

Central Valley Flood Protection Board Meeting  
February 27, 2015  
INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING (Agenda Item 10A)  
**Public Release of the American River Common Features General Reevaluation  
Report and Joint Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement**  
*(Ajala M. Ali, CVFPB Staff)*

## **BRIEFING SUMMARY**

### **Overview**

The American River Common Features General Reevaluation Report (GRR) will work in conjunction with the Folsom Dam Modifications Project and the Folsom Dam Raise Project to significantly reduce the flood risk for the City of Sacramento. The GRR is evaluating additional levee improvements and other measures necessary to convey the new Folsom Dam objective release. A joint Draft Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) was prepared to accompany the GRR.

### **Status**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) completed the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) milestone on May 2, 2014 and is recommending the Locally Preferred Plan (LPP) moving forward as the TSP.

USACE anticipates releasing the draft GRR and the associated Draft EIR/EIS for public comment in March of 2015. The Joint EIR/EIS will go before the Board for approval after public comment is received and responded to.

### **Cost Share Agreements**

USACE's estimated cost for the GRR is \$14,900,000. The Feasibility Cost Share Agreement between USACE and the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Board) for the GRR and the Local Feasibility Cost Share Agreement between the Board and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency were approved by the Board March 28, 2014. The cost share between the Board and USACE is 50/50 as the federal and non-federal shares; which are \$7,450,000 Federal and non-federal. The non-federal cost is further shared between the Board and SAFCA 50/50; which are \$3,725,000 Board and SAFCA.

### **Summary**

Because the LPP deviates from the National Economic Development Plan (NED), USACE Sacramento District (SPK) is required to process a waiver to recommend the LPP instead of the NED. USACE estimates the cost of the LPP for the GRR to be greater than the NED; therefore, due to the USACE's planning guidance, the additional cost for the LPP will be a non-federal cost and will not be cost shared by the USACE. The Non-federal Partners will be working to obtain full federal cost share for the LPP during the draft document review period. The LPP and LPP waiver request were approved by the Board October 25, 2013. The waiver is currently being processed by USACE. The LPP was preliminarily approved as the recommended plan at the Tentatively Selected Plan conference held May 2, 2014 by the USACE vertical team that includes representatives from SPK, USACE San Francisco Division, and USACE Headquarters. Approval of the LPP as the recommended plan is contingent upon approval of the waiver request which is currently under review by the Assistant Secretary of the Army (CW). The LPP includes some of the levee improvements

of the NED and provides an additional system wide improvement with regards to the widening of the Sacramento Weir and Bypass which corresponds with State interests under the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP, 2012). The LPP, USACE's recommended plan, also establishes a System Wide Improvement Framework (SWIF) for addressing vegetation, encroachments, and landside access requirements. The SWIF allows a life cycle management plan for removing vegetation and encroachments and providing landside access which falls in line with the State CVFPP.

It is anticipated that it will take several years for USACE to receive congressional authorization and funding allocations for the flood risk reduction alternative recommended in the GRR. A long delay in implementing the improvements necessary for levee accreditation could make it difficult to maintain the current FEMA mapping status of the area. In order to maintain current Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) mapping status and provide adequate flood protection to the residents of the City and County of Sacramento in a timely manner, SAFCA is proposing to construct levee improvements ahead of federal authorization through their FEMA Levee Accreditation Program.

SAFCA is moving forward with the release of their Environmental Impact Report this year and has filed their Notice of Preparation for the North Sacramento Streams, Sacramento River East Levee, Lower American River and Related Flood Improvements Project and Notice of Public Scoping Meeting at Sacramento County Board of Supervisors on May 15, 2014. SAFCA will use their EIR as a basis for implementing the levee accreditation program.

### **Moving Forward**

USACE is currently planning for public release and public coordination meetings are anticipated for the spring of 2015.

#### GRR Schedule:

Public Release – March 2015

Agency Decision Milestone Conference – July 2015

Final Report Milestone – August 2015

Civil Works Review Board Meeting – October 2015

Chiefs Report – January 2016