

PORT OF STOCKTON

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January 31, 2006

Lt. Colonel Jon Revolinsky
Deputy Commander, Sacramento District
US Army Corps of Engineers
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Dear Colonel Revolinsky:

Thank you for your recent involvement at the Levee Forum held at the Port of Stockton. The participation of the US Army Corps of Engineers was a very helpful and informative contribution. Ms. Lynn O'Leary, the Corps Delta Project Manager, in her presentation, asked for public inputs by January 31, 2006 for your 180-day report to Congress. We would like to provide you with our inputs.

Many questions were raised at the Levee Forum on the beneficial reuse of Delta dredge material for flood control and the difficulties in securing water quality permits. We believe the Corps flood control planning for the Delta must incorporate significant beneficial reuse of Delta dredge materials. The dredge material is the same material as the Delta levees being protected. We believe Delta dredge material can be used to strengthen many existing levees. Also, significant flood control benefits, water quality benefits, and environmental restoration benefits would be realized with the restoration of flooded levees at locations such as Franks Tract, Big Break, and other western delta islands.

At the Forum, it was noted that dredged channels benefits the hydraulic conveyance of floodwaters. The Stockton Ship Channel, in times of high flows, provides the largest floodwater conveyance channel in the San Joaquin River. Without the flood carrying capacity of the Stockton Ship Channel, many Delta islands would be seriously impacted. The importance of the Stockton Ship Channel to the San Joaquin Region and the State is multi-purpose, benefiting navigation, flood control, water quality and water supply. The public and many public agencies are generally not aware of this fact. We ask the Corps to highlight this important hydraulic conveyance in your 180-day report to Congress.

Deepening the Stockton Ship Channel to 40' would yield at approximately 13 million cubic yards of material, which could be used to strengthen existing levees and/or restore previously flooded levees. For annual O & M dredging, there would be a yield of approximately 400,000 cubic yards. There has been a concern on the part of some State agencies regarding the beneficial reuse of dredge materials which will need to be addressed. The Port of Stockton's independent studies are showing progress in this area, and we have submitted our new information to the State to assist in resolving any outstanding issues. Your Operations Branch should have additional information on this process.

We understand the Corps is seeking cost sharing partners for the \$90 million provided by Congress to protect the Delta against flooding. We may assist you in securing potential non-Federal interests or State cost sharing with the various infrastructure bonds being proposed. The Port's potential involvement in this area would be limited to direct navigation benefits.

Again, we would emphasize the importance of beneficial reuse of dredge material in your Delta flood protection planning and report to Congress. When completed, we would appreciate a copy of the Corps 180-days report to Congress. If you need further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to call me at 209-946-0246.

Sincerely,



Richard Aschieris
Port Director