

Agenda of September 17, 2009

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

**FROM: Stein M. Buer, Executive Director  
(916) 874-7606**

**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. SAFCA staff is working closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) on evaluation of the remaining elements of the program which would include Phase 3 construction on the east side of the basin and all aspects of Phase 4a and Phase 4b. The following is a summary of the status of key elements of the program.

**Status of Construction Efforts**

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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. Work on this 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 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 contract is currently undergoing preparation for the cutoff wall and embankment work. The PG&E utility pole relocations along the Garden Highway have been completed. AT&T utility pole relocation is pending. Commencement of the SREL-1A cutoff wall is anticipated during the week of September 21, subject to completion of the AT&T relocation.

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

Independent Construction was awarded the contract on July 16, 2009. A pre-construction meeting was conducted on July 29. Independent is currently preparing submittals and attending environmental training in preparation 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 pending. The canal work from Teal Bend Golf Club to the Prichard Pumping Plant is anticipated to begin soon and should 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

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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 increase the probability that the levee work on the Sacramento River East Levee in Reaches 5A-9B can be completed in 2010.

NLIP – Phase 2 Woodland Corridor Project - Contract 4043

The work for 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 another item on today's agenda, staff is requesting that the Board approve advertising this contract for bid.

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. In another item on today's agenda, staff is requesting that the Board approve advertising this contract for bid.

Work in Progress/Public Updates

SAFCA currently posts weekly construction updates on its website at [www.safca.org/programs.natomas.html](http://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 the 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 to study various potential locations for waterside drainage outlets

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associated with levee construction. Roughly 30 waterside drains will be required along SREL 1 through 12.

**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 and the Natomas East Main Drainage Canal from Elkhorn Boulevard to Northgate Boulevard. The Phase 3 Project Environmental Impact Report was certified by the Board on May 21, 2009. The final Environmental Impact Statement was released by the Corps for a 30-day public review on August 21. A record of decision is scheduled to be signed in December 2009. The attached table 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 draft EIS/EIR was released for public review on August 28. A public hearing on the DEIS/DEIR is scheduled for the September 17th SAFCA Board meeting. The Phase 4a Project Construction Contract will be ready for award in early 2010. The attached table 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 100-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. A detailed schedule is in the process of being developed with the goal of completing a Record of Decision in late 2010.

**SREL Encroachment Report Update**

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In anticipation of the need to fully comply with FEMA 100-year certification requirements, the team is also moving forward with mapping and evaluating encroachments along the existing levee system to determine which encroachments may need to be modified or removed in order to achieve that certification. A draft report is scheduled for public review in November 2009.

SAFCA staff is working with RD 1000 to develop proposed criteria for defining an acceptable encroachment and vegetation standard. SAFCA and RD1000 will then discuss the proposed criteria with the USACE and the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) to seek their input. The criteria will be crafted to assure that the waterside slope of the levee system can be inspected and accessed for operation, maintenance and flood fighting activities. Based on preliminary evaluations of the draft database, staff believes that only a small percentage of the existing encroachments will need to be modified or removed along the Garden Highway because the adjacent setback levee will provide the primary structural defense against floodwaters.

The SAFCA team will then screen all of the encroachments based on the criteria agreed to by the agencies. The results of this process will be documented in the form of a GIS-based database and a report summarizing the data, the screening process, and the results. The first public draft of the report is scheduled to be available in November 2009. The report will be made available to affected property owners, local, State and Federal agencies, and the public. SAFCA will then work with individual property owners and RD 1000 to address any encroachment concerns before finalizing the report. SAFCA's goal is to achieve the NLIP public safety goals, including 100-year certification of the upgraded levee system, with minimum disruption for existing property owners.

**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**

Staff recommends that the Board receive and file this report.