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# CITY OF SACRAMENTO

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

DIVISION OF WATER AND  
SEWERS

LARRY L. COMARSH  
Division Manager

February 13, 1987

Transportation and Community Development Committee  
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session

SUBJECT: Update Report on City's Levee System

**SUMMARY:**

This report summarizes the results of the January 6, 1987 meeting between various State, Federal, and local agencies and Mr. Bryan Mrazik from the Washington D.C. office of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (F.E.M.A.) It also discusses subsequent events regarding the Corps of Engineer's studies of the Sacramento Area Levee System and makes recommendations for future action by the City regarding levee certification and flood protection.

**BACKGROUND**

The January 6 meeting was attended by representatives of Sutter, Yolo, and Sacramento Counties, the City of Stockton, the City of Sacramento and several State and Federal agencies. The meeting was arranged by Sacramento County with the assistance of Congressmen Fazio and Matsui in order to give the local agencies an opportunity to discuss the recent (October 1986) Federal Register levee certification requirement and responsibilities with Mr. Bryan Mrazik, Assistant Administrator, Office of Risk management, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

In brief, Mr. Mrazik stated that each city or county protected by a levee system should submit all available data concerning the levee size, elevation, freeboards, stability, performance history, and operation and maintenance plans to F.E.M.A. by June 30, 1987. Mr. Mrazik said this information would be used to determine if a particular levee satisfied federal regulations and subsequently to decide if the existing flood maps needed to be revised. Mr. Mrazik indicated that if F.E.M.A. did not receive any supporting information by June 30, 1987 that they would start remapping the floodplains. Mr. Mrazik did mention, however, that if a current Corps study was underway or that if F.E.M.A. could see a good faith effort on the part of a local agency to obtain the required information and have a scheduled plan they would consider an extension of time beyond June 30, 1987.

Since this January 6 meeting, the City Flood Control and Sewer Division staff and the Public Works Director have had several meetings with the Corps of Engineers and have concluded that the investigations presently being conducted by the Corps on the American River and Sacramento River flood control systems, including tributaries such as the Natomas East Main Drain and Arcade Creek, when completed, will provide the information that F.E.M.A. has requested. The problem is that these investigations will not be completed until October 1988. Therefore, a request for an extension from the June 30, 1987 deadline is necessary.

It should be pointed out that F.E.M.A., based on input from the Corps of Engineers, has determined that some of the levees of the American River System do not have an adequate level of flood protection. Consequently they have requested the Corp of Engineers to remap the respective floodplain. This remapping effort will take approximately three years to complete and depending on the results, could put a significant portion of the City within a floodplain.

In addition to the investigations being performed by the Corps, is another study undertaken by the Federal Bureau of Reclamation on Flood Control Alternates to the Auburn Dam. This study should be complete in late February. Although this report will probably not provide specific information of direct value to F.E.M.A. for certification purposes it should provide some insight as to whether there are feasible flood control alternates other than increased storage above Folsom Dam. A subsequent report will outline the results of this study after it is published.

#### FINANCIAL

It is not expected that the City will be required to expend any substantial funds for the investigation now being performed by the Corps of Engineers. However, as the investigations progress from a reconnaissance to a feasibility level of study, cost sharing will be required. Consequently the staff is proposing items in the 1987-88 and 1988-89 Capital Improvement Budget in the amounts of \$250,000 for each year to defray the anticipated costs of these feasibility studies.

RECOMMENDATION

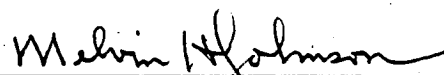
That the Mayor be authorized to send the attached letter to F.E.M.A. supporting the studies presently underway by the Corps of Engineers and requesting an extension of F.E.M.A.'s June 30, 1987 deadline to permit the Corps to complete their studies.

Respectfully Submitted



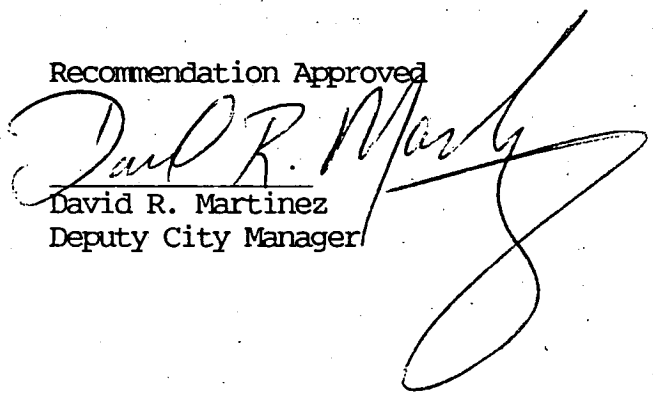
Larry Comarsh  
Flood Control and Sewer  
Division Manager

Approved



Melvin H. Johnson  
Director of Public Works

Recommendation Approved



David R. Martinez  
Deputy City Manager

8/levee

February 1987

Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Office of Risk Assessment  
500 C Street S.W.  
Washington D.C. 20472

Dear Mr. Mrazik,

Please refer to your letter of November 10, 1986 and the January 6, 1987 meeting during which you requested specific technical data concerning Certification of Levees protecting the City of Sacramento.

The U.S. Corps of Engineers are presently conducting reconnaissance studies covering the American River, Sacramento River, Natomas East Main Drain, Natomas Cross Canal and Arcade Creek. The City of Sacramento is providing the Corps with survey data and other information which they may request. These studies are scheduled to be complete in October 1988 and City officials have been informed that these studies will provide the information required by F.E.M.A. to determine Levee Adequacy for the 100 year flood event. The City is presently completing an emergency plan covering flood hazard operations and procedures. This plan will be furnished to you when adopted later this spring.

Please consider this letter as a formal request for an extension of time for submission of data covering the above listed levees until the Corps studies have been completed. Upon receipt of the study reports the City will then transmit same to FEMA.

We look forward to hearing from you and working with you.

Very Truly Yours,

Anne Rudin  
Mayor

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