

**Project Proposal to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**  
**CALFED Levee System Integrity Program**

February 2006

RD 2033  
**Project Name:** Brack Tract PL-99 Levee Rehabilitation Project

**Purpose:** The purpose of the project is to increase the level of protection of the lands and inhabitants of Brack Tract, San Joaquin County, to an acceptable standard.

**Location:** The project is located on Brack Tract, San Joaquin County at the west end of Woodbridge Road. (Plate 1). Brack Tract is protected on three sides by levees along Hog Slough, South Fork Mokelumne River, and Sycamore Slough. These 10.8 miles of non-Project levees protect 4,873 acres. (Plate 2). However, because there is no back levee along the east side of Brack Tract, Brack Tract protects additional land, improvements, and inhabitants east of their formal boundary line.

**Problems:** Brack Tract's current levee system has been rehabilitated and continues to be maintained at the FEMA Short-term Hazard Mitigation Plan minimum standards. These standards are only geometric in nature and do not specify the actual level of protection based on levee stability. The 2000 CALFED Levee Rehabilitation Study estimated that it would cost up to \$11.6 million to rehabilitate Brack Tract's levees to the PL-99 standards. Without financial assistance, the District cannot undertake this size project.

**Opportunities:** As stated above, the District's levees protect more acreage than is formally included within their legal boundaries. Therefore, rehabilitating their levees to the PL-99 standard is a good opportunity not only to protect the lands within Reclamation District No. 2033, but also lands, improvements, and inhabitants east of their legal boundary. Two parcels within the District are owned by the State of California and provide significant environmental values. The Department of Fish and Game maintains the Woodbridge Ecological Reserve. In addition to providing valuable habitat for the Sandhill Crane and special status Greater Sandhill Crane, it also provides viewing opportunities for the public to enjoy the beauty of nature. The Department of Water Resources maintains a property on which a breeding facility for the special status Riparian Brush Rabbit has been constructed. This breeding facility has been very successful in increasing the population of the special status species.

**Project Description:** The project would consist of exploratory geotechnical evaluation to determine existing levels of stability and provide design criteria for improvement of the levee system to meet the PL-99 requirements. The second phase of the project would be to design and construct these improvements to rehabilitate all 10.8 miles of Reclamation District No. 2033 to the PL-99 standards. Brack Tract is located on the eastern edge of the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta; and although suitable borrow material for this rehabilitation may not be available within its boundaries, it is certainly situated very close to areas to the east where borrow material will be available at a reasonable price.

**Statement of Willingness and Ability to Cost Share:** Reclamation District No. 2033 has been an active participant in the Delta Levees Subventions Program for many years. In this regard, the District is comfortable with cost sharing with a governmental entity. However, the District's resources are limited and will be limited in what it can contribute.

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**Scoping & Screening Information:**

- In your opinion, what is the urgency for your proposed project? Is there an imminent threat to life, property, critical habitat, or other prominent resource?

*Although the Brack Tract levee meets the minimum short-term standards of the Hazard Mitigation Plan, it does not meet any established level of protection. The urgency in the project consists of the fact that the 1990 census determined that 80 people live on Brack Tract. In addition, the State owned property provides significant habitat benefits; not only for the Delta; but for other regions that the Sandhill Crane and Riparian Brush Rabbit inhabit.*

- Would there be a change in the magnitude, frequency, or duration of flood flows in other areas of the levee system as a result of the potential project?

*At this time, it is not known what level of protection the levees of Brack Tract provide. This project would determine that level and increase the level in accordance with PL-99 standards.*

- What would the proposed project do to address flooding, ecosystem, water supply and quality, and other problems and needs locally and regionally?

*As stated above, the project would provide additional benefits to the inhabitants and habitat located within the boundaries of Reclamation District No. 2033. In addition, it would provide protection for property improvements for inhabitants east of the current boundary. The west levee of Brack Tract, along the South Fork Mokelumne River provides conveyance benefits to water moving across the Delta from the Delta Cross Channel, to the north, to the intake facilities of the CVP and SWP to the south.*

- Are there non-structural or other ways to address flooding, ecosystem, water supply and quality, and other problems in the potential project area; and if so, what are they?

*At this time, there are no non-structural alternatives to address the increased level of protection that the levees provide.*

- Who and/or what would benefit from the potential project?

*The Project would benefit the lands within Brack Tract and any lands east of their boundary protected by their levees. These lands provide mostly agricultural benefits, which include row crops and dairy. As stated above, the Sandhill Crane Sanctuary and Riparian Brush Rabbit Breeding Facility would benefit. The levees protect approximately four miles of County Road, which would benefit from the protection, in addition to the 80 inhabitants on the island who reside within the boundaries of Brack Tract. Within the County Road right-of-way, there are several gas transmission pipelines.*

- What is the likely Federal, State and local agency support?

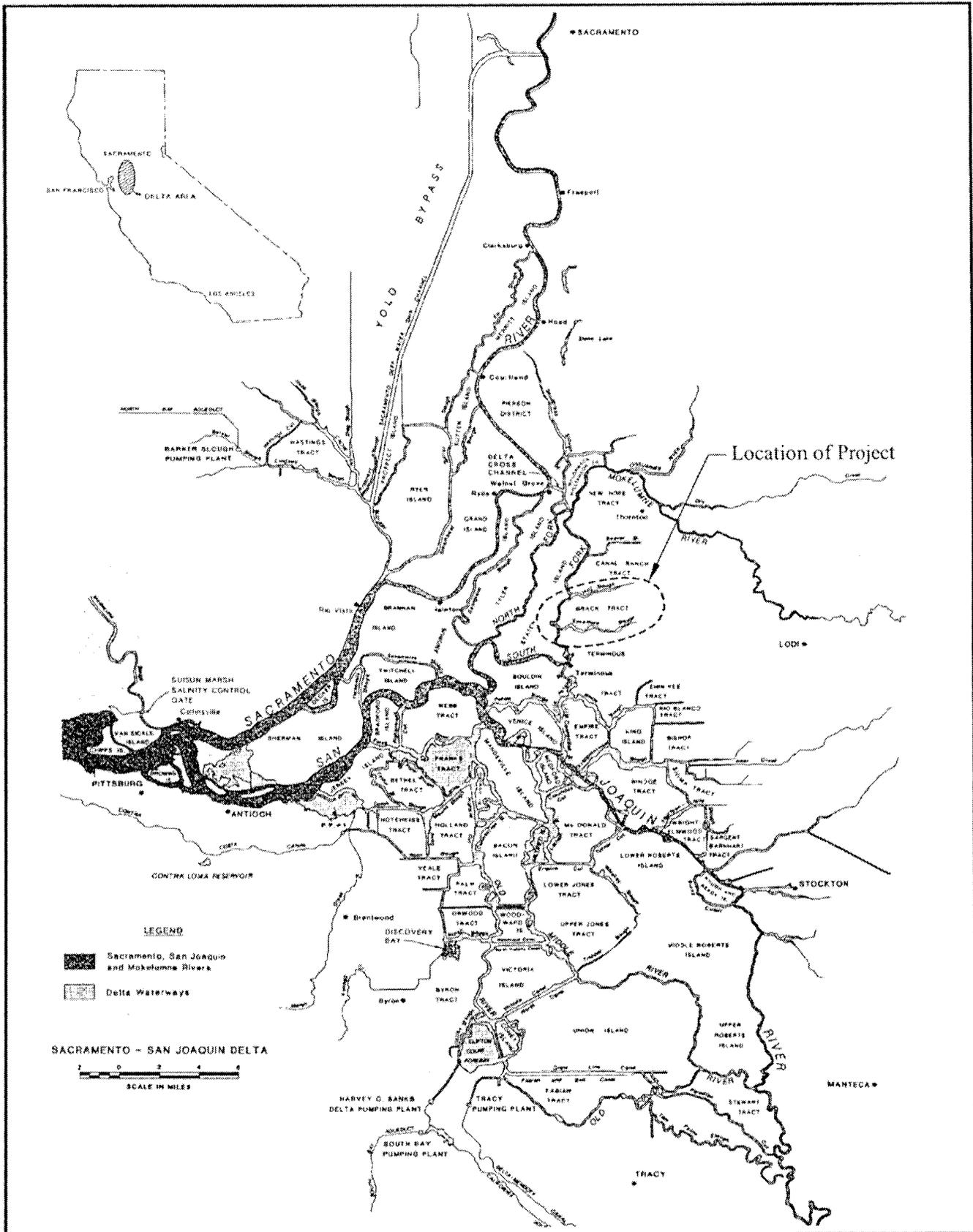
*It is anticipated that State support would come from the Department of Water Resources Delta Levee Subventions Program. Local support would also come from the landowners and trustees who represent Reclamation District No. 2033, Brack Tract. These landowners include the State of California, who own properties maintained by the Department of Water Resources and the Department of Fish and Game. It is unknown at this time whether agencies associated with exportation of water from the Delta, which rely on the west levee of Brack Tract to convey fresh Sacramento River water across the Delta to the pumping facilities, would support this work.*

- Are there any known challenges or obstacles that may delay rapid development and implementation of your potential project?

*At this time, there are no known challenges or obstacles that would delay rapid development and implementation of the project. At this time, it is unknown what their local cost share would be; and therefore, there may be some issues on the timing of their cost share participation.*

- Is your agency ready, willing, and able to serve as a non-Federal sponsor for this potential project, and able to provide required cost-sharing and other assurances?

*Reclamation District No. 2033 is willing to serve as the non-Federal sponsor for any potential projects on the island that would reduce the flood risk and protect the property and inhabitants of Brack Tract.*



SACRAMENTO  
 DELTA AREA  
 SAN FRANCISCO  
 LOS ANGELES

Location of Project

**LEGEND**

-  Sacramento, San Joaquin and Mokelumne Rivers
-  Delta Waterways

SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN DELTA



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Reclamation District No. 2033  
 Brack Tract  
**VICINITY MAP**

SCALE:	1" = 2 miles
R.D. NUMBER:	4315-00
DRAWN BY:	SEJ
DATE:	March 2004
	
Bar Length On Original Drawing Equals One Inch. Adjust Scale Accordingly.	

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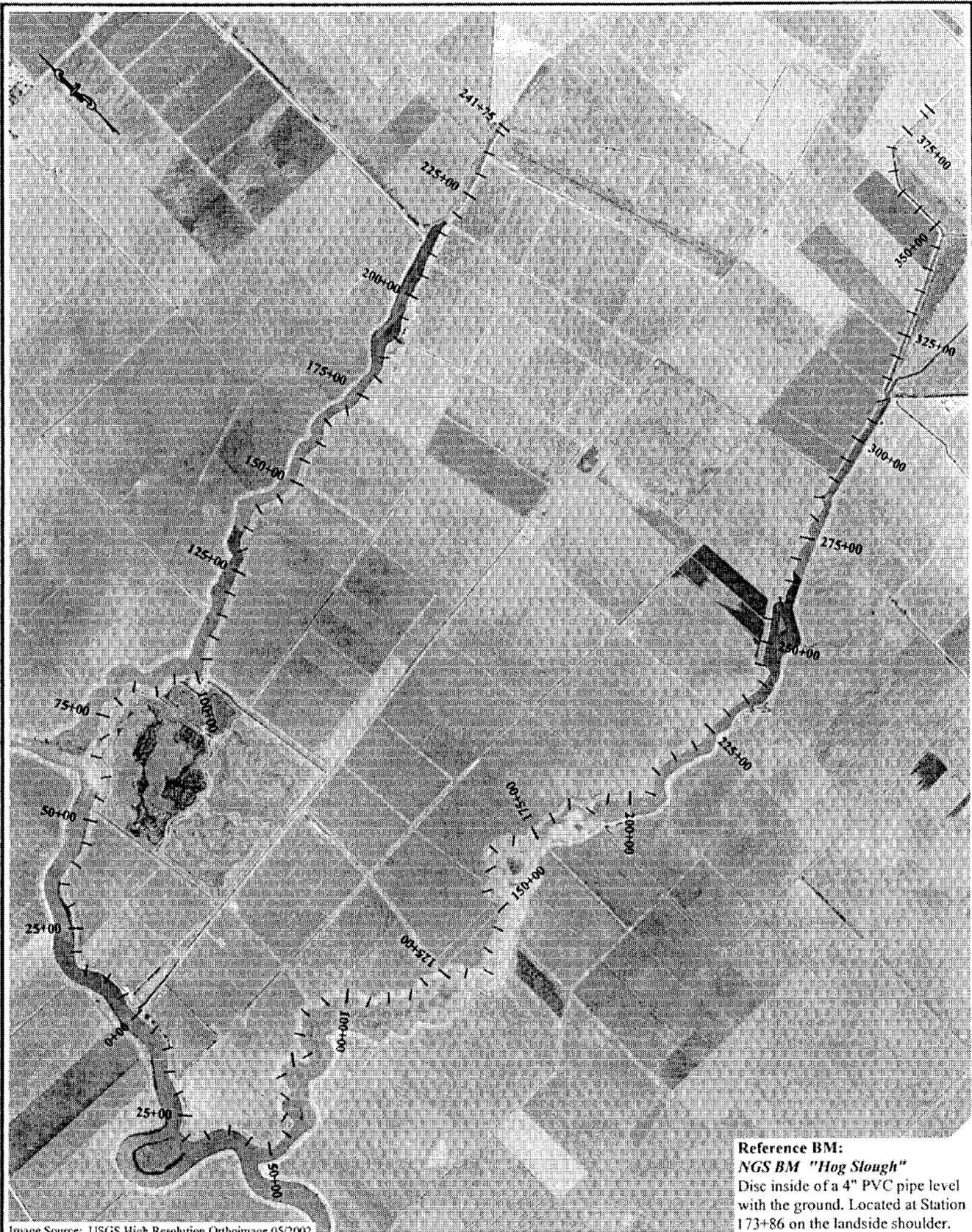


Image Source: USGS High Resolution Orthoimage 05/2002



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Reclamation District No. 2033 - Brack Tract

### DISTRICT AERIAL MAP

SCALE	1" = 800'
JOB NUMBER	4315.00
DRAWN BY	TDR
DATE	March 2005
<small>Use Length on Original Drawing to Verify          One Inch Adjust Scale Accordingly</small>	

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