

CENTRAL VALLEY FLOOD PROTECTION BOARD

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SACRAMENTO, CA 95821
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March 25, 2011

Ms. Alicia Forsythe
Acting Program Manager
San Joaquin River Restoration Program
U. S. Bureau of Reclamation
2800 Cottage Way, MP-170
Sacramento, California 95825-1898

Dear Ms. Forsythe:

This is in response to your letter dated January 25, 2011 requesting participation by the Central Valley Flood Protection Board as a Cooperating Agency for the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement of the San Joaquin River Restoration Program projects. These projects are the Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Improvement Project and Reach 4B, Eastside Bypass and Mariposa Bypass Channel and Structural Improvements Project.

I regret to inform you that the Central Valley Flood Protection Board is unable to participate as a Cooperating Agency for the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement for the two projects. The decision was made by our Board after careful consideration of information provided by staff.

As a Cooperating Agency, the Board would have to commit the resources, meet schedules for input and review, identify potential areas of concern, provide data and input, and review relevant sections of environmental documents specific to our expertise. The Board has

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neither the staff nor the financial resources to fulfill the obligations and responsibilities of a cooperating agency. The Board has a very small staff and its budget has been reduced due to the current California budget crisis.

The Board will continue to cooperate with your agency as you prepare the environmental documentation and implement the settlement agreement. Please provide us with your draft environmental impact statement and other pertinent environmental documentation for Board review, as soon as they become available.

The Board will also continue to work with you to resolve matters concerning flood safety issues previously communicated to your agency. These matters include but are not limited to increased maintenance on our flood control system, the use of our flood easements to convey restoration flows, potential impacts to the integrity of our levees due to increased flows, and the potential introduction of endangered species and habitat into our flood control system.

If you have any questions concerning this matter please call me at (916) 574-0609, or you may call Dan S. Fua, Supervising Engineer, at (916) 574-0698.

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Sincerely,

Jay S. Punia
Executive Officer

cc: Ms. Paula Landis
Department of Water Resources
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Mr. Reggie Hill
Lower San Joaquin Levee District
11704 West Henry Miller Road
Dos Palos, CA 93620

Mr. Howard Brown, Sacramento Basin Chief
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National Marine Fisheries Service
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Ms. Kathy Wood, Assistant Field Supervisor
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2800 Cottage Way – W2605
Sacramento, California 95825-1846

Mr. John McCamman, Interim Director
California Department of Fish and Game
1416 9th Street
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