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SACRAMENTO FLOOD CONTROL
PLANNING

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February 14, 1989

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SACRAMENTO
METROPOLITAN
FLOOD PROTECTION
TASK FORCE

SACRAMENTO COUNTY

Grantland Johnson
Sandra Smoley

SACRAMENTO CITY

Anne Rudin
Lynn Robie

RECLAMATION DISTRICT
1000

Bill Christophel
Manuel Barandas

AMERICAN RIVER FLOOD
CONTROL DISTRICT

Jessie Ackless
Fred Steinkemp

Budget and Finance Committee
and Transportation Community
Development Committee of the
City Council
Sacramento, CA

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: Letter to U. S. Army Corps of Engineers -
Flood Control

SUMMARY

The attached report is submitted to you for review and
recommendation prior to consideration by the City
Council of the City of Sacramento.

RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends approval of the attached
resolution authorizing submittal of the letter.

Respectfully submitted,

William H. Edgar

WILLIAM H. EDGAR
Executive Director

DIRECTOR

William H. Edgar

TRANSMITTAL TO COMMITTEE:

Solon Wisham, Jr.

SOLON WISHAM, JR.
Assistant City Manager

Attachment

SACRAMENTO FLOOD CONTROL PLANNING

SACRAMENTO
METROPOLITAN
FLOOD PROTECTION
TASK FORCE

SACRAMENTO COUNTY

February 14, 1989

Grantland Johnson
Andrea Smoley

SACRAMENTO CITY

Gene Rudin
John Robie

DECLARATION DISTRICT
XX

Bill Christophel
Manuel Barandas

AMERICAN RIVER FLOOD
CONTROL DISTRICT

Miss R. Nickless
Edward Steinkemp

RECTOR

William H. Edgar

City Council of the
City of Sacramento
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session

SUBJECT: Letter to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

SUMMARY

The report identifies the need of the City Council to send a letter requesting that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers proceed with the design and construction of the stability improvements for 32 miles of levees in the Sacramento area.

BACKGROUND

On January 26, 1989, the Sacramento Flood Protection Task Force sent a letter to Brigadier General Patrick J. Kelly requesting that the Corps of Engineers immediately proceed with the design and construction of the stability improvements to 32 miles of federal project levees that protect the City of Sacramento and the greater Sacramento area. Attached is a draft of the letter the County of Sacramento should send in support of the levee improvements.

FINANCIAL DATA

The recommended action does not have a budgetary impact to local government.

2-14-89
All Districts

Temp. Location: 630 I St., Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 440-1333

SACRAMENTO FLOOD CONTROL PLANNING

City Council of the
City of Sacramento
February 14, 1989
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ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

There is no environmental review necessary for the recommended actions.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The proposed action is consistent with the direction the City Council has given to the City/County Flood Control Planning Office to improve flood control measures for the Sacramento area.

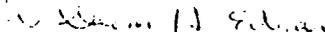
MBE/WBE

No impact.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of the attached resolution requesting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to proceed with the design and construction of the stability improvements for 32 miles of levees in the Sacramento area.

Respectfully submitted,



WILLIAM H. EDGAR
Executive Director

TRANSMITTAL TO COUNCIL:

WALTER J. SLIPE
City Manager

cc: Mel Johnson, City Public Works Director
Jim Jackson, City Attorney

RESOLUTION NO.

ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL ON DATE OF

February 14, 1989

LETTER TO THE U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
SACRAMENTO:

Section 1: The Mayor of the City of Sacramento is hereby authorized to sign a letter to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers requesting that the design and construction of the stability improvements for 32 miles of levees in the Sacramento area proceed as soon as possible.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

1100WPP2(250)

CITY OF SACRAMENTO

ANNE RUDIN

Mayor

City Hall

915 I Street, Room 205
Sacramento, California 95814
(916) 449-5407

February 14, 1989

Brigadier General Patrick J. Kelly
Director of Civil Works
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
20 Massachusetts Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20314-1000

Dear General Kelly:

The floods of 1986 prompted a study of the Sacramento River flood control system by the Sacramento District Corps of Engineers. The failure and subsequent flooding of Linda and near failure of levees protecting the City of Sacramento concerned all of us responsible for the integrity of this critical system. Therefore, the study was conducted by the Corps of Engineers to determine the adequacy of the existing levees protecting the City of Sacramento. Since the metropolitan area presented the greatest risk to loss of life and property, it was studied first.

The study was completed and the report, "Sacramento River Flood Control Systems Evaluation," was published in May 1988. This report is currently being reviewed by the office of the Chief of Engineers. The report concluded that 32 miles of federal project levees that protect the City of Sacramento and the greater Sacramento area are in need of repair and are unstable as constructed. Without stability the levees are not considered to provide an acceptable degree of protection to the citizens of our rapidly growing community.

Consequently, we are requesting that the Corps of Engineers immediately proceed with the design and construction of the stability improvements that will restore the ability of the levees to perform as originally designed. The stability improvements need to be completed in as short a time as possible since the threat to life and property is great.

Brigadier General Kelly
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We are now concerned, however, that the design and construction of the fixes to these levees appear at this time to be delayed even though funds were appropriated by the Congress in the FY 88-89 budget. Any further delay must be avoided since these levees protect the lives of some 350,000 people and \$16 billion in damageable public and private property. It should be pointed out that a levee failure in these levees could result in an average depth of flooding of 10 - 15 feet and that would completely submerge the majority of the single story residences in the inundated area. Unlike Linda, such an event in Sacramento would likely result in catastrophic loss of life.

After reviewing the Corps' May 1988 report, we believe the stability problems of the levees are not caused by inadequate operation and maintenance activities. On the contrary, we strongly believe the stability problems are latent deficiencies that have come to the forefront during the Corps' investigations. It is our opinion the defects are directly related to the materials and construction methods used to originally build the levees' embankment cross sections. Consequently we do not consider it appropriate for the stability improvements to be defined as operation and maintenance work which would be 100% non-federally funded.

It is our understanding there has been a policy in the past where the Corps funded all work necessary to bring completed works up to an acceptable standard. However, we understand the national deficit and the limited resources that are available for viable projects and in this light recommend the design and construction cost for the stability improvements be shared in accordance with the Water Resources Development Act of 1986. This would require the non-federal sponsor (the State Reclamation Board) to pay a minimum of 25% of the design and construction cost. We are willing to support the local sponsor, pay our fair share and proceed with a local cost sharing agreement with that intent. If it would help to complete the stability improvements in a more timely manner, we would be willing at this time to share the design costs.

We feel there is a Federal interest in bringing these project levees to an acceptable level of stability. The overall benefit to cost of 4.5-to-1 is favorable and consistent with the Corps' policy of supporting economically sound projects. This project also has strong local support and both the City and County are willing to help in any way in order that the stability improvements can be completed in as short a time frame as possible.

Brigadier General Kelly
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In closing, I would like to say the Sacramento District is doing an excellent job as usual and the new project management initiative seems to have merit, but only if we can keep projects funded and on schedule. We thank you in advance for your consideration and compliment the Corps on its positive efforts in customer care.

If you have any questions, please contact William H. Edgar, Executive Director of Office of City/County Flood Control Planning at (916) 440-1333.

Very truly yours,

MAYOR ANNE RUDIN
City of Sacramento

cc: Congressman Vic Fazio
Congressman Robert Matsui
Robert Page, Under Secretary of Army (Civil Works)
Lt. General John F. Sobkey, Division Commander, So. Pacific Div.
Lt. General Henry J. Hatch, Chief of Engineers
Colonel Jack A. LeCuyer, Commander Engineer, Sacramento District
Ray Barsh, Manager, State Reclamation Board