



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**®
Sacramento District

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

To: Agencies and Interested Parties
From: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
Date: December 17, 2007
Subject: **Announcement of a Public Scoping Meeting on January 9, 2008 for an Environmental Impact Statement supporting U.S. Army Corps of Engineers actions related to the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency's proposed Natomas Levee Improvement Program Landside Improvements Project**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Sacramento District, will be the federal lead agency and will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the subject project in the Natomas Basin in Sacramento and Sutter Counties, California. USACE is soliciting input from interested agencies and the public as to the scope and content of the EIS.

BACKGROUND

The Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) is proposing the Natomas Levee Improvement Program (NLIP) Landside Improvements Project, as summarized below. SAFCA prepared an environmental impact report (EIR) in 2007 that evaluates the environmental effects of the proposed project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). On November 29, 2007, the SAFCA Board of Directors certified the EIR and approved implementation of the project components proposed for construction in 2008.

To implement the proposed project, SAFCA requires permission from USACE pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for the discharge of fill into jurisdictional waters of the United States, and pursuant to Section 408 of the Rivers and Harbors Act for alteration of a federal project levee. USACE will prepare an EIS to evaluate the environmental effects associated with USACE's decisionmaking processes for Sections 404 and 408. The EIS will evaluate the environmental effects of the 2008 project components at a project level and the 2009–2010 project components at a general, program level. The 2009–2010 project components would be subject to additional project-specific CEQA and NEPA analysis in the future, prior to implementation of these components.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project is intended to provide at least 100-year flood protection as quickly as possible while laying the groundwork to achieve at least urban-standard ("200-year") flood protection over time. The following major activities are proposed:

- ▶ 2008 construction
 - Along the 5.3-mile Natomas Cross Canal (NCC) south levee, raise the levee to provide additional freeboard, realign the levee to provide a more stable waterside slope and to reduce the need for removal of waterside vegetation, and construct a seepage cutoff wall in the eastern 4.3 miles (approximately) of the levee to reduce the risk of levee failure due to seepage and stability concerns.
 - Along the Sacramento River east levee, construct a raised adjacent setback levee from the NCC to about 3,100 feet south of the North Drainage Canal with seepage berms where required to reduce seepage potential, and install woodland plantings.

- Construct a new canal designed to provide drainage and associated giant garter snake habitat (referred to as the “GGG/Drainage Canal”), relocate the Elkhorn Canal between the North Drainage Canal and the Elkhorn Reservoir settling basin (“Elkhorn Reservoir”), and remove a deep culvert from under the levee near the Reclamation District 1000 Pumping Plant No. 2 site.
 - Recontour the land and create marsh and upland habitat at borrow locations.
- ▶ 2009 and 2010 construction
- Along the Sacramento River east levee south of the limits of the 2008 improvements, construct an adjacent setback levee (raised where needed to provide adequate freeboard) with seepage berms, relief wells, and cutoff walls as required, and install woodland plantings.
 - Widen the levee and construct seepage berms along the Pleasant Grove Creek Canal west levee.
 - Construct a new GGS/Drainage Canal between Elkhorn Reservoir and the West Drainage Canal, improve the West Drainage Canal, relocate the Riverside Canal and the Elkhorn Canal downstream of Elkhorn Reservoir, and reconstruct the Reclamation District 1000 Pumping Plant No. 2.
 - Recontour the land and create marsh and upland habitat at borrow locations.
 - Remove encroachments from the water side of the Sacramento River east levee as needed to ensure that the levee can be certified as meeting the minimum requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program and USACE design criteria, and address Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requirements for the State Route 99/70 bridge crossing of the NCC.

SCOPING MEETING

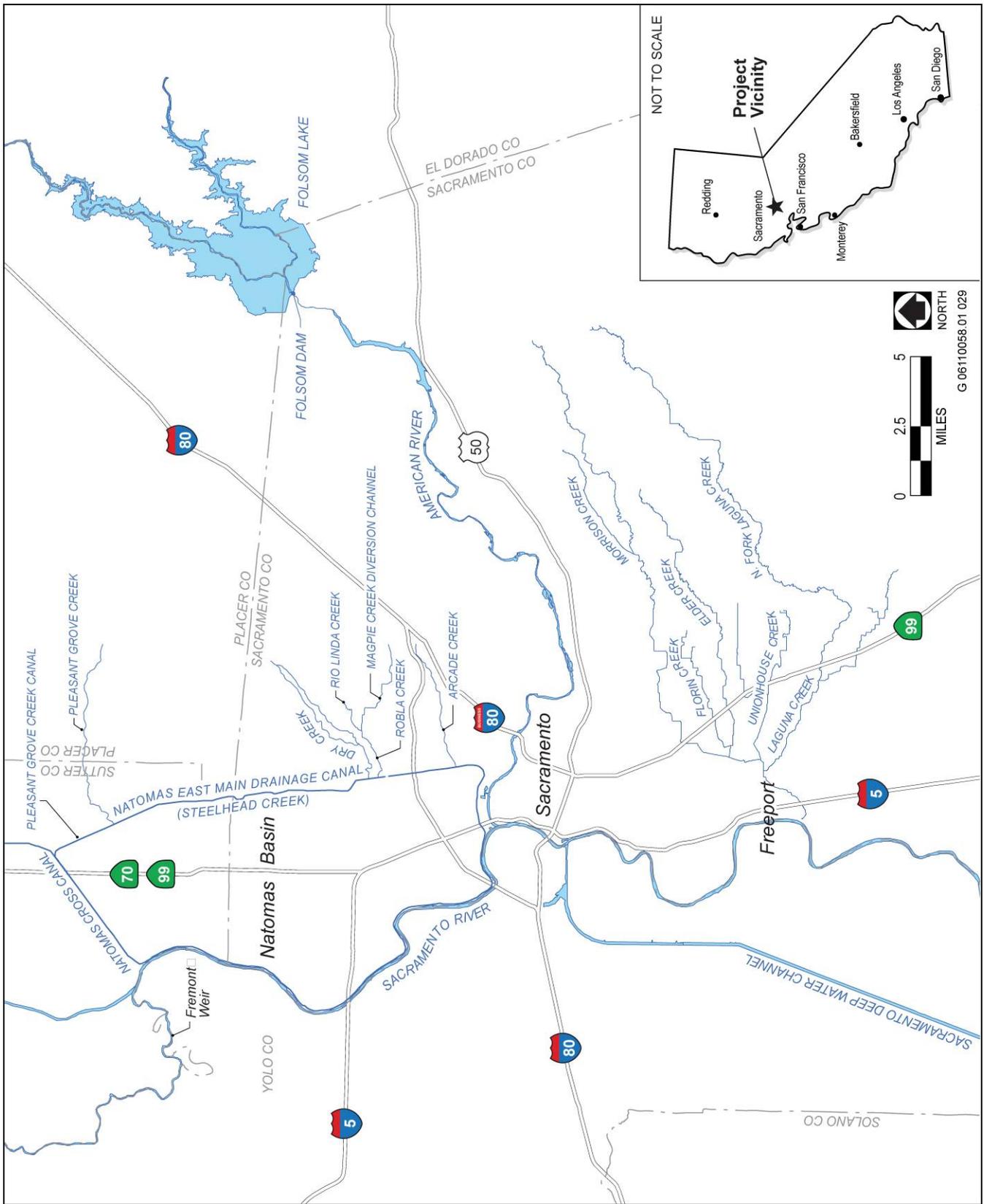
A public scoping meeting will be held to brief interested parties on the proposed project, and obtain the views of agency representatives and the public on the scope and content of the EIS. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 9, 2008, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., at 1321 Garden Highway (Sierra Health Foundation) in Sacramento, CA.

The meeting will have an open-house format with multiple stations set up to highlight different aspects of the proposed project and the NEPA process. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the project and the EIS process with project team members and to provide oral and written comments. The meeting space is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals needing special devices will be accommodated to the best of our ability. For more information, contact Elizabeth Holland at (916) 557-6763 at least 48 hours before the meeting.

PROVIDING SCOPING COMMENTS

Interested parties may provide written or oral comments on the content and scope of the EIS at the scoping meeting or may provide written comments directly to USACE. **Written comments must be provided to USACE at the earliest possible date, but no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, January 18, 2008.** Agencies that will need to use the EIS when considering permits or other approvals for the proposed project should provide USACE with the name of a contact person. Comments provided by e-mail should include the name and address of the sender. Please send all written and/or e-mail comments to:

Elizabeth Holland, Planning Division
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
 1325 J Street
 Sacramento, CA 95814
 Telephone: (916) 557-6763
 E-mail: Elizabeth.G.Holland@usace.army.mil



Source: CaSil, Adapted by EDAW in 2007

Project Location Exhibit