



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
Sacramento District

News Release

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More Levee Damages Identified on the California Flood Control System

New Damage Attributed to the January High Water Event

(Sacramento, CA – July 27, 2006) -- The US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Sacramento District, has evaluated more than 300 levee sites that were potentially damaged during the high water flows that occurred during December 28, 2005 through January 9, 2006 on the flood control project levees. After field inspections with the State Department of Water Resources and local levee district officials, the Corps has determined 35 of the sites are significantly damaged and are protecting improved property making them the first priority for repairs. The 35 priority sites contain 9,287 feet of damage and would require approximately \$50.5 million to repair.

The Corps is requesting approval to repair the 35 sites under the emergency authority of Public Law 84-99 immediately so that repairs can begin before the next flood season. There are 46 additional sites that are also significantly damaged. However, they are protecting predominately agricultural land, making them the second priority for repairs. The 46 sites contain 27,821 feet of damage and would require approximately \$110 million to repair. The Corps will also request approval to make repairs to those sites next year.

Federal funding for emergency levee repairs has to be provided by Congress and typically is made available in a supplemental appropriations bill. Securing supplemental emergency funding from Congress may take some time and funds might not be available until next year. The Corps is advising Congress on the need for supplemental funding immediately and will also work the State of California to discuss the availability of state funds to expedite performing work this year.

The other sites submitted to the Corps for consideration have much less severe damage and do not

Page 2 – More Levee Damages

currently pose a significant threat to the levee system. Although the Corps will consider adding those sites to future work requests, levee and reclamation districts may be able to repair those sites more expeditiously under operations and maintenance activities.

Next Steps

The Corps is in the process of submitting official reports to their headquarters requesting approval to perform work on the first 35 sites under emergency authority and is working the funding challenges with members of Congress and the State of California. Because the volume of construction work already under way is taxing the construction community, these sites will have to be prioritized and sequenced to accomplish as much as possible before the rainy season begins. Sacramento District Commander Colonel Ron Light has committed to constructing repairs quickly and developing contingency plans through the rainy season. “We will complete as much repair work as we can before the rains hit and will have response plans laid out for every site so that we can immediately begin a flood fight to save levees from failure this winter,” said Colonel Light.

Background

On February 2, the Corps issued a public notice requesting eligible sponsors submit rehabilitation assistance requests for flood damages. After receiving requests for assistance to repair flood damage at more than 300 sites, the Corps has determined that more than 140 of these sites do indeed have damage from the January high water flows. Eighty-one of those sites are significantly damaged and 35 of them are protecting improved property. High water flows in May and June prevented engineers from evaluating many of these sites until June and July.

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Additional Resources: For maps of the 81 severely damaged sites, a site status for all of the potentially damaged sites, FAQ's on the emergency levee repairs, an information package that explains the levee evaluation process and criteria, as well as briefing slides developed by the Army Corps and Department of Water Resources please visit:
http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/organizations/cespk-pao/PL_8499/