



11.1

DEPARTMENT OF
UTILITIES
FIELD SERVICES

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

5770 FREEPORT BLVD.
SUITE 100
SACRAMENTO, CA
95822-2911

APPROVED
BY THE CITY COUNCIL

March 25, 1998

MAR 31 1998

PH 916-433-6318
FAX 916-433-6652

OFFICE OF THE
CITY CLERK

City Council
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

**SUBJECT: CITY ADOPTION OF SAFCA RESOLUTION 98-016 IDENTIFYING THE
LOCALLY PREFERRED NEXT STEP FOR FLOOD CONTROL MEASURES
ALONG THE AMERICAN RIVER**

LOCATION AND COUNCIL DISTRICT: City-wide

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the City Council approve the attached resolution adopting the Sacramento Area Flood Control's (SAFCA's) resolution which identifies the Folsom Dam and downstream levee modifications plan as the City's locally preferred next step plan for flood control measures along the American River.

CONTACT PERSON:

Albert E. McCollam, Jr., Field Services Division Manager,
433-6645

Butch Hodgkins, Executive Director, SAFCA
874-8730

FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF: March 31, 1998

City Council
March 31, 1998
Locally Preferred Next Step Flood
Control Measures Along the American River

SUMMARY:

On March 19, 1998, the Board of Directors of SAFCA (SAFCA Board) approved the attached SAFCA resolution (Resolution 98-016) identifying the Folsom Dam and downstream levee modifications plan as the locally preferred next step for flood control on the American River. Since this plan would provide the City with the highest obtainable level of protection, staff recommends the City Council adopt the SAFCA resolution as the City's preferred alternative for providing increased flood protection along the American River.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION ACTION:

None.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

SAFCA evaluated all of the flood control alternatives identified by the Corps of Engineers in their March 1996 Supplemental Information Report on the American River Watershed Project. This evaluation is discussed in detail in SAFCA's report dated February 1998 and titled "Next Steps for the American River." SAFCA's Board evaluated the alternatives at a special public workshop held on February 19, 1998. On March 9, 1998, by a nine-to-four vote, the SAFCA Board adopted a motion to pass Resolution 98-016 at the SAFCA Board's regular March meeting. On March 19, 1998, SAFCA's Board adopted the resolution with a ten-to-two vote. The alternatives which the SAFCA Board evaluated are:

1. Auburn Dam alternative (400-year level of protection): This alternative would give the City the highest level of protection and would maintain approximately 894,000 acre feet of flood control reservation at Auburn during the flood season. It would require no modifications to Folsom Dam or modifications to the downstream levees. However, this alternative was defeated in Congress in 1992 and 1996; and staff believes the dam is still not politically accomplishable in the near future.
2. Folsom Dam Modifications (110-year level of protection): The modifications to Folsom Dam would allow more effective operation of the dam by combinations of improving the outlet works and surcharge storage. These modifications, however, would not improve the downstream levee carrying capacity of the American River or the Yolo Bypass; and therefore, Folsom Dam releases would be maintained at present design flow releases of 115,000 cubic feet per second. The frequently changing hydrology and what appears to be

City Council
March 31, 1998
Locally Preferred Next Step Flood
Control Measures Along the American River

a wetter trend on the American River demonstrates that this alternative would not allow Folsom Dam to be operated in a manner that would evacuate enough water early in the storms to maintain adequate flood control space during large and long duration storms. Politically this alternative is the least controversial project, but it offers the lowest level of protection of the three alternatives; therefore, staff does not recommend it as the preferred project.

3. Folsom Modifications with Downstream Levee Improvements (150-year level of protection): This alternative consists of the same modifications to Folsom Dam as listed above but would also improve the downstream levees so that higher flows could be safely transported past the City and down the Yolo Bypass. The Sacramento Weir would be widened and the levees along the American Rivers and the Yolo Bypass would be raised and improved to handle the higher flows. Because this project would provide Sacramento with the highest attainable level of flood protection, staff recommends this project be approved as the locally preferred next step plan for flood control along the American River.

The City's and SAFCA's flood control goal is to obtain a 200-year or greater level of protection for Sacramento. Currently only a detention facility at Auburn, would achieve this goal. However, Folsom Dam modifications with downstream levee improvements appears to offer the highest level of protection we can reasonably expect to achieve at this time. In order to demonstrate strong local support for SAFCA's recommended next step project on the American River, staff recommends the City Council adopt the attached resolution endorsing modifications to Folsom Dam and the downstream levees system, as set forth in SAFCA Resolution 98-016, as the City's locally preferred next step for flood control along the American River.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

None.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION:

Final project environmental documentation will be prepared by the Corps of Engineers and the State of California, with SAFCA assistance if the next step project is authorized by the Congress.

City Council
March 31, 1998
Locally Preferred Next Step Flood
Control Measures Along the American River

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:

City support of SAFCA projects is consistent with past policies.

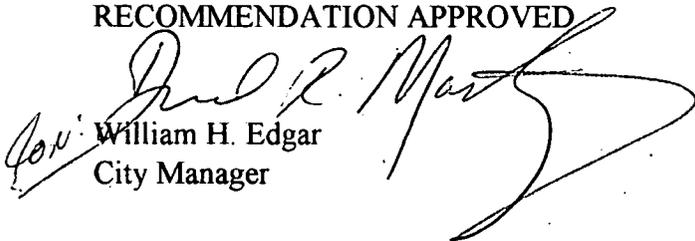
MBE/WBE:

Design and construction activities will be performed by the Corps of Engineers and will be consistent with Federal procurement policies and procedures.

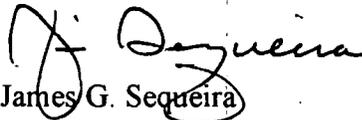
Respectfully submitted,


Albert E. McCollam, Jr., Manager
Field Services Division

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED


William H. Edgar
City Manager

APPROVED


James G. Sequeira
Director of Utilities.

APPROVED
BY THE CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 98-111

ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL

MAR 31 1998

ON DATE OF _____

OFFICE OF THE
CITY CLERK

**IDENTIFYING FOLSOM DAM MODIFICATIONS AND
DOWNSTREAM LEVEE IMPROVEMENTS AS THE LOCALLY
PREFERRED NEXT STEP FOR FLOOD CONTROL ALONG THE
AMERICAN RIVER**

WHEREAS, up to 400,000 people and \$30 billion in property are at risk of flooding in the Sacramento region; and

WHEREAS, serious shortcomings remain in the area's flood control defense system; and

WHEREAS, the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has determined that because of the revised hydrology, the level of protection provided to Sacramento by the existing American River flood control system has dropped from 100-year to 77-year; and

WHEREAS, during its forthcoming legislative session, Congress may consider authorizing additional improvements to Sacramento's flood control system as part of the 1998 Water Resources Development Act; and

WHEREAS, the City Council remains committed to the immediate goal of providing timely flood protection along the American River; and

WHEREAS, the City Council believes this goal could be fulfilled most effectively at this point by proceeding with the combination of modifications to Folsom Dam and improvements to increase the design capacity of the American River and downstream levee system; and

WHEREAS, the demands of the federal legislative process make it essential that the City communicate its views directly to Congress regarding of the City's preferred next step for flood control along the American River.

FOR CITY CLERK USE ONLY

RESOLUTION NO. _____

DATE ADOPTED: _____

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL THAT:

The City adopts the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency's resolution number 98-016 (attached) which identifies the Folsom Dam modifications and downstream levee improvements as the locally preferred next step for providing increased flood control for the City of Sacramento along the American River.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

FOR CITY CLERK USE ONLY

RESOLUTION NO. _____

DATE ADOPTED: _____

RESOLUTION NO. 98-016 (Revised)
Adopted by the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency

**IDENTIFYING THE LOCALLY PREFERRED NEXT STEP FOR FLOOD CONTROL
ALONG THE AMERICAN RIVER**

WHEREAS, up to 400,000 people and \$30 billion worth of property are at risk of flooding in the Sacramento region; and

WHEREAS, significant progress has been made during the last eight years in securing federal, state and local support for flood control improvements including:

- Strengthening the Sacramento River levees
- Implementing a safer flood control operation at Folsom Reservoir
- Raising and strengthening levees protecting North Sacramento and Natomas
- Strengthening the American River levees

WHEREAS, in response to unified community and congressional support for 1997 flood control appropriations, Congress approved \$32.5 million in funding for the community's flood control needs; and

WHEREAS, this progress has been achieved through SAFCA's strategy of making incremental improvements which provide improved flood protection for as many people as possible as soon as possible; and

WHEREAS, despite this progress, serious shortcomings remain in the area's flood defense system; and

WHEREAS, these shortcomings were readily apparent during last winter's extraordinary flood/drought weather pattern which underscored the region's continuing vulnerability to conflicts between Folsom Reservoir dependent water, power, recreation, flood control and environmental interests, and which shortcomings triggered a major reassessment of the hydrology of the American River basin; and

WHEREAS, the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has determined that because of the revised hydrology, the level of flood protection provided to Sacramento by the existing American River flood control system has dropped from 100-year to 77-year; and

WHEREAS, because of the reduced level of flood protection, FEMA has determined that large portions of Sacramento will be placed in an AR flood zone, resulting in higher flood insurance costs and onerous construction restrictions for the bulk of the metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, during its forthcoming legislative session, Congress may consider authorizing additional improvements to Sacramento's flood control system as part of the 1998 Water Resources Development Act; and

WHEREAS, in anticipation of such Congressional action, the SAFCA Board has held a series of public meetings to consider measures that would increase the flexibility of the existing flood control system, reduce the potential for regional conflict over reservoir dependent resources, and raise the level of flood protection afforded to the community; and

WHEREAS, these measures include:

- A flood control facility at Auburn;
- Structural improvements to Folsom Dam that would allow more efficient use of the reservoir storage space allocated to flood control by increasing the dam's outlet capacity and securing the "surcharge" storage space available for flood control near the top of the dam;
- Levee and related improvements that would increase the design capacity of the American River channel and the downstream bypass systems, thus permitting Folsom Dam operators to release a greater volume of water from the reservoir so as to preserve space for flood control storage;
- Changes in the variable space flood control operation at Folsom which would reduce the impact of this operation on other reservoir dependent resources and ensure that the same level of flood protection is provided regardless of the space available for flood control storage in upstream reservoirs; and

WHEREAS, under the revised hydrology for the American River basin, construction of a detention dam at Auburn is necessary to fulfill SAFCA's long-term goal of providing a high level of flood protection (200-year or greater) to the Sacramento area; and

WHEREAS, based on SAFCA's experience in 1992 and 1996, the SAFCA Board believes there is presently insufficient support in Congress to secure authorization for a dam at Auburn; and

WHEREAS, the Board remains committed to the more immediate goal of providing as much flood protection as possible as quickly as possible along the American River; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes this goal could be fulfilled most effectively at this point by proceeding with the combination of modifications to Folsom Dam and improvements to increase the design capacity of the American River and downstream levee system; and

WHEREAS, modifications to Folsom Dam and the downstream levee improvements will also reduce the risk of flooding to properties along the Sacramento River and the Yolo bypass; and

WHEREAS, the demands of the federal legislative process make it essential that SAFCA

communicate its views directly to Congress regarding the Agency's preferred next step for flood control along the American River.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SACRAMENTO AREA FLOOD CONTROL AGENCY:

1. As its 1998 next step project for providing improved flood protection along the American River, SAFCA will seek approval in the Water Resources Development Act of 1998 for the following actions:

a. Folsom Dam and Levee Modifications. Authorization for construction of the Folsom Dam and levee modifications substantially as described in the Corps' March 1996 Supplemental Information Report (1996 Report), with the understanding that, before work on the dam begins, the feasibility of (1) enlarging the dam's existing river outlets and constructing new river outlets below the dam's emergency spillway and (2) lowering the spillway and constructing the new river outlets below the dam's emergency spillway will be fully evaluated. The modifications to Folsom Dam described in the 1996 report may be revised provided that the revised plan is feasible and appropriately considers the flood control capabilities of the project, construction phasing issues, the time needed for construction, construction-related impacts, and whether a new bridge is constructed to replace the road on top of Folsom Dam.

b. Howe Avenue Bridge. Before proceeding with any work on the Howe Avenue Bridge, the Corps should fully evaluate the feasibility of maintaining the Howe Avenue Bridge at its current elevation or replacing the bridge as proposed by SAFCA's engineering consultants, in order to avoid or minimize construction related traffic impacts.

c. Downstream Levee Improvements. To the extent practicable, prior to initiating the improvements to the downstream bypass systems described in the 1996 Report, the Corps should ensure that the design of these improvements is consistent with the Corps' current comprehensive evaluation of the Sacramento River Flood Control Project and that mitigation measures are included in the project so as not to reduce the pre-project level of flood protection provided to any structures along the Sacramento River system.

2. Future Next Steps. The above-referenced dam and levee modifications will significantly reduce Sacramento's exposure to uncontrolled flooding; however, the risk of such flooding will remain unacceptably high given the potential for catastrophic loss of life and property. Accordingly, the Corps should be further authorized and directed to continue the ongoing American River Watershed Investigation and to report back to Congress within two years with recommendations on any additional measures that could be implemented to further reduce the flood risk.

3. Credit/Reimbursement. SAFCA should be entitled to receive credit or reimbursement for any planning and construction work performed by the Agency which is consistent with the work authorized by Congress and which is commenced prior to the Army Corps of Engineers receiving appropriations to

initiate construction of this work.

4. Variable Storage Space at Folsom. The Secretary of the Interior should be authorized and directed to carry out the following actions in connection with the ongoing variable storage space operation at Folsom Dam and Reservoir:

a. Cost Sharing. Ensure that as long as this operation continues, the Federal Government shall bear 75 percent of the costs incurred to replace any resulting loss of water and power resources.

b. Financing Plan. Develop and present to Congress, within two years, a long-term plan for financing the federal share of such water and power replacement costs.

c. Reduction in Variable Storage. Upon completion of the above-referenced modifications to Folsom Dam, reduce the space allocated to flood control under the variable storage space operation from 670,000 acre-feet to 600,000 acre-feet.

ON A MOTION BY Director Fargo, seconded by Director Johnson, the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, this 19th day of March, 1998, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: Directors: Christophel, Cohn, Dean, Dickinson, Fargo, Jennings, Johnson, Kerth, Macdonald, Whitney

NOES: Directors: Cox, Nottoli

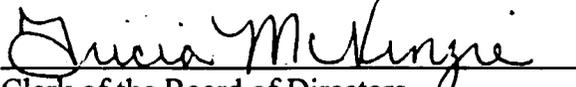
ABSTAIN: Directors: None

ABSENT: Directors: Akin


Chair of the Board of Directors of the
Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency

(SEAL)

ATTEST:


Clerk of the Board of Directors

11.1

From: Valerie Burrowes
To: Mary Lou Silva
Date: 3/24/98 10:27AM
Subject: AGENDA ITEM

The item in the evening under Staff Reports entitled: "Report on SAFCA decision" will not have a staff report here until Thursday. Go ahead and key it on the way it shows and put for R OF S: ADOPT RESOLUTION

They are going to have to hand-carry the report thru.

thanks