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FOR AGENDA OF: January 8, 1991

City Council  
Transportation and Finance Committee

Honorable Members in Session

SUBJECT: ORAL AND SLIDE PRESENTATION  
Re: STATUS REPORT REGARDING FLOOD CONTROL ACTIVITIES

SUMMARY:

This presentation will provide the Transportation and Finance Committee of the City Council with a status report of Sacramento area flood control efforts. Staff from the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) will offer five recommendations (attached) for consideration by the City staff and City Council in connection with the Director of Planning and Community Development's overall report on Natomas.

BACKGROUND:

The SAFCA staff will present a summary of flood control issues and their current status. Attachment I outlines the presentation. Attachment II is a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding local assurances which will ultimately have to be reviewed and considered by the City Council in connection with the flood control project. Attachment III is a list of recommendations for staff and Council consideration.

RECOMMENDATION:

This report is presented for information and referral only. No formal action is required at this time. However SAFCA staff does suggest that the attached recommendations be considered for further evaluation by City staff and future City Council actions.

Respectfully submitted,

*William H. Edgar*

WILLIAM H. EDGAR  
Executive Director

Attachments

# SACRAMENTO AREA FLOOD CONTROL AGENCY

Attachment I

## FLOOD CONTROL STATUS CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE PRESENTATION Tuesday, January 8, 1991 2:00 P.M.

- I. OVERVIEW OF FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT -- Bill Edgar
  - A. Explanation of How the Current System Works
  - B. Description of Problems
  - C. Description of Response
  - D. Implementation Strategy
  - E. Schedule
  - F. Effect of the Flood Control project on North Natomas
  
- II. PROJECT ISSUES -- Bill Edgar
  - A. Relationship of the Flood Control project to the Authorized Multipurpose Auburn Dam.
  - B. Level of Flood Protection - 200 to 400 Year Level
  - C. Protection for the Natomas Basin
  - D. Mitigation of Growth Inducing Impacts
  
- III. POLICY GUIDANCE NEEDED FROM THE CITY COUNCIL -- Tim Washburn
  - A. Memorandum of Understanding.
  - B. Recommendations. SAFCA offers the following recommendations for City Council action on the matters raised in the MOU.

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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
REGARDING LOCAL ASSURANCES

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) is the product of a series of discussions held between staff representatives of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (hereinafter referred to as the "Corps"), the California State Department of Water Resources and Reclamation Board (hereinafter referred to as the "State"), the City of Sacramento, the County of Sacramento, the County of Sutter, (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Local Agencies"), and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA)

RECITALS

1. The Corps and the State are preparing a feasibility study and joint environmental impact report/environmental impact statement (EIR/EIS) for flood control measures in the Sacramento metropolitan area. The purpose of these measures is to reduce potential flood damages during major storm events. The study recommends construction of appropriate works to reduce flood damages along the American River and in the Natomas area.

2. Prior to commencing the feasibility study, the Corps completed a reconnaissance study titled "American River Watershed Investigation, California." This study was undertaken primarily in response to the near disastrous flooding in the Sacramento area in February, 1986. The study concluded that the area had significantly less flood protection than previously believed and that, as a result, large parts of the City and County of Sacramento and the entire Natomas basin lie within the 100-year flood plain.

3. SAFCA and the State are sharing in the cost of the feasibility study and joint EIR/EIS, and will act as the non-federal sponsors of the flood control project authorized by Congress.

4. Because of the severity of the threat of major flooding to large areas of metropolitan Sacramento, the feasibility study concentrates on alternatives designed to provide high levels of flood protection (i.e., greater than about 200 years). Along the mainstem of the American River, the study focuses on a flood control only dam at or near the existing Auburn Dam site, constructed so as not to preclude future expansion into a larger multipurpose reservoir. For the Natomas area, the study primarily examines measures for enlarging and improving existing levees.

5. The parties agree that without construction of the project, development in areas of the 100-year floodplain, including Natomas, could be severely constrained. In effect, the project is needed to permit the Local Agencies to continue the orderly development of these areas in accordance with their respective development plans. Construction of the project may thus be deemed to induce growth and to indirectly cause the environmental impacts associated with such growth.

6. The parties are particularly concerned about the growth anticipated to occur in the Natomas area and the potential adverse impacts of this growth in five natural resource areas currently protected under federal and state law. These resource areas are cultural resources, wetlands, fish and wildlife resources, endangered species, and air quality.

7. Prior environmental documents prepared by the Local Agencies in connection with their development plans have evaluated the impacts of anticipated growth in Natomas on these resources, and a series of mitigation measures have been adopted. However, the parties recognize that some of the analysis contained in these documents must be updated to incorporate new information on growth-related impacts. As a result, the responsible federal and state resource agencies may recommend that mitigation measures in addition to those already adopted be undertaken by the Local Agencies.

8. Furthermore, the parties recognize that the project has the potential to induce growth in the Natomas area beyond the levels currently anticipated. Existing Local Agency plans project development to the year 2010 and anticipate that approximately one-third (1/3) of Natomas will be urbanized as of that date. However, current population projections suggest that growth beyond these parameters may occur, particularly if the project provides flood protection to the entire Natomas basin. The timing, extent and character of this growth, while dependent on flood control, will also be affected by future demographic, social, attitudinal, environmental and technological trends which cannot be fully anticipated at this time. Accordingly, it is presently impossible to specify the adverse environmental impacts which may result from this growth. Therefore, the parties agree that the potential for such adverse impacts may be best addressed by obtaining reasonable assurances from the Local Agencies as to how these impacts will be managed if and when they occur.

9. The purpose of this MOU is to provide a statement of these reasonable assurances.

#### ASSURANCES

1. Cultural and Historical Preservation. The parties are mutually committed to the preservation of historic sites, buildings and objects of cultural, historical and archeological significance in the Natomas area. In order to carry out this commitment, the parties agree that prior to any Congressional authorization of the project, a programmatic agreement will be executed by and among the Local Agencies, the Corps, the State, the State Historic Preservation office, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) and all other interested parties in accordance with applicable regulations established by the ACHP under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This agreement will set forth the procedures which the Local Agencies will follow in identifying and evaluating the historic properties and archeological sites requiring preservation, and will lead toward the adoption, prior to the start of project construction, of a management plan for these properties and sites.

2. Wetlands. The parties recognize the importance of the social, economic, environmental, and ecological values provided by wetlands. Accordingly, the Local Agencies agree to implement or insure implementation of all requirements imposed by the Corps in regulating the use of Natomas area wetlands which are protected under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Furthermore, each Local Agency will use its best efforts to adopt, prior to any Congressional authorization of the project, a "no net loss of wetland acreage or values" policy for the Natomas area. This policy will apply to all naturally or naturalistically occurring wetlands in Natomas, but not to artificially created seasonal wetlands such as rice fields. Under this policy, each Local Agency, to the extent permitted by law, will avoid approval of any new development located in a locally protected wetland, unless there is no practical alternative to such development, in which case the Local Agency will require mitigation and/or compensation as a condition of project approval.

3. Fish and Wildlife Resources. The parties are mutually committed to the conservation of fish and wildlife resources in the Natomas area. It is recognized that urban growth in Natomas, as anticipated under existing Local Agency plans, and as may occur beyond the lands currently designated for urbanization, could adversely affect fish and wildlife resources in the area. Accordingly, in connection with all future development in Natomas, the Local Agencies will evaluate impacts to fish and wildlife resources on a project-by-project basis and consider appropriate mitigation measures consistent with CEQA and NEPA requirements.

4. Endangered Species. The parties are committed to protecting all habitat which may be deemed essential to the existence of any Federal or State listed species in the Natomas area. Accordingly, each Local Agency, to the extent required by law, will insure that no new project in the Natomas area will jeopardize the continued existence of any Federal or State listed species by destroying or adversely modifying habitat which is determined to be essential to such species. If it is determined that a project could destroy or adversely modify essential habitat, the Local Agency will develop an appropriate mitigation plan for adoption as part of the project approval.

5. Air Quality. The parties are mutually committed to the attainment and maintenance of adopted federal and state ambient air quality standards in the Sacramento region, and recognize that the region does not presently meet these standards. In Sacramento County, the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District ("AQMD") has been formed to develop, adopt and maintain regional control programs for mobile sources and indirect sources of air pollution, in addition to strengthening traditional stationary source controls. The Sutter County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) serves a similar function in Sutter County. The AQMD and the APCD are developing plans, in cooperation with other public agencies, and with full participation of the public at large, to satisfy adopted federal and state air quality standards.

With full recognition of the adverse effects of polluted, unhealthy air on the citizenry, agriculture, tourism, business, economic growth, and the general quality of life in the Sacramento area, the Local Agencies will:

a. Support the efforts of the AQMD and the APCD to reduce regional emissions at a rate of 5% per year from the base year of 1987, as required under Section 40914 of the California Health and Safety Code, until state ambient air quality standards are achieved; and to maintain these standards thereafter.

b. Complement AQMD and APCD efforts to achieve healthful air with their own policies, programs and decisions.

c. Recognize and support the authority of the AQMD and APCD in controlling sources of emissions.

d. Coordinate land use and transportation planning with the pollution control efforts of AQMD and the APCD in order to minimize conflicting plans, policies and programs.

e. Participate, to the extent possible, in non-regulatory AQMD and APCD programs such as public education, surveys, studies and elements of the clean burning fuels program, among others.

f. Coordinate with other public agencies, business, and others in seeking regional consistency and equity in attaining and maintaining adopted federal and state air quality standards.

g. Recognize the direct and indirect, potential and real, adverse impacts on air quality of Local Agency land use and transportation planning decisions, and cooperate with the AQMD and APCD in mitigating and offsetting such adverse impacts.

h. Provide and encourage alternative technology and programs that result in less dependence on public actions which contribute to high levels of air pollution.

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SAFCA RECOMMENDATIONS

SAFCA offers the following recommendations for City staff and City Council consideration and action in connection with the City Planning Director's report back on North Natomas:

1. MOU. The City Council should communicate to SAFCA its willingness in principle to execute an agreement along the lines of the MOU prepared by staff.
2. Cultural Resources. The City should enter into an agreement with the State Historic Preservation Office and other interested parties to identify and preserve historic sites in the Natomas Basin.
3. Jurisdictional Wetlands. The City should take all necessary steps to implement a "no net loss" of jurisdictional wetlands policy with respect to future development in Natomas.
4. Endangered Species. The City should participate with other local jurisdictions in designing and funding a study to evaluate the nesting and foraging needs of the Swainson's Hawks in the Natomas area and to explore potential preservation strategies.
5. Rice Fields. The City should consider feasible measures to mitigate for the loss of wildlife habitat associated with rice fields that may be converted to urban uses as part of the North Natomas Community Plan.