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DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC WORKS  
  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

CITY OF SACRAMENTO  
CALIFORNIA

CITY HALL  
ROOM 207  
915 I STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA  
95814-2673

916-449-5283

ADMINISTRATION  
916-449-8747

February 19, 1991

Budget and Finance/Transportation  
and Community Development Committee  
Sacramento, California

HONORABLE MEMBERS IN SESSION:

SUBJECT:     **RECOMMENDATION TO SUPPORT A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR A MULTI-PURPOSE DAM AT  
AUBURN**

**SUMMARY**

This report recommends that the Budget and Finance/Transportation and Community Development Committees support sending a letter to the United States Bureau of Reclamation requesting that it proceed with a feasibility study for a multi-purpose dam at Auburn. Public Works Department and Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency staff agree that such a study is a necessary step in building consensus for proceeding with a flood control only dam. In sending the letter, the City would agree to participate in negotiations regarding a scope of work, schedule, and local cost sharing agreement for the study. Due to the need to convey support for the study to the Bureau as soon as possible, this report has been scheduled for City Council consideration on February 19, 1991. The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors agreed to support the study at its February 5, 1991 meeting.

**BACKGROUND**

Background information regarding the recommended action is contained in the attached report to the City Council.

**FINANCIAL**

Financial information is included in the attached report to the City Council.

**MBE/WBE**

There are no goods or services being purchased.

**POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

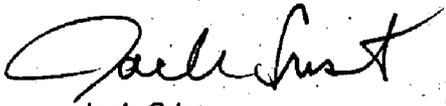
Support for the completion of a feasibility study on a multi-purpose dam is necessary to achieve the flood protection goals established previously by the City Council.

February 19, 1991  
Budget and Finance/Transportation  
and Community Development Committee

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Joint Committee forward this report to the City Council with a recommendation that the City Manager be authorized to send a letter to the United States Bureau of Reclamation requesting that it proceed with a feasibility study for a multi-purpose dam at Auburn.

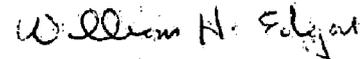
Approved:



Jack Crist  
Deputy City Manager

Contact Person: Bill Edgar, 440-7606

Respectfully submitted,



William H. Edgar  
Executive Director, SAFCA

Respectfully submitted,



Melvin H. Johnson  
Director of Public Works

February 19, 1991  
All Districts



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February 19, 1991

City Council  
Sacramento, California

HONORABLE MEMBERS IN SESSION:

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION TO SUPPORT A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR A MULTI-PURPOSE DAM AT  
AUBURN

SUMMARY

This report recommends that the City Council authorize the City Manager to send a letter to the Bureau of Reclamation requesting that it proceed with a feasibility study for a multi-purpose dam at Auburn. Public Works Department and SAFCA staff agree that such a study is a necessary step in building consensus for proceeding with an expandable flood control only dam. In sending the letter, the City would agree to participate in negotiations regarding a scope of work, schedule, and local cost sharing agreement for the study. The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors agreed to support the study at its February 5, 1991 meeting. This report was discussed by the Joint Budget and Finance/ Transportation and Community Development Committee at its February 19, 1991 meeting.

BACKGROUND

In February of 1986, major storms in Northern California caused record flood flows in the American River Basin. As a result of the 1986 storms, the Army Corps of Engineers reevaluated its flood data and concluded that Folsom Dam was only capable of handling a 63-year storm event. This information about the low level of existing flood protection underscored the need for a regional flood control solution and a regional agency to coordinate flood control planning.

The City and County of Sacramento responded by forming the Office of Flood Control Planning, which they jointly funded. Subsequently, the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) was formed. SAFCA is a joint powers agency consisting of the City and County of Sacramento, Reclamation District 1000, the American River Flood Control District, and Sutter County. In addition to providing a coordinated planning effort, SAFCA assumed the responsibility of providing local assurances and participating in cost sharing for a project which will ultimately provide at least 200-year flood protection.

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The 1986 storms also prompted a series of hearings sponsored by Sacramento area Congressmen Vic Fazio and Robert Matsui. The Army Corps of Engineers undertook a series of studies to identify the level of flood protection provided by the existing system and to determine what improvements and new projects would be necessary to provide higher levels of protection. In January of 1988, the Corps published the results of their analysis in the reconnaissance report titled "American River Watershed Investigation." The report concluded that if high levels of flood protection were to be realized, certain levees would have to be raised and additional upstream storage would have to be developed on the American River.

After considering the studies prepared by the Corps, the SAFCA Board of Directors agreed to support the construction of a flood control only facility at Auburn. This action was taken in recognition of Sacramento's pressing need for flood control, even though the debate over a future multi-purpose facility has yet to be resolved. A key element in obtaining federal authorization for any project is the local area's ability to demonstrate consensus. The continuing discussions about the feasibility of a multi-purpose project are being perceived as indicators of dissension and disunity among the local agencies. By supporting a further study designed to evaluate the feasibility of a multi-purpose dam, the City can help to secure the consensus, which is essential to proceeding with the flood control project.

The 1991 Energy and Water Appropriations Act included an authorization of \$250,000 for the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) to prepare a feasibility and environmental impact study on a multi-purpose dam at Auburn. The Congressional Conference Report on the legislation requires that the study be done to the same standards as the Army Corps of Engineers flood control studies, that it not delay the flood control project, and that it be completed in time for Congressional consideration in 1992.

The USBR has indicated that it cannot complete a study of this depth and detail within the time frame allowed by Congress, and the cost of such a study would exceed the authorized amount. The Bureau has proposed an abbreviated study instead.

Sacramento County, the Sacramento Area Water Authority, San Joaquin County, the City of Folsom, and the American River Authority have been engaged in discussions regarding the Auburn Dam. (The American River Authority (ARA) is a joint powers agency composed of Placer and El Dorado Counties and the Placer and El Dorado County Water Agencies. ARA was created in 1982 to support development of a multi-purpose facility at Auburn.) These agencies have a shared interest in the potential additional water supplies, which would become available if the dam were to be built. Following several discussions, these agencies have concluded that their best interests are served by completion of the full feasibility studies, in compliance with congressional mandates:

The City is fortunate in that we have sufficient water rights to meet our needs into the foreseeable future, so we do not share the interest of these other agencies in obtaining additional reliable water supplies. However, we do have a vital interest in obtaining enhanced flood protection for the Sacramento area. Construction of an upstream flood control dam is an essential component in providing 200-year flood protection. If the flood control project is to proceed, we must demonstrate to Congress and the Bureau that we have achieved local consensus. The completion of the feasibility study is a necessary step toward that consensus. Therefore, this report recommends that the City join other local agencies in requesting that the USBR proceed with the Congressionally mandated study.

February 19, 1991  
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**FINANCIAL**

Congress authorized \$250,000 for the feasibility study, to be matched with \$250,000 in local funds. This amount will be shared among the local sponsoring agencies, including the City.

**MBE/WBE**

There are no goods or services being purchased.

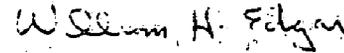
**POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

Support for the completion of the feasibility study is necessary to achieve the flood protection goals previously established by the City Council.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the City Manager to send the attached letter to the United States Bureau of Reclamation requesting that it proceed with a feasibility study for a multi-purpose dam at Auburn.

Respectfully submitted,

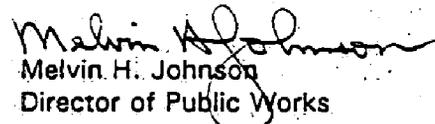


William H. Edgar  
Executive Director, SAFCA

Approved:

Respectfully submitted,

Walter J. Slipe  
City Manager



Melvin H. Johnson  
Director of Public Works

Contact Person: Bill Edgar, 440-7606

February 19, 1991  
All Districts

# Sacramento Area Water Authority

## Jnt Powers Authority

6 February 1991

Gerald E. Schwartz  
Chairman

Gene Robinson  
General Manager

Joseph H. Sullivan  
Executive Director

Mr. Lawrence F. Hancock  
Regional Director, Mid-Pacific Region  
Bureau of Reclamation  
2800 Cottage Way  
Sacramento, California 95825

## Members

City of Folsom

Carmichael  
Water District

Citrus Heights  
Irrigation District

Clay Water District

Fair Oaks  
Water District

Galt Irrigation  
District

Northridge  
Water District

Orochumne - Hartnell  
Water District

Rancho Marieta  
Community Services  
District

Rio Linda  
Water District

San Juan Suburban  
Water District

## Associate Member

Orangevale Mutual  
Water Company

Dear Mr. Hancock:

We are writing to formally request that the Bureau of Reclamation proceed forthwith with a feasibility study for a multipurpose Auburn project as recently authorized by Congress. We are prepared to immediately undertake negotiations regarding a scope of work, schedule and cost-sharing agreement for such a study.

Time is critically important. The Corps of Engineers expects to complete its flood control project feasibility study in sufficient time to enable Congress to consider the authorization of a project in 1992. We believe such authorization is of the highest priority and therefore a multipurpose feasibility study should neither hinder nor delay enactment of legislation authorizing a flood control project. Neither do we believe that authorization of a flood control project should foreclose any future options at Auburn, including a multipurpose dam and reservoir project.

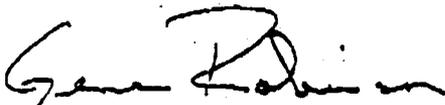
The multipurpose feasibility study must be thorough and in accordance with federal principles and guidelines which apply to such studies for any water resources project. The long term local interest in the construction of a multipurpose project will not be served by merely updating previous feasibility and environmental impact studies. The prospect of Congress authorizing a multipurpose project absent a study in accordance with applicable law is remote. It would be imprudent, therefore, to spend federal or local tax dollars and not be any closer to developing a genuine new water supply option.

It is our desire to proceed with a multipurpose feasibility study which includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the following tasks: (1) Identification of a planning area; (2) Inventory, forecast, and analysis of water and power resource conditions in the planning area (present and future); (3) Formulation of alternative plans; (4) Evaluation of the effects of alternative plans, including the effects on national economic development, environmental quality, regional economic development and other social effects; (5) Comparison of alternative plans, including differences, effectiveness, and monetary and non-monetary costs and benefits; (6) Determination of cost allocation; and (7) Selection of a recommended plan based on the comparison of alternative plans. The preparation and completion of environmental impact studies would necessarily follow.

It is imperative that a study management team be established which includes representatives of the Bureau, consultants, and all local agency sponsors. It is our desire that the direction of study tasks be fully coordinated by this team. Since the planning process will consist of a series of steps that identify or respond to problems and opportunities and involve the commitment of substantial local funds, it is our intent that progress be closely monitored and information shared among team members as it is developed. Of course, the cost-sharing agreement must provide for the termination of the study should such a decision be reached by the local agency sponsors.

We hope the above clarifies the overall scope of the feasibility study which we believe is needed to complete a multipurpose project. Our requests contained herein are consistent with the direction provided to your staff in mid-December. We welcome the opportunity to continue working with you and your staff in completing the necessary work at hand.

Sincerely,



GENE ROBINSON  
General Manager  
Sacramento Area Water Authority



DOUGLAS M. FRALEIGH  
Director, Department of Public Works  
Sacramento County