

Feds, State to study Delta flood risks

SACRAMENTO, June 28, 2006 -- Federal engineers and State of California flood management officials recently signed a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement to study existing and future flood risks in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento, and the State's Department of Water Resources (DWR) agreed to split the estimated \$12-million cost for the "Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study," which will develop a comprehensive vision and roadmap for future Corps involvement in the Delta.

The study will determine the Federal interest in providing flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, and recreation improvements to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and will build upon the information and strategies generated by the State's ongoing Delta Risk Management Study (DRMS).

The DRMS is a technical study that will assess major risks to Delta resources from threats such as floods, seepage, and earthquakes, and will identify risk reduction plans and consequences of levee failures. The Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study will incorporate DRMS findings and build on the state's work to determine how the Corps can contribute to flood management efforts in the region.

"This agreement represents an important commitment by the leading State and Federal flood management agencies to develop an essential long-term strategy for improving Delta levees," says Lynn O'Leary, the Corps' project manager for the study.

Steps are also underway to address more urgent levee improvement needs in the Delta. Last November, Congress authorized the Corps to identify and prioritize short-term levee stability projects in the Delta. The resulting Delta Report to Congress is currently under review by the Office of Management and Budget and is expected to be delivered to Congress soon.