ITEM 22

TO: Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency
   Board of Directors

FROM: Richard M. Johnson, Executive Director
       (916) 874-7606

SUBJECT: INFORMATION – NATOMAS LEVEE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

OVERVIEW:
This update includes the status of 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 and success will be measured by implementation of the Program on schedule and according to budget.

FISCAL IMPACT:
This informational item does not have fiscal impacts.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:
This informational item does not have environmental impacts.

DISCUSSION

Overview

The entire Natomas Levee Improvement Program (NLIP) is currently divided into four major project phases, as shown in the attached Figure 1, “Construction Phasing Map”. The project phases are further subdivided for the purpose of grouping project elements for environmental documentation and permitting purposes. These are further subdivided and identified by levee reaches for the purpose of grouping work for efficient construction contracting, as is also shown in Figure 1.

Phases 1, 2, 3a and 3b of the NLIP have predominantly been completed. The majority of the Phase 4a work that will be undertaken by SAFCA has been completed, with the remaining SAFCA work scheduled for completion this year.
The work necessary to meet the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Zone A99 50 percent construction completion requirement appears to have been met. The NLIP team has completed preparation of the documentation to support a request for remapping and is coordinating with the City of Sacramento, County of Sacramento and County of Sutter to submit this data to FEMA. The only remaining requirement to achieving A99 Zone status is Congressional authorization of the NLIP.

SAFCA is working with Reclamation District No. 1000 (RD 1000) and the Natomas Central Mutual Water Company (NCMWC) to rebuild RD 1000's Pumping Plant 2 and complete the design of NCMWC's Pritchard Lake Pumping Plant. Plant 2 reconstruction is eligible for federal cost sharing under FEMA's Disaster Rehabilitation Program and the Pritchard Pumping Plant is eligible for funding under the American Basin Fish Screen and Environmental Enhancement Project, funded by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and California Department of Fish and Game. RD 1000 is in the process of awarding the construction contract for the Plant 2 Reconstruction Project and we are revising the budget estimate for the Pritchard Lake project to determine an appropriate schedule for bidding.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is taking the lead on completion of the NLIP Phase 4b Project. Once Congress authorizes federal participation in the program, the USACE will commence construction of levee improvements along the southern and eastern portions of the Natomas Basin (NLIP Phase 3c, remaining Phase 4a Project, and Phase 4b Project), leading to both 100 and 200-year levels of flood protection over time.

The USACE has completed a schedule for implementation of the NLIP for inclusion in the Natomas Post Authorization Change Report (PACR). However, that schedule assumed a Congressional authorization in 2011. Once Congress authorizes the project, the USACE will develop a new schedule for their portion of the NLIP. The project description and schedule for the levee raising elements required to achieve 200-year protection will be included in the follow-on Common Features General Reevaluation Report (GRR), currently scheduled for completion by the USACE in 2014. Based on new project processing criteria, the USACE is re-evaluating this timeline.

The following is a summary of the status of key elements of the program.

**Status of Construction Efforts**

Levee construction has been completed for the Natomas Cross Canal South Levee and the Sacramento River East Levee Reaches 1-9B (Natomas Cross Canal to Interstate 5). Levee construction from I-5 to Power Line Road is largely complete and Power Line Road has been re-opened.

The habitat elements of the program which include native grassland and woodland plantings are underway and are scheduled for completion this year. Once planted, these areas will transition into a five year establishment and maintenance period.
New work for this year includes additional habitat restoration, installation of levee access control gates, retrofitting of several riverside irrigation pumps, construction of the Lower Giant Garter Snake/Drainage Canal, and the initiation of the RD 1000 Plant 2 Reconstruction Project.

This season’s construction activities are underway and the details of the work are being described in our weekly construction updates that are provided to the community and interested parties.

**Work in Progress/Public Updates**

Gualco Consulting continues to distribute weekly construction updates to interested members of the public via email and these updates are also posted on SAFCA’s website at [www.safca.org/programs.natomas.html](http://www.safca.org/programs.natomas.html) in order to keep the public informed of current and pending impacts to their community, including anticipated contractor working hours and impacts on traffic. Gualco continues to respond to a regular stream of inquiries from individual property owners who are in close proximity to construction, as well as interested members of the public related to program planning, permitting, field studies, traffic, construction activities and significant changes in the program schedule.

**Right of Way (ROW) / Utility Coordination Updates**

Staff is completing the final accounting packages with the State Department of Water Resources (DWR) to allow full funding of the ROW portion of the project. Settlement negotiations and court proceedings are continuing with each property owner impacted by the Resolutions of Necessity passed by the SAFCA Board. Negotiations are also continuing with AT&T regarding cost allocation for utility relocations.

**Planning, Permitting, and Design Updates**

**Phase 2, 3 and 4a Project Update**

SAFCA will be issuing a **Notice of Preparation of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report on the Natomas Levee Improvement Program's Landside Improvements Project and Announcement of a Public Scoping Meeting on July 10, 2012.** The full NOP may be viewed at SAFCA, 1007 7th Street, 7th Floor, Sacramento, California or on-line at SAFCA’s website: [www.safca.org](http://www.safca.org).

**Phase 4b Project Update**

The Phase 4b Project includes the Sacramento River East Levee Reaches 16 through 20, the American River North Levee; the Natomas East Main Drainage Canal West Levee; the Pleasant Grove Creek Canal West Levee’ any water supply and drainage pump station improvements, which are needed but have been deferred from SAFCA’s construction program; and other improvements needed to provide 200-year level of flood protection to the Natomas Basin.
SAFCA staff is currently working with the USACE on an evolving plan for completing the Phase 4b work using a combination of USACE and SAFCA resources.

The project identified in the PACR includes strengthening of the entire Natomas perimeter levee system, but does not include any levee raising. It is anticipated that levee raising will be supported by the USACE once the USACE completes an update to its hydrologic and hydraulic system modeling and is able to re-evaluate the economic viability of raising the height deficient levee segments. Thus, the federal-State-local partnership currently envisions seeking full federal authorization in a two-step process: (1) with the work covered by the current scope of the PACR; and (2) with the work supported by a GRR for the entire American River Common Features Project added as soon as possible. This scenario provides the most expeditious approach to authorizing full USACE participation in program implementation.

The PACR will be the basis for Congress to authorize federal participation in the program. This participation includes authorizing credit for SAFCA and State expenditures for the NLIP, increasing the cost ceiling (Section 902 limit) for the American River Common Features Project, and authorizing the USACE to construct the remaining elements of the program.


SAFCA and RD 1000 have jointly compiled an encroachment database and prepared an Administrative Draft Encroachment Management Policy Paper, which was made available to the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) and the USACE for review. The database has also been made available to the public in compact disk format and on the www.safca.org website. Following approval of the NLIP vegetation variance, SAFCA re-initiated discussion of the draft policy paper with interested members of the public, RD 1000, CVFPB, and USACE to determine how encroachments and vegetation that inhibits inspection, operation and maintenance will be handled.

In August 2010, SAFCA staff met with the USACE, CVFPB, RD 1000 staffs and interested members of the public to answer questions and take comments on the Administrative Draft Encroachment Management Policy Paper for review by the SAFCA and CVFPB Boards. SAFCA is in the process of revising the policy paper and will be meeting in the next few months with the agencies and interested parties to finalize the Encroachment Management Policy Paper. The meeting date will be announced in advance. Once the Draft Encroachment Management Policy Paper is finalized, documentation applying the criteria to each parcel will be provided to each property owner. RD 1000 and SAFCA staffs will then work with the property owner(s) to develop a plan to address deficiencies. Additional comments can be directed to Jay Davis, Gualco Consulting, via telephone, email or regular mail:

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FEMA A99 Update

NLIP construction has progressed to the point that FEMA’s “completion of 50 percent of the critical features” requirement for A99 Zone floodplain designation appears to have been met. The NLIP team has completed the documentation necessary to submit a report to FEMA demonstrating that the “adequate progress” criteria has been met and is in the process of coordinating with the City and the two Counties on their formal transmittal of the report to FEMA. Remapping could occur after federal authorization and federal participation in the NLIP can be secured. The adequate progress requirements include: (1) authorization of all the improvements needed to provide 100-year flood protection to the Natomas Basin; (2) appropriation of 60 percent of the funds needed to complete the 100-year improvement program; (3) expenditure of 50 percent of the total cost of the 100-year program; and (4) completion of 50 percent of the critical features of the 100-year program.

Congresswoman Doris Matsui and Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer have introduced bills to provide Congressional authorization for the program. The A99 Zone designation will not be achieved until Congress fully authorizes the Natomas improvements and thereby satisfies the 'fully authorized' adequate progress requirement. Senator Feinstein and Congresswoman Matsui toured the project area April 2012 and received a briefing on the project from the USACE.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This report is an informational update on implementation of the NLIP and does not have an inherent fiscal impact. Costs associated with the NLIP will be shared by the State under the Proposition 1E Early Implementation Project agreement. The State is expected to reimburse SAFCA for 70 percent of the project costs pursuant to the Early Implementation Program. SAFCA’s share will be funded from the Consolidated Capital Assessment District. Also, SAFCA will realize federal credit for its share of the cost of the larger project that is anticipated to be approved by Congress.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There is no change in policy as a result of this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the Board receive and file this report.