

**Meeting of the Central Valley Flood Protection Board  
December 20, 2013**

**Staff Report – Transmittal of Sacramento River West Bank Levee System: Letter of Intent  
to Submit a System-Wide Improvement Framework to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

**Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Sutter, and Yolo Counties**

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**1.0 – ITEM**

Consider authorizing the Executive Officer to send a letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) transmitting a Letter of Intent (LOI) for a System-Wide Improvement Framework (SWIF) prepared by the Reclamation District (RD) 108 on behalf of the local maintaining agencies (LMAs) and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for the Sacramento River West Bank Levee System (Levee System) as defined by the USACE's Periodic Inspection dated April 3, 2013.

**2.0 – LOCATION**

The Levee System is located in Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Sutter, and Yolo Counties. The levees covered by the proposed LOI for a SWIF consist of nearly 120 miles, including 83.5 miles on the west bank of the Sacramento River and 36.5 miles on Colusa Basin Drainage Canal.

**3.0 – AGENCY**

The Local Maintaining Agencies (LMAs) in the Levee System are the DWR Maintenance Areas 01 and 12 (MA 1, MA 12), Levee District 1 Glenn County (LD 1G), Levee District 2 Glenn County (LD 2G), Sacramento River West Side Levee District (SRWSLD), Reclamation District 787 (RD 787), and Reclamation District 108 (RD 108). These LMAs have the responsibility of maintaining this levee system, and play a key role in planning, coordinating, and implementing flood risk reduction activities within the levee system.

RD 108 will be taking the lead in developing a SWIF plan with the support and assistance of the LMAs, DWR, and CVFPB staff, as well as collaboration with USACE and environmental and historical resource agencies

**4.0 – USACE PERIODIC INSPECTION**

In August through September 2010, the USACE performed a Periodic Inspection (PI) of the Levee System. PIs are conducted to verify proper operation and maintenance; evaluate operational adequacy and structural stability; identify features to monitor over time; and improve the ability to communicate the overall condition. The PI Report produced by the USACE for the Levee System determined that the levee system was “Unacceptable” and “Inactive” for USACE Public Law 84-99 Rehabilitation and Inspection Program (RIP) assistance.

## **5.0 – PURPOSE OF THE LOI AND SWIF**

USACE approval of the LOI will allow the LMAs to move forward with the preparation of a SWIF that is intended to meet the policy and public safety objectives of USACE and the State of California concurrent with making improvements that address system-wide issues and correct unacceptable inspection items in a prioritized manner to optimize flood risk reduction. USACE approval of the LOI will make the levee system active for PL 84-99 RIP for a period of two years while the SWIF is being prepared.

If the SWIF is accepted by the USACE, the Levee System will remain eligible for USACE PL84-99 RIP, while the local levee maintainers perform the work described in the SWIF.

## **6.0 – STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

As agreed to in the initial operations and maintenance assurances to the USACE, the CVFPB serves as the non-federal sponsor for all of the State-federal project levees within the jurisdiction of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Drainage District, including the Sacramento River West Bank Levee System. In this capacity, it is the CVFPB's responsibility to transmit the LOI and subsequent SWIF to the USACE on behalf of the LMAs.

Staff has reviewed the draft LOI (See Attachment 2) submitted by the RD 108, and finds that it adequately addresses the six requirements for submitting a LOI for a SWIF as described in the USACE's November 29, 2011 Policy for Development and Implementation of System-Wide Improvement Frameworks (SWIFs) (See Attachment 4).

Staff has received formal statements of support for the LOI from the Levee System's LMAs. In order to submit the LOI as soon as possible, RD108 has requested that the CVFPB authorize the Executive Officer to transmit the LOI once finalized and signed. Staff agrees with this request and is recommending that the CVFPB authorize the Executive Officer to finalize a letter of transmittal to the USACE and forward it with the signed LOI to the USACE.

## **7.0 – ATTACHMENTS**

1. Draft Letter of Transmittal to USACE.
2. Letter of Intent Prepared by RD 108.
3. Letters of Support from DWR, LD1, LD2, RD 787, and SRWSLD for an LOI for a SWIF.
4. Excerpt from USACE Policy for Development and Implementation of System-Wide Improvement Frameworks, dated November 29, 2011.

**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



December 20, 2013

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

**Subject: Sacramento River West Bank Levee System - Letter of Intent for Developing and Implementing a System-Wide Improvement Framework Plan**

Colonel Farrell:

The Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) wishes to notify USACE by this letter that the Reclamation District (RD) 108 has taken the lead in coordinating with the local levee maintaining agencies (LMAs) and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to develop and implement a System-Wide Improvement Framework (SWIF) plan in order for the Sacramento River West Bank (SRWB) Levee System to retain eligibility for rehabilitation assistance authorized under Public Law 84-99.

USACE approval of this Letter of Intent (LOI) will allow RD 108 to move forward with preparation of a SWIF that is intended to meet the policy and public safety objectives of USACE, the State of California, and RD 108, concurrent with making improvements that address system-wide issues and correct unacceptable inspection items in a prioritized manner to optimize flood risk reduction.

We respectfully submit this Letter of Intent on behalf of RD 108 in accordance with the USACE's *Policy for Development and Implementation of System-Wide Improvement Frameworks* and request a two-year extension of eligibility for P.L. 84-99 rehabilitation assistance for the SRWB Levee System while RD 108 develops and implements a SWIF. Following approval of this Letter of Intent, RD 108 will commence efforts to develop a SWIF for USACE approval.

Sincerely,

Jay S. Punia  
Executive Officer

Attachments:

1. SRWB – Letter of Intent for System-Wide Improvement Framework

cc: (See attached list)

# ATTACHMENT 1

cc: Mr. Barry O'Regan  
Mr. Michael Rossiter  
Peterson Brustad Inc.  
119 E. Weber Avenue  
Stockton, California 95202

(via electronic file)

Mr. Noel Lerner  
Mr. Mark List  
Department of Water Resources

Mr. Len Marino  
Mr. Michael C. Wright  
Mr. Martin Janolo  
Central Valley Flood Protection Board



RECLAMATION  
DISTRICT

**108**

November 27, 2013

Mr. William Edgar  
President  
Central Valley Flood Protection Board  
3310 El Camino Avenue, Room 151  
Sacramento, CA 95821

RE: Sacramento River West Bank Levee System – Letter of Intent to Develop and Implement a System-Wide Improvement Framework Plan

Dear Mr. Edgar,

Reclamation District 108 has taken the lead in coordinating with the local levee maintaining agencies (LMAs) and developing the supporting materials for a Letter of Intent (LOI) for a System-Wide Improvement Framework (SWIF) plan in order for the Sacramento River West Bank levee system to regain eligibility for rehabilitation assistance authorized under Public Law 84-99. In undertaking this effort, we are working closely with our neighboring LMAs: Levee Districts 1 and 2, Maintenance Areas 1 and 12, Sacramento River West Side Levee District, Reclamation District 0787 and the Department of Water Resources.

As the Central Valley Flood Protection Board is the body which provided the initial operations and maintenance assurances to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for the Sacramento River West Bank levees, we respectfully request that the CVFPB forward this package to the USACE on behalf of the Sacramento River West Bank LMAs.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 530-437-2221.

Lewis Bair  
General Manager

cc: LD1, LD2, MA 1, MA 12, Sacramento River West Side Levee District, RD 787

Attachments: Sacramento River West Bank Levee System Letter of Intent Support Information; Letters from California Department of Water Resources, LD1, LD2, Sacramento River West Side Levee District, RD 787

975 Wilson Bend Road  
P. O. Box 50  
Grimes, CA 95950-0050  
(530) 437-2221  
Fax: (530) 437-2248  
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Board of Trustees  
*Frederick J. Durst, President*  
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*Roger Cornwell*  
*Sean Doherty*

General Manager  
and Secretary  
Lewis Bair

Assistant Manager  
Kathryn Chandler

**ATTACHMENT 1 – SUPPORT INFORMATION  
Sacramento River West Bank Levee System Letter of Intent**

***Introduction and Organization***

The Sacramento River West Bank (SRWB) levees were originally constructed by local interests, the USACE and the Reclamation Board (now the Central Valley Flood Protection Board – CVFPB), were later incorporated into the Sacramento Flood Control Project, and subsequently turned over to the Reclamation Board for operations and maintenance.

The Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) is the non-federal sponsor for the project. The CVFPB entered into separate agreements with local maintaining agencies (LMAs) to perform the actual levee maintenance. The levees covered by this LOI are maintained by the following entities:

- Levee District 1 – Glenn County (LD 1)
- Levee District 2 – Glenn County (LD 2)
- Maintenance Area 01 (MA 1)
- Sacramento River West Side Levee District (SWS)
- Reclamation District 787 (RD 787)
- Reclamation District 108 (RD 108)
- Maintenance Area 12 (MA 12)

This LOI submittal has been prepared by RD 108 on behalf of the above maintaining agencies. It is anticipated that RD 108 will facilitate or implement much of the System-Wide Improvement Framework (SWIF) to be developed during the life of the LOI.

***Identification of Levee System***

The SRWB system to be covered by the SWIF is listed in the National Levee Database under *System ID 5205000561*.

The system includes 8 levee segments along the Sacramento River’s right bank and the Colusa Basin Drainage Canal’s left bank (Figure 1).

**Sacramento River – Right Bank:**

<u>Segment Name</u>	<u>NLD Segment ID</u>	<u>Segment Rating</u>	<u>PL 84-99 Status</u>
Levee District 1 – Glenn County	5204000511	Unacceptable	Inactive (as of 4/3/13)
Levee District 2 – Glenn County	5204000531	Unacceptable	Inactive (as of 4/3/13)
Maintenance Area 01	5204000561	Unacceptable	Inactive (as of 4/3/13)
Sac. River West Side Levee District	5204001042	Unacceptable	Inactive (as of 4/3/13)
Sac. River West Side Levee District	5204001041	Unacceptable	Inactive (as of 4/3/13)

**Colusa Basin Drainage Canal – Left Bank:**

<u>Segment Name</u>	<u>NLD Segment ID</u>	<u>Segment Rating</u>	<u>PL 84-99 Status</u>
RD 787	5204000861	Unacceptable	Inactive (as of 4/3/13)
RD 108	5204000681	Unacceptable	Inactive (as of 4/3/13)
Maintenance Area 12	5204000621	Unacceptable	Inactive (as of 4/3/13)

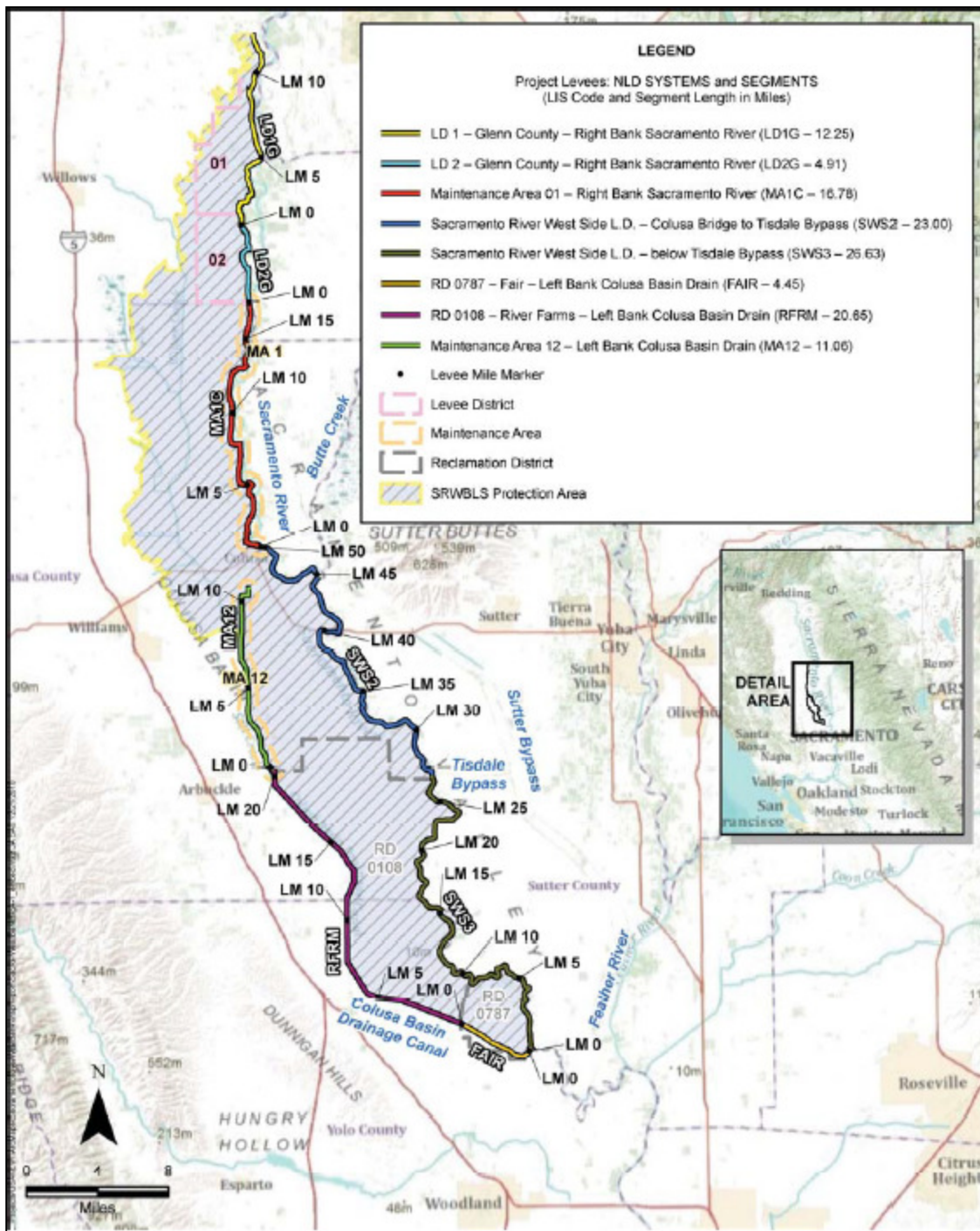


Figure 1. Sacramento River West Bank Levee System Location Map (Source: USACE PI Report, 2010)

***History of Levee System***

The USACE Periodic Inspection Report (December 2010) details construction history and past performance issues for each levee segment as summarized below.

***Levee Segments LD1G, LD2G, and MA1C***

Prior to 1850, levees were first constructed by individual landowners to protect their properties from high water events. These levees were constructed of local soils and dredged materials. Federal participation in the improvement of Sacramento River for flood control began with the Flood Control Act of 1917.

Improvement projects along LD1G since 1917 have included levee construction from Princeton to Glenn in 1941, levee construction from Glenn to Sidds Landing in 1944, crown surfacing in 1952, and levee construction from Sidds Landing to Ord Bend in 1959. Bank protection projects along the levees were also completed in 1962, 1974, 1976, and 1982.

Improvement projects along LD2G since 1917 have included levee enlargement from Princeton to Glenn in 1941, crown surfacing in 1952, and bank protection in 1971 and 1982.

Improvement projects along MA1C have included levee setback and enlargement projects in the 1940s and bank protection and bank sloping projects in the late 1960s to 1982.

Each of these levee segments has experienced multiple erosion and seepage events since the late 1930s.

***Levee Segments SWS2 and SWS3***

These Sacramento River West Side Levee District segments were initially built in the 1800s by local interests. A construction project to raise the levee began around 1915, and a second raise was completed in 1919. The levee crest elevation has remained essentially unchanged from the grade completed in 1919. Levees were completed to USACE's Project grade by 1940.

Since the late 1930s, SWS2 levees have experienced multiple erosion events, sand boils, and rodent activity. SWS3 levees have experienced overtopping, multiple bank caving/failure, erosion, seepage, sand boil, and sinkhole events.

***Levee Segments RD787, RD108, and MA12***

Originally, the left bank levee along the Colusa Drain was constructed from local soils and dredged materials from the areas along the existing river channel starting in 1910 through the 1920s. Additional construction work on these levees was then accomplished under the Sacramento River Flood Control Project. Work included constructing new



levees and bringing locally-built levees to USACE Project standards. This work was completed in July 1956. Since then, local RDs have made various repairs to the levees.

Since the late 1950s, RD 787 levees have experienced subsidence, erosion, cracking, and landside slope failure. RD 108 and MA12 levees have also experienced erosion and slope stability problems.

### ***Status of Vegetation Variance***

An approved vegetation variance is currently not in place. Once the SWIF process is underway, it will be determined if a variance is necessary.

### ***Population at Risk***

The SRWB levee system protects a sizable population including the towns of Colusa (pop. 6,000), Glenn (pop. 900), Grimes (pop. 400), and Princeton (pop. 300). The total population relying on these levees is in excess of 7,600 people.

In addition to the population, surrounding residential, commercial, and agricultural infrastructure is also at risk including agricultural processing facilities and heavy farming equipment which are vital to the local economies.

***Description of Deficiencies***

Deficiencies for the SRWB levees have been identified in USACE’s 2010 Periodic Inspection Report (PIR). Table 1 below summarizes the unresolved deficiencies for each of the maintenance areas which will inform the development of the SWIF plan.

**Table 1.** Number of unacceptable items listed for each maintenance area.

Deficiency Category	LD1G	LD2G	MA1	SWS2	SWS3	RD787	RD108	MA12	TOTAL
Operations and Maintenance Manuals									
Emergency Supplies and Equipment									
Flood Preparedness and Training									
<b>Vegetation Growth</b>	48	18	119	192	157	11	27	13	585
<b>Sod Cover</b>	9	6	3	8	5	2			33
<b>Encroachments</b>	106	28	170	297	129	7	18	59	814
Closure Structures									
<b>Slope Stability</b>	8	7	9	28	4	12	6	12	86
<b>Erosion/ Bank Caving</b>	1	2	1	11	5	2	8	10	40
<b>Settlement</b>	3			1		1	1		6
<b>Depressions/ Rutting</b>	18	15	6	68	6	6		7	126
<b>Cracking</b>	4			4		14	24	21	67
<b>Animal Control</b>	38	15	17	69	33	16	27	28	243
Culverts/Discharge Pipes									
<b>Riprap Revetments &amp; Bank Protection</b>	6	2	6	8	2			4	28
<b>Revetments other than Riprap</b>	2								2
Underseepage Relief Wells/ Toe Drain Systems									
<b>Seepage</b>					7		1		8
<b>TOTAL</b>	243	93	331	686	348	71	112	154	2,038

The majority of the issues listed in Table 1 are faced by LMA’s throughout the Central Valley. Additionally, 87% of all unacceptable items fall under four deficiency categories: Vegetation Growth, Encroachments, Depressions/Rutting, and Animal Control.

The scope and extent of the identified issues along with the associated required regulatory permitting makes correcting the deficiencies a complex and involved undertaking. The SRWB levee system is maintained by seven different LMAs. Preparing a SWIF will be a way to efficiently coordinate a consistent approach to addressing the identified deficiencies.

Tackling these issues within the SRWB levee system will reduce flood hazards and consequences in a risk-prioritized manner over time on a system basis with the objective to correct the worst (highest risk) deficiencies first. As part of the SWIF, RD108, LD’s 1 and 2, MA’s 1 and 12, SWS, and RD 787 in coordination with the CVFPB, will present a plan to address vegetation in light of complex environmental issues related to endangered species and permitting and compliance requirements for encroachments due to property rights issues.

The levee sponsors have already taken action towards addressing many of these issues. Actions taken so far are detailed in a November 17, 2011 letter to the CVFPB titled “Corrective Action Plan, USACE Periodic Inspection Report No. 1 for the Sacramento River West Bank Levee System along Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Sutter, and Yolo Counties, California”.

Many of the noted deficiencies from the USACE Periodic Inspection Report were corrected during routine maintenance including the deficiencies identified in red and orange in the Periodic Inspection Report’s unacceptable items list. Among these corrected issues were: encroachments, seepage, cracking, slope stability, erosion, and sod cover. In addition, a noted freeboard deficiency was corrected. All of these items were rectified at a cost of nearly \$70,000, and all work was performed and funded by the LMAs.

It is the intent of the non-Federal sponsor to repair all deficiencies in accordance with USACE Operation and Maintenance (O&M) standards.

### ***Commitment of Non-Federal Resources towards the SWIF***

Sacramento River West Bank LMAs are districts formed under California law and are supported by a mixture of ad valorem property taxes and special benefit assessments. These revenues have supported, and will continue to support, 100% of the LMA’s annual O&M activities. Some LMAs have already increased assessments to prepare for the SWIF as they realize that this will be a significant effort.

The Sacramento River West Bank LMAs will secure all funding necessary for levee rectification work. The combined annual O&M income for the LMAs total approximately \$700,000. The estimated cost for the rectification work is \$1.2 million. This cost estimate is considered an “order of magnitude” estimated which will be refined during development of the SWIF.

As noted previously, many of the noted deficiencies from the USACE Periodic Inspection Report have already been corrected. This work totaled approximately \$70,000. Also, California DWR has expended significant resources in the Urban Levee Evaluation (ULE) and Nonurban Levee Evaluation (NULE) programs as well as the development of the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan. These efforts have generated substantial volumes of hydrologic, hydraulic, geotechnical, and mapping information which will greatly inform the development of the SWIF.

In addition, the Sacramento River West Bank LMAs are currently developing a comprehensive regional flood management plan at the cost of \$2.2M, funded by State bond funds made available through California State Proposition 1E administered by the California Department of Water Resources (California DWR). An important component of this comprehensive regional flood management planning effort is the development of a regional funding plan to address funding deficiencies and identify mechanisms to

maximize future funding opportunities for system repairs and improvements. Any shortfall of funding to implement the SWIF work would likely be addressed through a combination of property assessments increases and State grant funding.

### ***Interim Risk-Reduction Measures***

An Interim Risk Reduction Measures (IRRM) Plan will be developed as a part of the SRWB SWIF. The IRRMP will include a combination of emergency response plans, communication and coordination with the property owners and evacuation planners (RD and County), that addresses the increased risk to life caused by deficiencies within the SRWB levee system. The LMA's will continue close coordination with County emergency managers to improve communication and evacuation planning and update emergency operations to address areas of increased interim risk. Additionally, the LMAs are participating in a regional emergency planning effort to establish regional stockpiles of flood fight materials; coordinated communications between agencies and improvements to communication equipment. This effort has received an initial State grant funding of \$1.2M which will fund preparation of improved emergency operation and evacuation plans, and coordinate those plans between the agencies. Goals of this emergency planning effort include developing regional contracts with equipment and material suppliers to increase reliability during an emergency, and to provide regional manpower assistance to areas in need in time of emergency.

Finally, the LMAs are currently implementing actions to reduce risk while they seek a SWIF, as part of their routine maintenance activities. The LMAs will continue to reduce risk by repairing items that are listed as unacceptable in the PI report.

### ***Interagency Collaborative Efforts***

RD108 will coordinate with the respective risk management, emergency response, and land use functions of each of the aforementioned maintaining agencies, counties, and cities.

Collaboration with a number of agencies, including USACE, is planned for the development, implementation, and oversight of the SWIF. These agencies include:

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (Levee evaluation and future NFIP accreditation)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (protected species consultation)
- National Marine Fisheries Services (protected species consultation)
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (protected species consultation and Wildlife Areas)
- California Department of Water Resources (Funding resources, flood risk management, levee evaluations, State maintained areas)

- Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Encroachment permitting and floodway technical assistance)

***Anticipated Permitting Requirements***

The development and implementation of the SWIF will require consultation with a number of resource, regulatory, and permitting agencies. For example, many endangered and threatened species are found in the region, and species in or adjacent to Sacramento River West Bank Levee System include:

- Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (USFWS)
- Giant Garter Snake (USFWS)
- Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon (NMFS)
- Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon (NMFS)
- Central Valley steelhead (NMFS)
- North American Green Sturgeon (NMFS)

The required permits and approvals to implement the SWIF will likely include:

- Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife Streambed Alteration Agreement
- Central Valley Flood Protection Board floodway encroachment permits
- Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (protected species consultation)
- National Marine Fisheries Services (protected species consultation)
- Clean Water Act Section 404 permits
- USACE approvals under 33 USC 408

## DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

DIVISION OF FLOOD MANAGEMENT

P.O. BOX 219000

SACRAMENTO, CA 95821-9000



August 22, 2013

Mr. William Edgar, President  
Central Valley Flood Protection Board  
3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 151  
Sacramento, California 95821

Dear Mr. Edgar,

This letter is in regard to Reclamation District 108's (RD 108) desire to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) to develop a System-Wide Improvement Framework (SWIF) for the Sacramento River West Bank (SRWB) levee system. RD108's July 23, 2013 letter to the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) envisions submitting the LOI on behalf of its member agencies and other public entities that maintain federal levees within the SRWB levee system, including the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Sutter Maintenance Yard. As you know, DWR operates and maintains a portion of the SRWB levee system, including Maintenance Area 1, along the right bank of the Sacramento River, and Maintenance Area 12 along the left bank of the Colusa Basin Drainage Canal.

DWR intends to cooperate with RD 108 and support the SWIF development effort within the parameters of our maintenance responsibilities and practices. The overall goal of resolving levee deficiencies on a systemwide level in order to steadily reduce flood hazard and consequence in a risk-prioritized manner over time is a common theme articulated in three key documents: (1) RD 108's LOI; (2) the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP), adopted by CVFPB on June 29, 2012; and (3) USACE's "Policy for Development and Implementation of System-Wide Frameworks (SWIF Policy) dated November 29, 2011.

DWR endorses RD 108's responses to the six "Requirements for Submitting a Letter of Intent for a SWIF" as described in Section 7.a of USACE's SWIF Policy. DWR will, upon approval of the LOI, collaborate with RD 108 in fulfilling the nine "Requirements for Development of a SWIF" described in Section 7.b of the SWIF Policy. DWR will continue its levee maintenance under California Water Code Sections 8361 and 12878 as guided by the Standard O&M manual, integrating the levee vegetation management approach embodied in the CVFPP.

USACE approval of this LOI will allow RD 108 to move forward with preparation of a SWIF that is intended to meet the policy and public safety objectives of USACE, the State of California, and the Sacramento River West Bank levee maintaining agencies (LMAs), while providing a pathway for reaching functional compatibility between USACE policy and CVFPP levee vegetation management strategy during the two-year SWIF development period.

The CVFPP as adopted on June 29, 2012, articulates the State's long-term vision for reducing flood risk through prioritization of management actions. The CVFPP's State Systemwide Investment Approach (SSIA) is a 25-year, \$14 to \$17 billion effort to address

**Letter of Support for an LOI for a SWIF**

Mr. William Edgar  
August 22, 2013  
Page 2

the whole range of flood system performance issues from emergency response to operations and maintenance to land use to planning to capital investment.

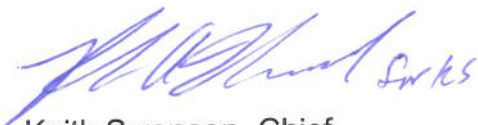
It is important to note that remediation of many of the levee defects highlighted by USACE periodic inspections and/or DWR's Flood Control System Status Report is beyond the reasonable scope of responsibility of LMAs. Thus, collaboration at the federal, State, and local levels on remediation of levee defects that transcend the technical and financial resource capabilities associated with annual maintenance programs would serve the public well. For example, DWR is developing a number of programs to cost share with the LMAs on certain types of repairs which exceed their resource capabilities, as well as a new program to address larger-scale levee repairs and improvements requiring construction of stability berms, seepage berms, and seepage cutoff walls.

Table 1 of RD 108's letter to the CVFPB indicates that almost 84% the unacceptable items for Maintenance Areas 1 and 12 were in the categories of vegetation, animal control, and encroachments. The SWIF to be developed will present a risk-prioritized plan to address vegetation and animal control issues in light of complex environmental issues related to endangered species and associated permitting challenges, within the context of limited available resources.

Regarding the difficult situation with encroachments, we applaud CVFPB for its commitment to reinforce its role in resolving encroachment related issues (such as abandoned pipelines and structures within the easements), including initiation of legislative action to supplement the CVFPB's authority to carry out encroachment enforcement actions.

We look forward to working with CVFPB, RD 108, and USACE in this important effort to improve the long-term functioning of the Central Valley flood protection system.

Sincerely,



Keith Swanson, Chief  
Division of Flood Management

cc: Mr. Lewis Bair, General Manager  
Reclamation District 108  
975 Wilson Bend Road  
P.O. Box 50  
Grimes, CA 95950-0050

**Letter of Support for an LOI for a SWIF**

Levee District #1 (Glenn County)  
P.O. Box 154  
Glenn, CA 95943

July 22, 2013

Jay Punia  
Executive Officer  
Central Valley Flood Protection Board  
3310 El Camino Avenue, Room 151  
Sacramento, CA 95821

RE: Sacramento River West Bank Levee System – Letter of Intent to Develop and Implement a System-Wide Improvement Framework Plan

Dear Mr. Punia,

Levee District 1 (Glenn County) is working with Reclamation District 108 who has taken the lead in coordinating with the local levee maintaining agencies (LMAs) and developing the supporting materials for a Letter of Intent (LOI) for a System-Wide Improvement Framework (SWIF) plan in order for the Sacramento River West Bank levee system to regain eligibility for rehabilitation assistance authorized under Public Law 84-99. With RD 108 as the lead agency, we are also committed to work closely with our neighboring LMAs: Levee District 2, Maintenance Areas 1 and 12, Sacramento River West Side Levee District, RD 108 and Reclamation District 0787.

As the Central Valley Flood Protection Board is the body which provided the initial operations and maintenance assurances to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for the Sacramento River West Bank levees, we respectfully request that the CVFPB forward this package to the USACE on behalf of the Sacramento River West Bank LMAs.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 530-934-8200.

Sincerely,



William D. Carriere  
Chairman, LD1 Glenn County

cc: RD 108



**Letter of Support for an LOI for a SWIF**

July 22, 2013

Jay Punia  
Executive Officer  
Central Valley Flood Protection Board  
3310 El Camino Avenue, Room 151  
Sacramento, CA 95821

RE: Sacramento River West Bank Levee System-Support for Reclamation District 108 Letter of Intent to Develop and Implement a System-Wide Improvement Framework Plan

Dear Mr. Punia:

Reclamation District 108 has taken the lead in coordinating with the local levee maintaining agencies (LMAs) and developing the supporting materials for a Letter of Intent (LOI) for a System-Wide Improvement Framework (SWIF) plan in order for the Sacramento River West Bank levee system to regain eligibility for rehabilitation assistance authorized under Public Law 84-99. Glenn County Levee District 2 is a neighboring LMA working closely with Reclamation District 108 in this effort, and supports the LOI recently submitted to the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) by Reclamation District 108.

Glenn County Levee District 2 joins with Reclamation District 108 in requesting that the CBFPB forward with SWIF package to the USACE on behalf of the LMAs.



Bill Weller  
Secretary  
Glenn County Levee District 2

**ATTACHMENT 3**  
**Letter of Support for an LOI for a SWIF**

July 16, 2013

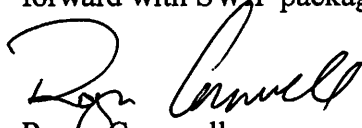
Jay Punia  
Executive Officer  
Central Valley Flood Protection Board  
3310 El Camino Avenue, Room 151  
Sacramento, CA 95821

RE: Sacramento River West Bank Levee System – Support for Reclamation District 108  
Letter of Intent to Develop and Implement a System-Wide Improvement Framework Plan

Dear Mr. Punia,

Reclamation District 108 has taken the lead in coordinating with the local levee maintaining agencies (LMAs) and developing the supporting materials for a Letter of Intent (LOI) for a System-Wide Improvement Framework (SWIF) plan in order for the Sacramento River West Bank levee system to regain eligibility for rehabilitation assistance authorized under Public Law 84-99. Reclamation District 787 is a neighboring LMA working closely with Reclamation District 108 in this effort, and supports the LOI recently submitted to the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) by Reclamation District 108.

Reclamation District 787 joins with Reclamation District 108 in requesting that the CVFPB forward with SWIF package to the USACE on behalf of the LMAs.

  
Roger Cornwell  
Trustee

**Letter of Support for an LOI for a SWIF**

COMMISSIONERS  
THOMAS ELLIS, PRESIDENT  
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**SACRAMENTO RIVER  
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GENERAL MANAGER  
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LEWIS BAIR  
—  
ASSISTANT MANAGER  
KATHRYN CHANDLER

July 23, 2013

Mr. Jay Punia  
Executive Officer  
Central Valley Flood Protection Board  
3310 El Camino Ave., Room 151  
Sacramento, CA 95821

Subject: Sacramento River West Bank Levee System – Letter of Intent to Develop and Implement a System-Wide Improvement Framework Plan

Dear Mr. Punia:

Sacramento River West Side Levee District (SRWSLD) is working with Reclamation District No. 108, who has taken the lead in coordinating with the local levee maintaining agencies (LMAs) and developing the supporting materials for the Letter of Intent (LOI) for a System-Wide Improvement Framework (SWIF) plan, in order for the Sacramento River West Bank levee system to regain eligibility for rehabilitation assistance authorized under Public Law 84-99. With RD108 as the lead agency, we are also committed to work closely with our neighboring LMAs: Levee Districts 1 and 2, Maintenance Areas 1 and 12, RD108 and RD787.

As the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) is the body which provided the initial operations and maintenance assurances to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for the Sacramento River West Bank levees, we respectfully request that the CVFPB forward this package to the USACE on behalf of the Sacramento River West Bank LMAs.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (530)437-2221.

Sincerely,



Lewis Bair  
General Manager

Cc: Sacramento River West Bank LMAs

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c. Transitioning “Acceptable” or “Minimally Acceptable” Levees. Levees sponsors with levees that are “Active” in the rehabilitation assistance program under an existing vegetation variance or deviation from the standard that want to use the SWIF process to transition to a new vegetation inspection standard through the vegetation variance request process, or that would like to systematically improve the condition of participating levees, may maintain their P.L. 84-99 rehabilitation assistance eligibility as long as they continue to meet the milestones set forth in their applicable SWIF.

d. Reinstating Eligibility While Developing and Implementing a SWIF. Levee sponsors that receive an overall levee system inspection rating of “Unacceptable” or have been “Inactive” in the rehabilitation program may regain eligibility for P.L. 84-99 rehabilitation assistance through the SWIF process. Upon approval by USACE of the letter of intent, requirements described below, the levee sponsor will receive an initial of up to two-year reinstatement of eligibility for P.L. 84-99 rehabilitation assistance. Continued eligibility will be determined annually based on milestones described in the subsequent SWIF. Levee sponsors who have never been eligible for rehabilitation assistance under P.L. 84-99 cannot gain P.L. 84-99 rehabilitation assistance eligibility through the SWIF process.

7. Requirements for Development and Submittal of a SWIF. The development of a SWIF is a two-step process consisting of (1) a Letter of Intent from the sponsor briefly describing levee system deficiencies and justification for how a system-wide approach will optimize flood risk reduction, and (2) development of a SWIF for addressing deficiencies and reducing flood risk. Once a Letter of Intent has been approved by USACE, a levee sponsor has up to two years to develop a SWIF plan. Eligibility after this two-year period will be dependent on the levee sponsor’s progress in achieving the milestones defined in the SWIF. The SWIF plan is intended to be a specific document that guides sponsor activities, including anticipated milestones, but may also be adaptable and should be revised if conditions or needs change during implementation. The requirements for the Letter of Intent and SWIF are described as follows:

a. Requirements for Submitting a Letter of Intent for a SWIF. A Letter of Intent must be signed by all associated levee sponsors for each levee system involved in developing the SWIF and must include the following:

(1) Identification of levee system or systems to be covered by the SWIF, including system name and system identification number as listed in the National Levee Database;

(2) Brief description of deficiencies or issues that will be included in the SWIF and discussion of how a system-wide approach will improve and optimize overall flood risk reduction. This includes identifying any conditions not within the control of the levee sponsor(s) that prevents them from correcting “Unacceptable” inspection items in a timely manner;

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(3) Demonstration that significant non-federal resources have been, or will be, committed for developing and/or implementing the SWIF (e.g., state legislative action, bond financing);

(4) Anticipated interim risk reduction measures that will be implemented throughout the SWIF process, including overall risk communication approach that addresses the risk to life increased by system-wide deficiencies;

(5) Brief description of existing or planned interagency collaborative efforts that will contribute positively to SWIF development, implementation and oversight; and

(6) List of anticipated state and federal permits and consultation requirements, needed to implement the SWIF.

b. Requirements for Submittal of a SWIF. SWIFs are developed and implemented by levee sponsor(s), reviewed and accepted by USACE, and monitored by a USACE district to address system-wide issues in a prioritized way to optimize system-wide risk reduction. As a minimum for acceptance by USACE, the levee sponsor's SWIF must include the following:

(1) Identification of levee system or systems covered by the system-wide improvement framework, including system name and identification number as listed in the National Levee Database;

(2) Description of proposed levee improvement and justification on how the SWIF optimizes flood risk reduction;

(3) A plan and schedule for interagency collaboration, including environmental and/or Tribal consultation if applicable, in the implementation of the SWIF;

(4) Documentation of specific agreements, such as project specific agreements, between levee sponsors and USACE or other agencies/organizations related to implementation of levee modifications, under Section 408 or other overlapping USACE policies and studies, applicable to the levee systems identified in the system-wide improvement framework;

(5) Documentation of any regional considerations, approaches, and tools to be used during implementation of the system-wide improvement framework;

(6) Description of interim maintenance standards that will be implemented during the SWIF to mitigate conditions of uncorrected "Unacceptable" inspection items;

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(7) IRRM plan, including a risk communication plan that addresses the risk to life increased by system-wide deficiencies;

(8) Schedules and milestones that will be used to monitor progress and to determine continued eligibility for P.L. 84-99 rehabilitation assistance while the SWIF is being implemented; and

(9) For those levee systems shown as accredited on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map that are part of the SWIF, demonstration that FEMA has been informed that these levee systems with "Unacceptable" inspection items are being addressed in a system-wide improvement framework. Please note that an extension of eligibility for rehabilitation assistance through the SWIF process by USACE does not constitute an extension of accreditation for FEMA purposes. FEMA determines how a SWIF may or may not impact accreditation.

8. Approval Process. The approval authority for reinstating eligibility for rehabilitation assistance under P.L. 84-99 via a Letter of Intent, and for acceptance of a SWIF is the Director of Contingency Operations and Homeland Security (DCO/HS) under USACE. District Commanders shall evaluate the levee sponsors' request for an extension, based on the criteria outlined in this memorandum. If the District recommends approval of an eligibility reinstatement, the District Commander shall forward this recommendation to the Division Commander for concurrence. The Division Commander will review the request and, if in concurrence, will endorse the recommendation and submit the request to the DCO/HS through the Regional Integration Team. The District and MSC Commanders shall coordinate these requests with their Levee Safety Officers for technical input. Eligibility reinstatement will not be implemented until the request is approved by DCO/HS. District Commanders are also responsible for monitoring levee sponsor milestones in implementing SWIFs, conducting reviews for eligibility extensions following initial reinstatement, submitting an accepted SWIF to the local FEMA regional office, and providing approval recommendations through the approval process described herein.

9. Progress Reporting and Continued P.L. 84-99 Eligibility. Once a Letter of Intent has been approved through the process in paragraph 8, a levee sponsor(s) has up to two years of reinstated rehabilitation assistance eligibility under P.L. 84-99 to develop a system-wide improvement framework. The District Commander shall review the levee sponsor's progress for development of the SWIF after the first year and, if deemed not satisfactory, the District Commander may recommend to the DCO/HS that the levee sponsor no longer be eligible for P.L. 84-99 rehabilitation assistance. Eligibility after the two-year period for SWIF development will then be dependent on the levee sponsor's progress in achieving the milestones defined in the SWIF. Continued P.L. 84-99 rehabilitation assistance eligibility during the implementation of the SWIF

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must be approved by the DCO/HS on a two-year basis following the process in paragraph 8. During implementation of the SWIF, continued P.L. 84-99 rehabilitation assistance eligibility requests should include a copy of the SWIF; description of accomplishments and milestones met; and description of any changes since the last SWIF was submitted. At a minimum, levee sponsors shall submit a memorandum to the District Commander annually that demonstrates system-wide improvement accomplishments.

10. Overlap with Vegetation Variance Policy. The SWIF process may complement the vegetation variance request process, currently set forth in ER 500-1-1 and anticipated to be updated shortly in paragraph 1.d., as a means for a levee sponsor to address levee deficiencies. If required, a vegetation variance request can be part of the SWIF process. The SWIF offers an interagency approach to identify regional solutions and tools that may be useful in development of a vegetation variance request. The end result of the SWIF process will be levees that meet the USACE inspection standards, which may also include an approved vegetation variance. See enclosure for timelines for both the SWIF process and situations with existing vegetation variances or deviations from the standard.

11. Levee Inspections. During implementation of the SWIF, levee systems with P.L. 84-99 rehabilitation assistance eligibility will continue to be inspected, rated, and the results communicated in accordance with USACE inspection processes, paragraph 1.b. and other applicable guidance. Any “Unacceptable” inspection items identified during inspections will be recorded as such and be corrected in accordance with existing policy or noted to be corrected under a system-wide improvement framework. At any time that the condition of a deferred “Unacceptable” inspection item worsens to a point of creating an emergency condition, immediate corrective actions must be taken by the levee sponsor in order to retain eligibility for P.L. 84-99 rehabilitation assistance.

12. Post-Flood Repair Responsibilities Associated with “Unacceptable” Inspection Items. Upon approval of the Letter of Intent by the USACE, levee sponsors who meet milestones will remain eligible for post-flood repair throughout the SWIF development and implementation process; however, levee sponsors will continue to be responsible for the portion of that repair cost associated with “Unacceptable” inspection items in accordance with ER 500-1-1, paragraph 5-2, g.

13. Funding for USACE Participation in the SWIF Process. USACE review of requests submitted by levee sponsors for SWIF implementation and participation of USACE representatives in collaborative frameworks for developing SWIFs may be funded with Inspection of Completed Works funds for federally-authorized levee systems and Flood Control and Coastal Emergency funds for non-federal levee systems. USACE participation in