

**Meeting of the Central Valley Flood Protection Board
July 22, 2016**

Staff Report

**Lower Elkhorn Basin Levee Setback Project
Request to Initiate Project Review Pursuant to Title 33, USC Section 408**

1.0 – ITEM

Consider Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Board) approval of a letter (Attachment A) to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) pursuant to federal Title 33, USC Section 408 requesting initiation of, in cooperation with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and other federal agencies, a joint review of possible setback levees in the Lower Elkhorn Basin.

2.0 – PROJECT PROPONENT

California Department of Water Resources (DWR)

3.0 – PROJECT LOCATION

The Lower Elkhorn Basin Levee Setback Project includes the east levee of the Yolo Bypass from Interstate 5 to the Sacramento Bypass, and the north levee of the Sacramento Bypass (Attachment B) in Yolo County.

4.0 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this project is to reduce flood risk by increasing the capacity of the Yolo and Sacramento Bypasses. DWR is proposing to setback the 1.7 mile long north levee of the Sacramento Bypass, and up to six (6) miles of the east levee of the Yolo Bypass adjacent to the Lower Elkhorn Basin. Proposed work may include construction of new levees, partial and full degrade of existing levees, landside fill, installation of cutoff walls and seepage berms, installation of relief wells, modifications to impacted infrastructure (e.g. pumping plants, roads, and utilities), and/or construction of a landside toe access road. The alterations are also being considered under the American River Common Features Project and the Sacramento River GRR. The Board, on behalf of the State of California, anticipates seeking credit for the proposed under Section 221 of the Flood Control Act of 1970. Approval under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act is anticipated

to be required for the proposed work. The proposed project will require lands owned by the non-Federal sponsor, and will not require any lands owned by the USACE.

5.0 – STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends the Board:

- **Approve** the draft letter to the USACE; and
- **Direct** the Executive Officer to sign and send the letter to the USACE.

6.0 – LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- A. Draft Letter to the USACE
- B. Project Location Map

Document Preparation: David Pesavento, PE, Senior Engineer, DWR, Flood Projects Office
Joseph Bartlett, PE, Supervising Engineer, DWR, Flood Projects Office
Jeremy Arrich, PE, Principal Engineer, DWR, Flood Projects Office

Document Review: Eric Butler, PE, Plan Implementation and Compliance Branch Chief
Mitra Emami, PE, Acting Chief Engineer
Jit Dua, Board Counsel

CENTRAL VALLEY FLOOD PROTECTION BOARD

3310 El Camino Ave., Rm. 151
SACRAMENTO, CA 95821
(916) 574-0609 FAX: (916) 574-0682
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July 22, 2016

Colonel David Ray, District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Sacramento District
1325 J Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Request to Initiate Project Review pursuant to Title 33, USC Section 408 for the California Department of Water Resources Lower Elkhorn Basin Levee Setback Project

Dear Colonel Ray:

Pursuant to Title 33, USC Section 408 (Section 408) as described by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Engineering Circular 1165-2-216, §7c(2), the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has requested the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Board) staff to initiate the Section 408 process for the joint review of a possible levee setback project, the Lower Elkhorn Basin Levee Setback Project (hereafter referred to as the LEBLS Project) to setback the 1.7 mile long north levee of the Sacramento Bypass and up to six (6) miles of the east levee of the Yolo Bypass adjacent to the Lower Elkhorn Basin. The purpose of this project is to reduce flood risk by increasing the capacity of the Yolo and Sacramento Bypasses.

Proposed work may include construction of new levees, partial and full degrade of existing levees, landside fill, installation of cutoff walls and seepage berms, installation of relief wells, modifications to impacted infrastructure (e.g. pumping plants, roads, and utilities), and/or construction of a landside toe access road. The alterations are also being considered under the American River Common Features Project and the Sacramento River GRR. The Board, on behalf of the State of California, anticipates seeking credit for the proposed under Section 221 of the Flood Control Act of 1970. Approval under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act is also anticipated to be required for these proposed alterations.

Colonel David Ray
July 22, 2016
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The proposed project will require lands owned by the non-Federal sponsor, and will not require any lands owned by the USACE.

On behalf of DWR, the Board requests the USACE, in cooperation with DWR and other federal agencies, to initiate a joint review of possible alterations for the LEBLS Project. The Board, on behalf of DWR, will seek approval from the USACE to make necessary alterations to the levee system to achieve the project purpose.

Thank you for your attention to this request. We look forward to working with you, your staff, and the DWR staff on this project. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Mr. Eric Butler of my staff at (916) 574-0707 or by email at eric.butler@water.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Leslie Gallagher
Executive Officer

Enclosure: 33 USC § 408 Request from DWR dated July 11, 2016

cc: (via electronic file)

Mr. Eric Koch, acting Division Director
California Department of Water Resources
Division of Flood Management

Mr. Jeremy Arrich
California Department of Water Resources
Division of Flood Management, Flood Projects Office

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCESDIVISION OF FLOOD MANAGEMENT
P.O. BOX 219000
SACRAMENTO, CA 95821-9000

July 11, 2016

Ms. Leslie Gallagher, Executive Officer
Central Valley Flood Protection Board
3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 151
Sacramento, CA 95821

Subject: 33 USC § 408 Written Request for Lower Elkhorn Basin Levee Setback Project

Dear Ms. Gallagher,

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is seeking permission from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) pursuant to 33 USC § 408 (Section 408) for alteration of the Sacramento River Flood Control Project. We request your assistance in pursuing this permission by reviewing the enclosed documents and forwarding our request to the USACE Sacramento District.

DWR is proposing to setback the 1.7 mile long north levee of the Sacramento Bypass and up to six (6) miles of the east levee of the Yolo Bypass adjacent to the Lower Elkhorn Basin. Proposed work may include construction of new levees, partial and full degrade of existing levees, landside fill, installation of cutoff walls and seepage berms, installation of relief wells, modification of impacted infrastructure (e.g. pumping plants, roads, and utilities), and/or construction of a landside toe access road. The alterations are also being considered under the American River Common Features Project and the Sacramento River GRR. The State of California anticipates seeking credit for the proposed under Section 221 of the Flood Control Act of 1970. Approval under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act is anticipated to be required for the proposed work.

The proposed project will require the use of lands owned by the non-Federal sponsor. It will not require the use of lands owned by the USACE.

If you have any questions please contact Joe Bartlett of my staff at (916) 574-2395.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Arrich".

Jeremy Arrich
Chief, Flood Projects Office

