquisition of the rights-of-way necessary for levee construction along Sacramento River East Levee for Reaches 5A through 15 (just upstream of Elverta Road to just downstream of San Juan Road). Staff is continuing to negotiate with property owners in areas where the Board has passed Resolutions of Necessity. Our goal is to minimize impacts to property owners and ongoing farming operations by taking possession of properties after the fall harvest.

SAFCA Staff is also working with owners of over 50 waterside parcels to gain access in order to study various potential locations for waterside drainage outlets associated with levee construction. Roughly 30 waterside drains will be required along SREL 1 through 12 to provide for drainage of the runoff from the eastern half of the Garden Highway. Because the new adjacent levee on the east side of the roadway is higher than the existing highway, the runoff can no longer run off the roadway and down the back side of the levee. Instead, the runoff will be collected in a roadside swale, and conveyed via 24-inch drain pipes to the river. The drainage system is designed in accordance with best management practices to minimize discharge of sediment and pollutants to the river.

NEPA/CEQA and Permitting Update

Phase 3 Project Update

Phase 3 includes the Sacramento River East Levee Reaches 5A-9B, the Pleasant Grove Creek Canal West Levee and the Natomas East Main Drainage Canal West Levee from Elkhorn Boulevard to Northgate Boulevard. The Phase 3 Project Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was certified by the Board on May 21, 2009. The corresponding final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has also been completed. The 30-day post completion public comment period has closed. SAFCA staff and consultants are working with the Corps to complete the responses to these comments, the Record of Decision, the Section 408 permission request, and the Section 404 permit application. The Record of Decision, 408 approval and 404 permit are scheduled to be completed in December 2009. The attached Table 1 summarizes the status of the various approvals needed to award the SREL-2A and SREL-2B construction contracts.

Phase 4a Project Update

The Phase 4a Project includes the Sacramento River East Levee Reaches 10-15 and work on the Natomas Cross Canal South Levee at the Bennett and Northern Main Pump Stations. The public review period for the draft EIS/EIR ends on October 13. The Record of Decision, 408 approval and 404 permit are

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scheduled to be completed in March 2010. The Phase 4a Project Construction Contract will be ready for award in early 2010. The attached Table 2 summarizes the status of the various approvals needed to award the SREL-3 Construction Contract.

Phase 4b Project Update

The Phase 4b Project includes the Sacramento River East Levee Reaches 16-20, the American River North Levee, the Natomas East Main Drainage Canal West Levee from Sankey Road to Elkhorn Boulevard, additional improvements to the Pleasant Grove Creek Canal West Levee, and other improvements needed to provide a 200-year level of flood protection to the Natomas Basin. SAFCA staff is currently working with the Corps to develop a plan for completing this work using a combination of Corps and SAFCA resources. The Corps has initiated the preparation of a Post-Authorization Change Report (PACR) to identify the Federal interest in NLIP. The PACR will be the basis for Congress to authorize federal participation in the program, including authorizing credit for the SAFCA and State expenditures for NLIP, increasing the Common Features cost ceiling (Section 902 limit), and authorizing the Corps to construct the remaining elements of the program. A detailed schedule is in the process of being developed, reflecting the Corps' commitment to completing the EIS, PACR, and Record of Decision by late 2010.

SREL Encroachment Report Update

The SAFCA team is in the process of preparing the draft report that maps and evaluates encroachments along the existing levee system to determine which encroachments may need to be modified or removed in order to achieve FEMA certification and to comply with the Corps and Central Valley Flood Protection Board standards. SAFCA and RD1000 are in the process of coordinating with the USACE and the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) to seek their input on the criteria that would be the basis for screening the existing encroachments. A draft report is scheduled for release to the public in November 2009.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This report is an informational update on implementation of the NLIP. The program is currently within budget and there is no proposed action with this report.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report is an informational update on implementation of the NLIP. There is no change in policy as a result of this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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Staff recommends that the Board receive and file this report.

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Attachment(s)