American River Bank Protection: Plan For Implementation of WRDA 2016 LAR Bank Protection

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LARTF and BPWG History

• Lower American River Task Force (LARTF) formed in Mid 90’s. Made up of:
  ◦ Governmental Officials
  ◦ Land use advocates
  ◦ Concerned Citizens

• Bank Protection Working Group (BPWG) formed in Late 90’s and was a subset of the LARTF for those specifically involved with bank protection.

• Both groups formed to work with USACE Sacramento Bank Protection Program
  ◦ LARTF – Lower American River (LAR) Site 3
  ◦ BPWG - LAR Sites 1,2,4 & 5
ARCF GRR Commitment

- ARCF GRR, authorized by Congress in WRDA 2016, included up to 11 miles of bank protection being implemented along the LAR in order to help safely convey flows up to 160,000 cfs (cubic feet per second).
- A commitment was included in the GRR to work with local entities in implementation of bank protection. Specifically, this commitment reads

  “An initial assessment with regards to the method of bank stabilization has been made for this document. During detailed design, the Corps will coordinate closely with county, state, and federal agencies responsible for managing the resources of the parkway in selecting which method of bank stabilization should be deployed. In carrying out this effort, the Corps will coordinate through the formal and informal processes that have been created to facilitate management of the parkway in application of the above criteria. Where erosion protection is needed to meet established flood risk reduction objectives, the selection of the method of protection will be based on a determination of which method would do the most to protect valuable parkway land, fish and wildlife resources, and recreational facilities considering both the short term impacts of construction and the long term effects of any mitigation measures included in the design of the project.”
ARCF GRR Commitment (Continued)

• The commitment was made directly in response to comments received during the NEPA/CEQA public review process. The driving entities that led to the Corps making this commitment were Friends of the River, Save the American River Association, and the Environmental Council of Sacramento.
BPWG – Round 2

• In anticipation of the ARCF GRR becoming an authorized project and because of the magnitude of bank protection being recommended in the GRR, SAFCA and the Water Forum began anew the BPWG.

• The BPWG and consultants working for SAFCA began looking at a short stretch of the LAR, the reach from Howe Avenue down to Paradise Beach.
Technical Assessments

- American River Common Features
  GRR Authorization
  - GRR Authorized in WRDA 2016
  - Anticipate Construction New Start in FY 2017-18 Budget
  - Per GRR commitment, Corps required to coordinate closely with local, state, and federal agencies responsible for managing the resources of the parkway

- Advent of TRAC

- Water Forum and SAFCA through the LARTF and BPWG Created Technical Resource Advisory Committee (TRAC) to Assist Implementation

- Assessment Segment Phases
  - Phase 1 - Paradise Beach to Howe Avenue
  - Phase 2 - Howe Avenue to Watt Avenue
  - Phase 3 - Upstream of Watt Avenue
  - Phase 4 - Downstream of Paradise Beach
Initial TRAC (TAC – technical focus)

• Todd Rivas (USACE - Hydraulics)
• Steve Mahnke (DWR - Geotechnical)
• Chuck Watson (Geomorphology)
• Steve Chainey (GEI - Environmental)
• Ray Costa (Kleinfelder - Geotechnical)
• Mike Kynett (MBK - Geotechnical)
• Tom Smith (RiverSmith Eng – hydraulics/geotechnical)

Expanded TRAC (RAC – includes resource focused)

• Jennifer Hobbs (USFWS - Environmental)
• Annalisa Tuel-Batanides (NMFS - Environmental)
• Anne Baker (Corps - Environmental)
• David Martasian (DWR - Environmental)
• Liz Bellas (Sac County Parks – Parkway Resources)
• Sharon Kramer (H.T. Harvey and Associates - Fisheries)
Planned Improvements

Segments (4 Phases)

Assessment (Erosion Induced Levee Failure)

Tier 1 (High Chance Levee Failure)

Tier 2 (Potential Levee Failure over 50 Year Period)

Tier 3 (Levee Failure not Likely to occur)

Parkway Resource assessment

Environmental assessment and further engineering design

Documentation

Report to BPWG and LARTF

USACE Submit

Monitor sites in perpetuity. Fix sites when necessary
Parkway/Environmental Resources

• BPWG needs to understand Parkway/Environmental Resources
  – How they could be affected by erosion
  – How they could be affected by bank protection projects

• Broad Categories of Resources
  – Human use: Infrastructure, Recreation, Utilities
  – Cultural Resources: historic and archaeological
  – Terrestrial Habitat
  – Aquatic Habitat
Resource Data Collection

• SAFCA will contract with consultants to:
  – Compile existing data
  – Collect new data
  – Provide it to TAC for their consideration and use

• All data will be mapped

• Additional detail will be tabulated as appropriate
  – Acreages
  – Lengths
  – Etc....
Resource Data Use by Expanded TAC

• The Expanded TAC will determine exactly how the data will be utilized

• Data will help clarify for the TAC:
  – What is at risk?
  – Where should natural processes be allowed?
  – What should/could be protected?
  – How can bank protection sites be designed to protect or enhance resource values?
TRAC Coordination

- Promote USACE Technical Interactions with TRAC
- Provide Regional Support, including LARTF and BPWG Public Meetings
- Technical Assistance, (Preliminary Stakeholder Assessment of Phased Levee Segments)
- Create Conceptual Level Designs
- Ongoing interaction with USACE as bank protection designs, environmental compliance, and construction advances.