Meeting of the Central Valley Flood Protection Board June 24, 2011

Staff Report – Letter to USACE

West Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency South Basin Projects, Yolo County

<u> 1.0 – ITEM</u>

Consider approval of a letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), in cooperation with the West Sacramento Flood Control Agency (Agency), to initiate a joint review of the Southport Early Implementation Project (EIP) to comply with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

<u> 2.0 – PROJECT</u>

West Sacramento Levee Improvement Program – Southport EIP will evaluate flood risk reduction management measures that advance WSAFCA's goal of achieving a minimum level of 200-year flood protection for the entire City and will reduce the flood risk to the City of West Sacramento located in Yolo County.

3.0 - LOCATION

The Sacramento River West-South Levee extends approximately 6 miles along the right (west) bank of the Sacramento River west levee approximately 3 miles downstream of the American River Outfall from the Barge Canal to the South Cross Levee.

4.0 - DESCRIPTION

WSAFCA and the Corps are partnering on a study to further flood protection improvements for the City of West Sacramento The primary objective of the GRR is to determine the extent of Federal interest in reducing the flood risk within the study area while concurrently exploring opportunities to enhance recreation and the ecosystem along the Sacramento River within the study area.

The West Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (WSAFCA) in partnership with the State is working to implement flood risk reduction management projects that advance their goal of providing a minimum level of 200-year flood protection to the City of West Sacramento. In order to quickly reduce the risk to the citizens of West Sacramento and the State tax payers WSAFCA has partnered with the State of California Department of Water Resources to implement much needed levee improvements under the State's

early implementation program in advance of the USACE completing the General Re-Evaluation Report for the West Sacramento Project.

WSAFCA is working to complete 3 EIP projects in partnership with the State before the end of 2011. WSAFCA completed levee improvements on the I Street Bridge site in 2008. The Rivers and CHP Academy EIP projects are currently on schedule to be constructed in 2011. The Southport project has been identified as the next EIP project that will be advanced by WSAFCA in partnership with the State.

WSAFCA is seeking to develop a project specific EIS/EIR for the Southport EIP to analyze broad environmental effects of all corrective action projects along the Sacramento River West-South Levee. Initiation of the NEPA/CEQA process and allocation of resources by the Corps to support this effort is a critical step to achieve WSAFCA's goal to go to construction on the Southport EIP in 2013.

Because the Board is the State agency that provides the Corps assurance for operation and maintenance of project levees and its partner in the management of flood control in the Central Valley, the Corps looks to the Board for assistance and initial determination in considering any changes or alterations to the project flood control works proposed by other parties. The request for initiating the preparation of an EIS/EIR would come from the Board.

<u>5.0 – PROJECT BENEFITS</u>

There is an urgent need for the early implementation project because the City is subject to an unacceptably high risk of flooding that could cause a catastrophic loss of life and property. The levees evaluated as part of the West Sacramento Levee Improvement Program protect over 11,000 acres of mixed-use land in eastern Yolo County. It is estimated that this area has a current population of 50,220 residents. A failure of the perimeter levee system could cause very deep inundation of the area plans and cause a major loss of the property at risk.

When the WSLIP is fully implemented, the levee improvements will provide the City with a minimum level of 200-year flood protection. This will greatly reduce the risk of flooding to the City and reduce the liability to the State taxpayers that a large flood would cause widespread flooding of this urban area.

6.0 – ADDITIONAL STAFF ANALYSIS

The CVFPB previously approved a request to have the Corps act as the lead agency under NEPA for the WSLIP programmatic EIS/EIR. Based on feedback from the State of California WSAFCA modified the programmatic EIS/EIR to provide project specific

environmental compliance for the Rivers and CHP Academy projects. The change was made to provide additional time for the State of California and the USACE to come to a common understanding of how compliance with the USACE vegetation policy will be met in California. The Record of decision and 408 permission for the CHP and the Rivers EIS is expected to be issued in June 2011. A new request to the USACE to act as the lead agency under NEPA for the Southport EIP is now needed to ensure that WSAFCA can meet their aggressive schedule and initiate construction on the Southport EIP in 2013 and further reduce the risk of flooding in the City of West Sacramento.

7.0 – STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board approve sending the attached draft letter requesting the Corps to act as the lead agency under NEPA and initiate a joint review of the Southport EIP to comply with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and to delegate the authority to the Executive Officer to sign the letter.

8.0 – LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- A. Map of the City of West Sacramento EIP projects
- B. Draft Letter requesting the Corps to act as the lead agency under NEPA

CENTRAL VALLEY FLOOD PROTECTION BOARD

3310 El Camino Ave., Rm. 151 SACRAMENTO, CA 95821 (916) 574-0609 FAX: (916) 574-0682 PERMITS: (916) 574-2380 FAX: (916) 574-0682

June 14, 2011

Colonel William J. Leady U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 1325 J Street, 14th Floor Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Draft Letter for CVFPB Staff Consideration

Dear Colonel Leady:

The West Sacramento Flood Control Agency (Agency) is currently advancing the Portions of the West Sacramento Levee Improvement Program in partnership with the State under the Early Implementation Program. The City's levee system is part of the Sacramento River Flood Control Project.

On behalf of the Agency, the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Board) requests the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), in cooperation with the Agency, to initiate a joint review of the Southport EIP to comply with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Board is also requesting that the Corps act as the lead agency under NEPA. The Agency will serve as the lead agency under CEQA.

The goal of the WSLIP is to achieve a minimum level of 200-year flood protection for the City of West Sacramento. The Board, on behalf of the Agency, will seek approval from the USACE to make the necessary alterations to the levee system to achieve the goal.

Since the Section 2003 needs to be modified to include projects that were not addressed in the original Partnership Agreement.

If you have any questions, please contact Dan Fua, Supervising Engineer, at (916) 574-0698, or via email at dfua@water.ca.gov, or James Herota, Staff Environmental Scientist at (916) 574-0651, or via email at jherota@water.ca.gov.

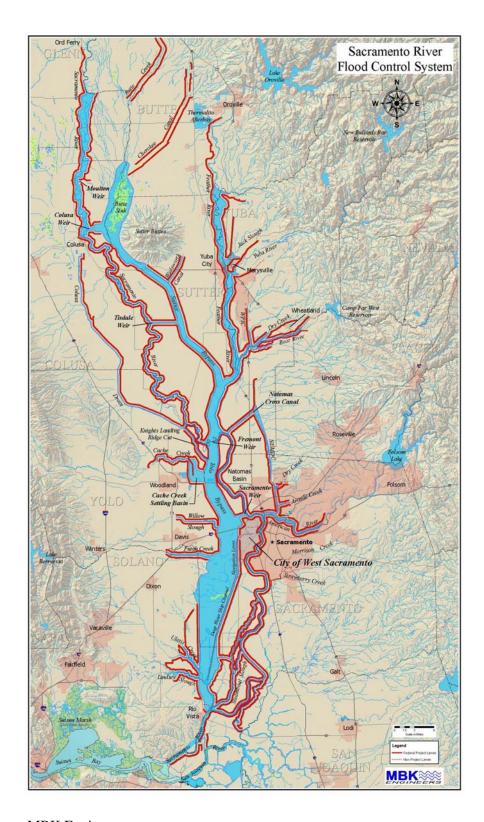
Sincerely,

Jay S. Punia Executive Officer

cc: Governor's Office of Planning and Research State Clearinghouse 1400 Tenth Street, Room 121 Sacramento, California 95814

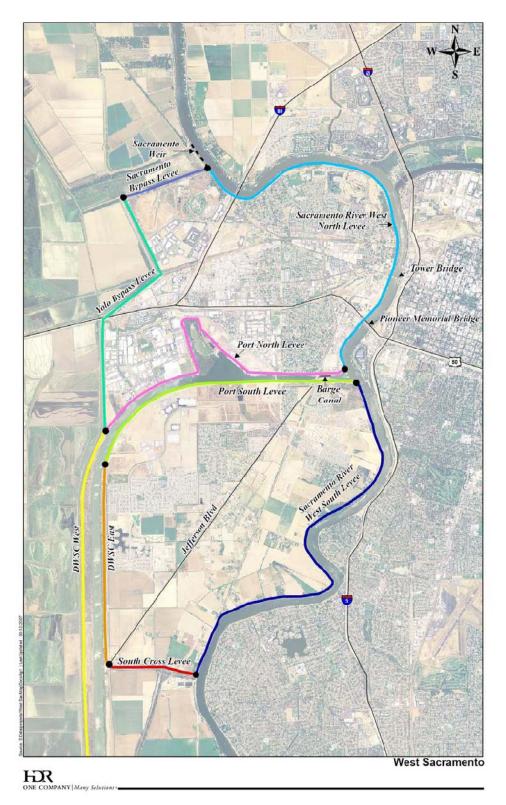


More detail on WSAFCA financial plan is provided in Section 5 of this report.



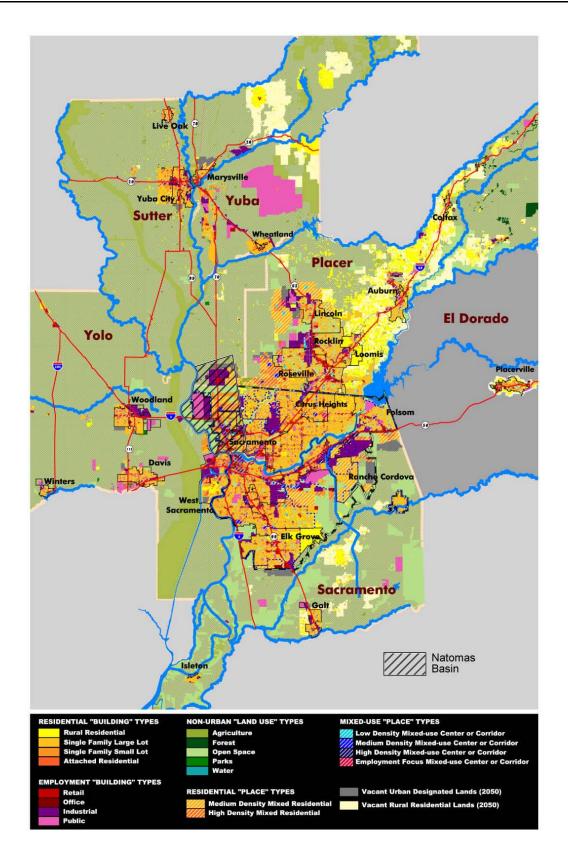
Source MBK Engineers

Plate 1: Sacramento River Flood Control Project & Project Location Map



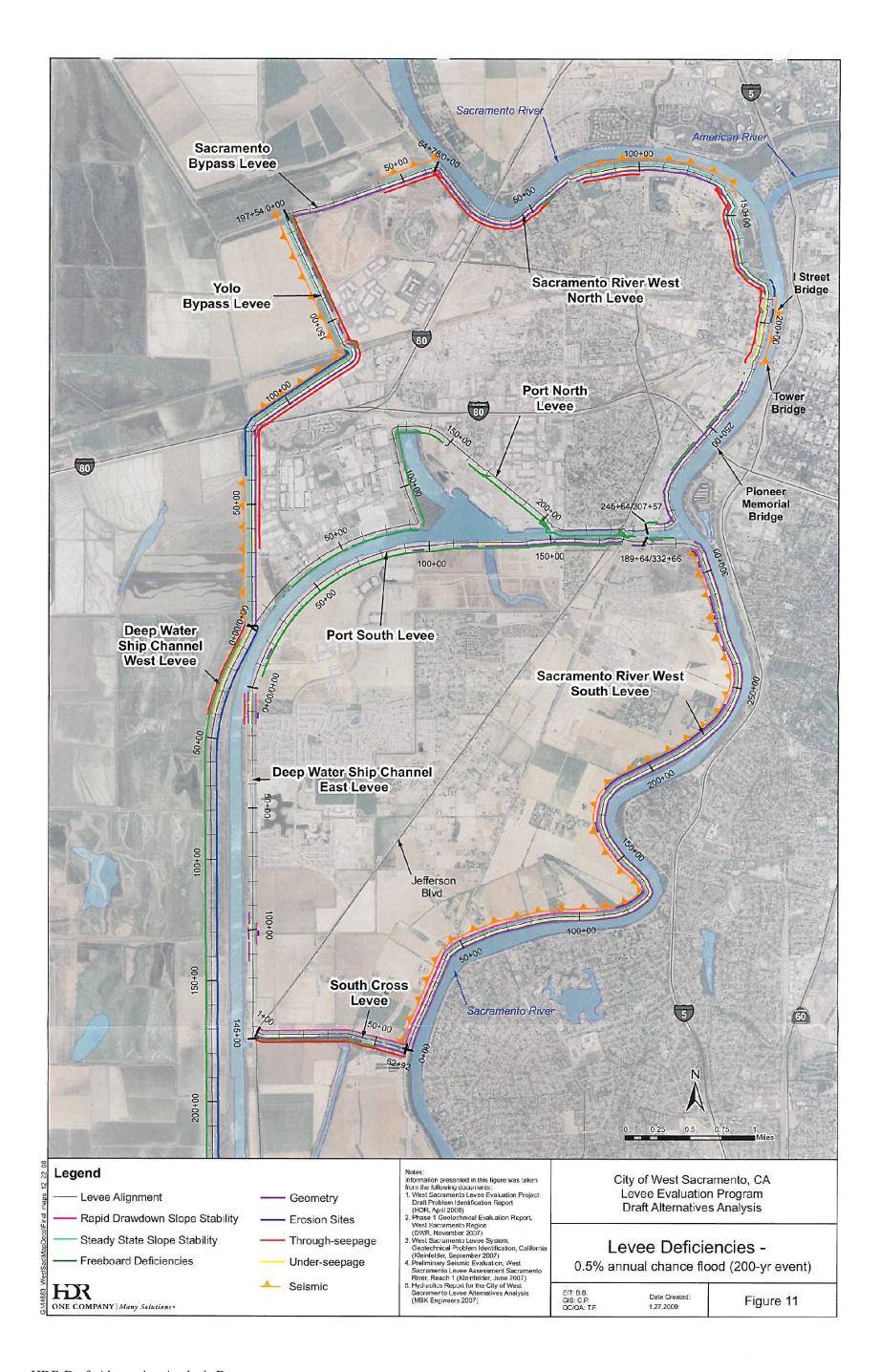
Source HDR Problem Identification Report

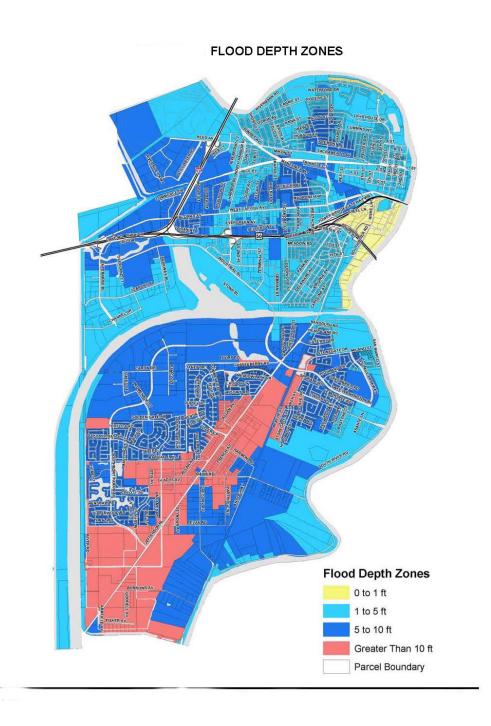
Plate 2: West Sacramento Levee Reaches



Source: SACOG and Valley Vision 2006, Sacramento Regional Blueprint

Plate 3: SACOG and Valley Vision 20006, Regional Blueprint Map





Source PB America WSAFCA Final Engineers Report, July 16, 2007

Plate 5: WSAFCA Flood Depth Zones (100-year event)

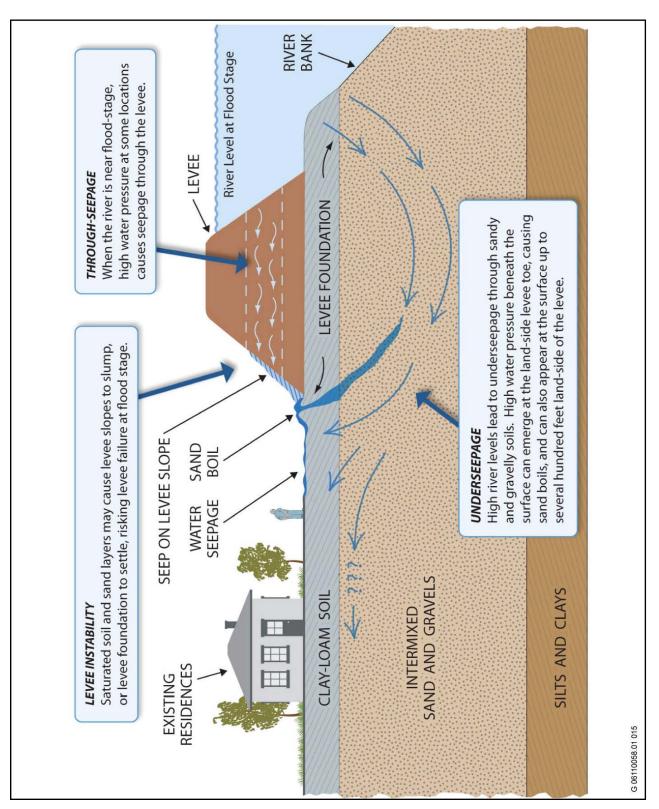
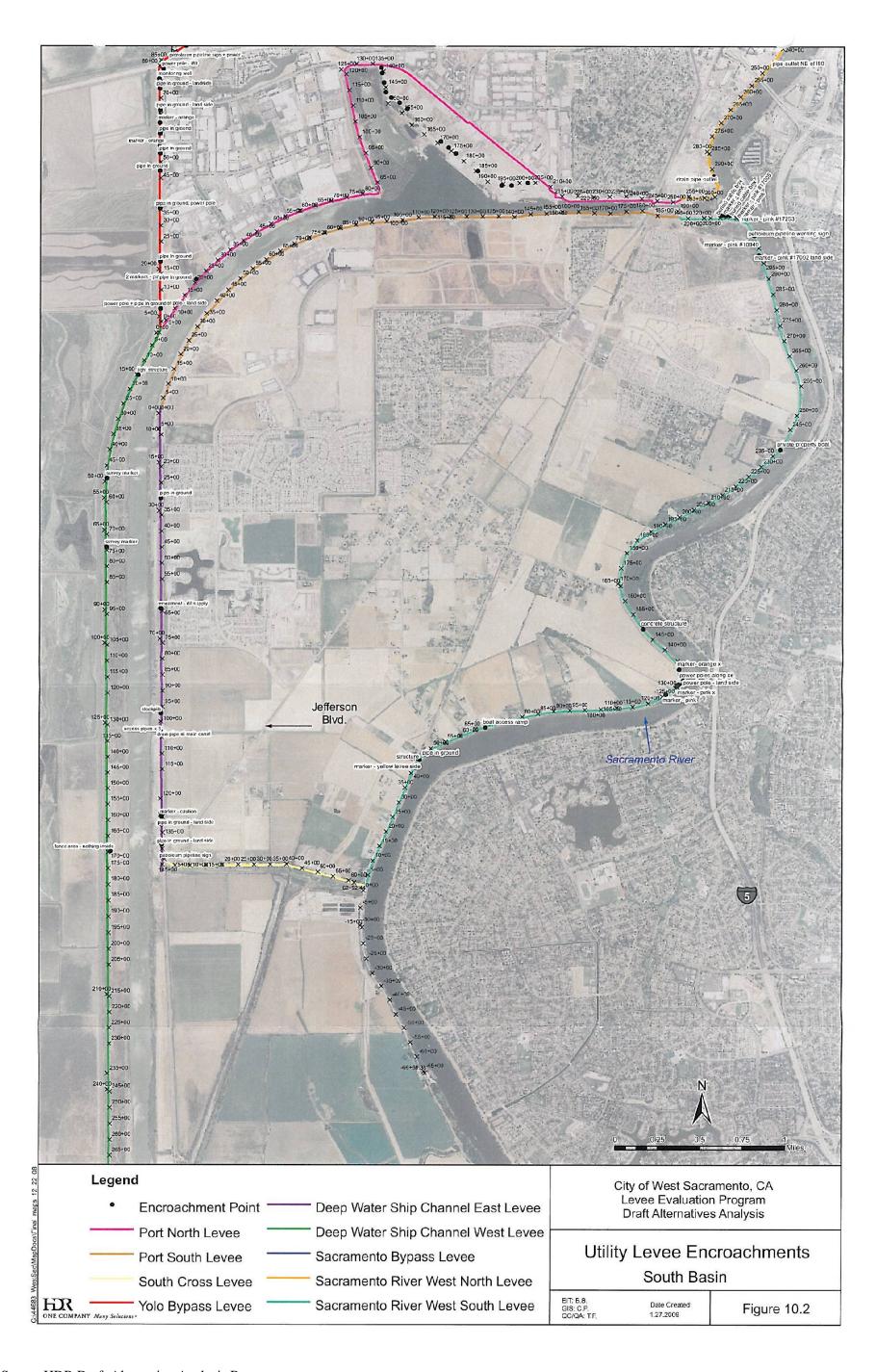
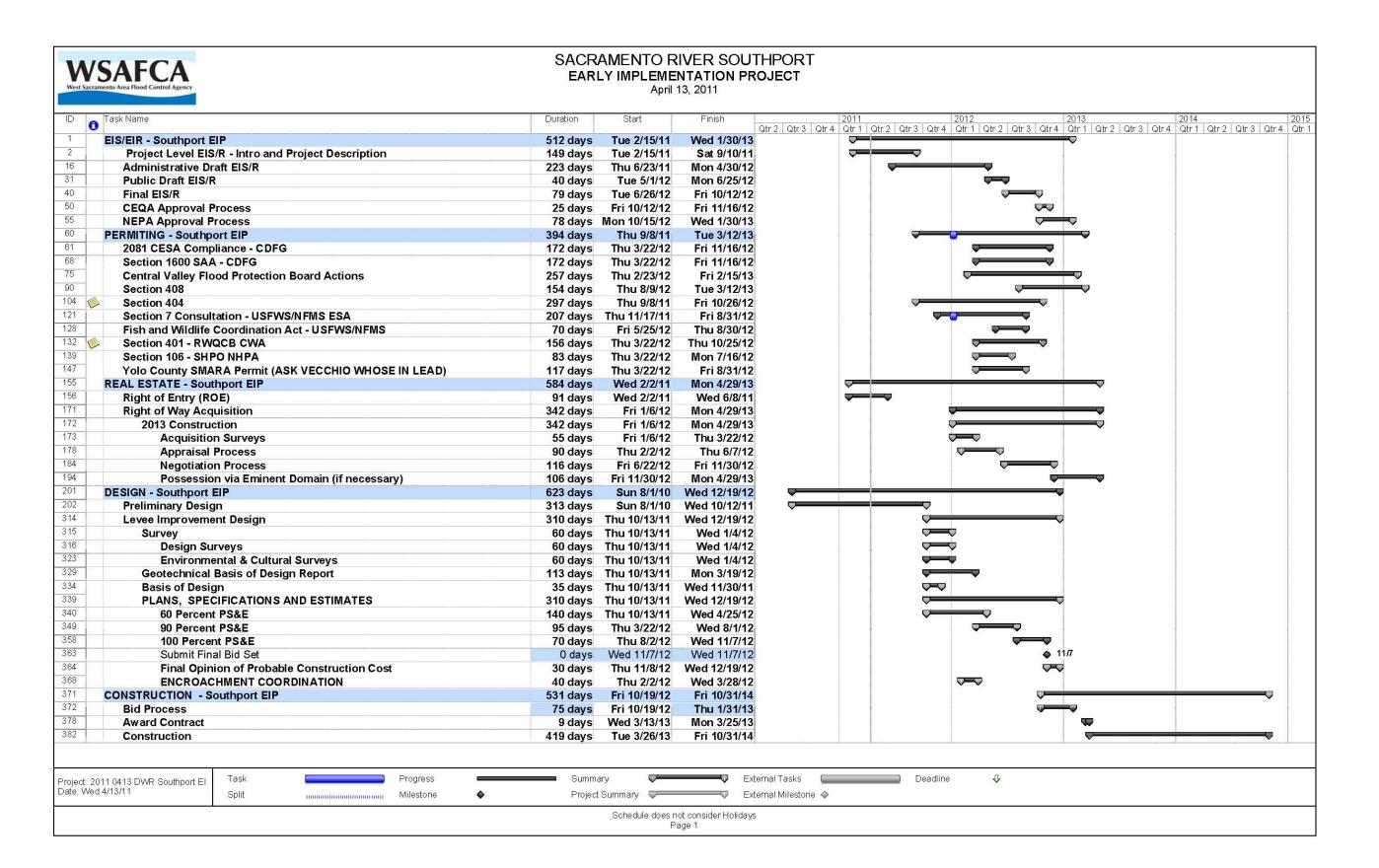


Plate 6: Underseepage and Through-Seepage Levee Risks





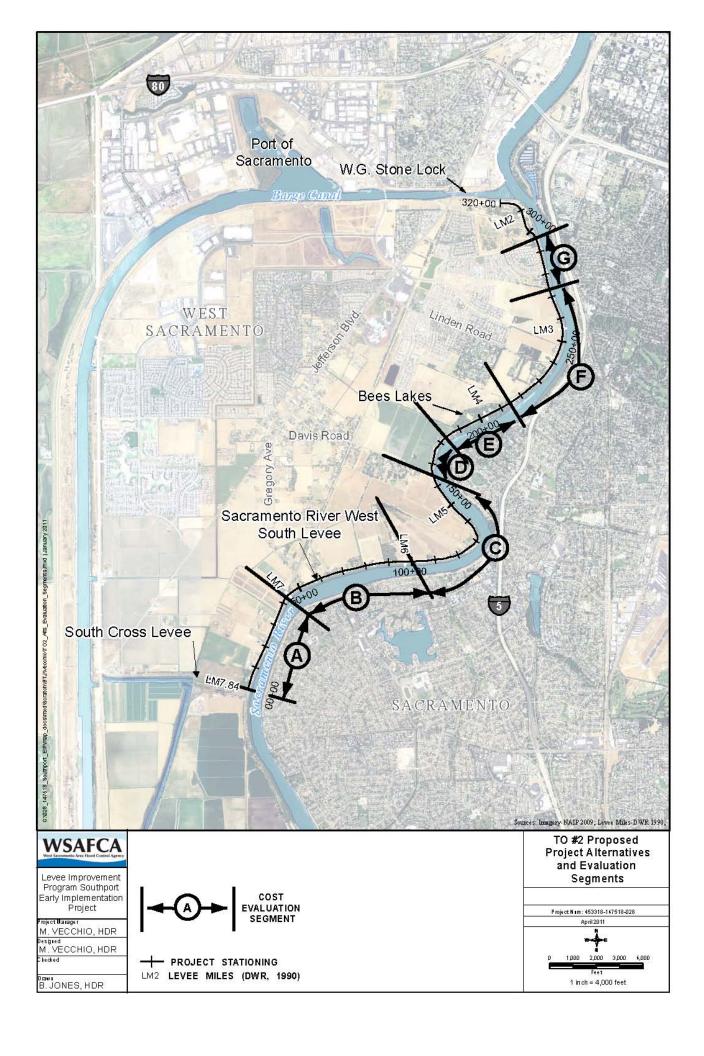


Plate 9: Southport EIP Evaluation Segments

