

KJELDSSEN, SINNOCK & NEUDECK, INC.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS

KENNETH L. KJELDSSEN
STEPHEN K. SINNOCK
CHRISTOPHER H. NEUDECK

711 NORTH PERSHING AVENUE
POST OFFICE BOX 844
STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA 95201-0844

TELEPHONE (209) 946-0268
FAX (209) 946-0296
E-MAIL ksn@ksninc.com

January 31, 2006

Colonel Ronald N. Light
District Engineer
Sacramento District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1325 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

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RECEIVED
FEB 02 2006

Re: CALFED Levee System Integrity Program – Request for Proposals

Dear Colonel Light:

On behalf of many of the 23 Reclamation Districts our office represents, we hereby convey the intent to participate in feasibility studies and/ or other actions being developed for levee system improvement projects in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta area.

Attached to this letter are information sheets for each of the Districts that were able to respond to the Fact Sheet & Request for Proposals (RFP) dated January 4, 2006. It is my understanding that the RFP documentation was distributed to the Districts in mid January.

Please be advised that many of the Reclamation Districts in the Delta continue to respond to the 2006 New Years storm and flood events, and have been busy repairing their levees from the damage sustained. The Delta Districts remain in an emergency mode of operation due to the current high tides, runoff and storms. Accordingly, it is difficult for many of them to fully consider and formulate a response to the RFP at this time. We anticipate that many of the Districts may have projects that would otherwise qualify for funding but are unable to meet the January 31, 2006 deadline for submitting proposals. Regular District board meetings are typically quarterly or monthly, and many of the Districts have not had a chance to meet to consider the RFP. A primary consideration for the Districts is the cost associated with the preparation of a complete RFP at a time when all of their available funding is being used to maintain the levees in addition to responding to an already dangerous and expensive flood season.

The attached proposed project information sheets provide a brief overview for each project, and are consistent with the list of required information in the RFP. They provide the information that was available to date. Additional information will be provided following further research and consideration.

It should be noted that the Reclamation Districts do not operate like larger, special districts and regional agencies. They are relatively small and need to operate at maximum efficiency due to a limited amount of available funds. Many do not maintain full time hired staff, and rely on a small pool of consultants to handle most of their administrative and engineering burden. More often

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than not, the Districts handle the day to day operations with volunteer or part time labor. Accordingly, the cost of developing and proposing a project that may not be funded requires careful consideration before a district can justify allocating maintenance and emergency funds to prepare a proposal.

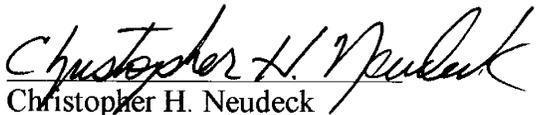
At this time, most of our District's have limited ability to Cost Share in a Federal Project. This is a critical matter, and needs to be resolved prior to any of the Reclamation Districts committing to cost share. In the past, the Districts provided land, easements and/or right of ways, while the State of California picked up the balance of the cost share. In order for the districts to consider cost sharing in these projects, other responsible agencies will also need to be identified and commit to cost sharing.

To be candid, our Reclamation District's are a bit apprehensive when partnering with the Corps. There is a history of difficult relations involving an extremely bureaucratic system that generates excessive paperwork, costly and often unfounded environmental constraints, poor cost control, a lack of communications with the local agencies and a resistance to utilize local knowledge. To participate in a project where the local agency has little or no control over the project development or implementation is a very risky proposition for the Reclamation Districts.

I fully anticipate that more of our Districts will be submitting proposals in the near future, and we will forward them when we receive approval to do so.

I appreciate the opportunity to participate in the development of these proposed projects, and look forward to working with you to resolve the issues outlined above.

Sincerely,

 *4/m 2-20-06 receipt*
Christopher H. Neudeck

cc:

- USACOE Planning Division (Attn: Ron Ganzfried)
- RD 563
- RD 1601
- RD 307
- RD 17
- RD 800
- FD 501