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February 10, 2006

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

Dear Colonel Light:

This letter conveys Yolo County's (County) intent to participate in feasibility studies and/or other actions to investigate the underseepage potential of Sacramento River Flood Control Project levees, which protect rural communities, as the non-Federal sponsor consistent with the CALFED Bay-Delta Authorization Act (Public Law 108-361). The feasibility studies and/or other actions will also investigate other factors associated with levee integrity

The County understands that the type, cost, and scope of actions will be determined and specified later if selected for development and/or implementation pursuant to the Act. Please note that this letter of intent is not an obligation of funds. We look forward to working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the State of California, and other pertinent CALFED agencies and stakeholders on this important project.

If you have any questions, you may contact me at (530) 666-8045 or Gilbert Cosio, MBK Engineers, at 916/456-4400.

Sincerely,

John Bencomo
Director of Planning, Resources and Public Works

Cc: GC

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

February 2006

Project Name: Yolo County Sacramento River Flood Control Project Levee Integrity Investigation

Purpose: The purpose of the project is to investigate the underseepage potential of Sacramento River Flood Control Project levees, which protect rural communities. The project will also investigate other factors associated with levee integrity.

Location: The project is located along the right bank of the Sacramento River and its distributaries located in Yolo County within the legal boundary of the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta. These levees are maintained by Reclamation Districts 150, 307, 765, 900, and 999. Their levees protect the communities of West Sacramento and Clarksburg.

Problems: The levees protecting the lands within the above described reclamation districts were reconstructed as part of the Federal Sacramento River Flood Control Project. As such, they were accepted as meeting all requirements of the FEMA Flood Insurance Program in the late 1970s and early 1980s. The FEMA Flood Insurance Program criteria for evaluating levees have changed dramatically. Therefore, there are questions whether these levees would meet current FEMA criteria, especially in regard to underseepage potential.

Opportunities: A great opportunity exists to perform initial studies to evaluate underseepage potential at the subject levees. This information would be valuable not only to Yolo County, but other cities and counties and other special districts throughout the Central Valley of California. Most levees may have been acceptable under the FEMA flood insurance standards at one time, but may need to be re-evaluated under the existing standards. The study would provide information in regard to the level of effort needed to adequately evaluate levee systems.

Project Description: The project would consist of determining levees of concern within Yolo County. The Project would then consist of exploratory geotechnical evaluation and analysis under current FEMA flood insurance criteria. The final phase would be to determine appropriate designs for rehabilitation of the levees if they are found to be out of compliance with the current standards. It is estimated the project will cost \$10 million- \$15 million, depending on the number of levee miles investigated.

Statement of Willingness and Ability to Cost Share: Yolo County is very concerned about the protecting the lives and property of its citizens living behind Sacramento River levees. Yolo County has limited resources, but is willing to share the costs of conducting the levee integrity studies. The amount of Yolo County's contribution can only be determined through the County's budget process and is subject to approval by the Yolo County Board of Supervisors. Yolo County is very interested in participating with the Corps of Engineers and other appropriate entities to investigate the current situation regarding these levees.

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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?

At this time, Yolo County and other communities are eager to learn more about the levee systems protecting the rural communities; and therefore, the urgency of this project lies in the fact that the information obtained through the process will greatly assist communities in evaluating the process to study and rehabilitate its levees systems to an acceptable standard.

- 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?

It is not anticipated that this project would have any impact on other areas.

- 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 valuable information to local communities who are concerned about potential flooding of their constituents.

- 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 known non-structural alternatives to this problem since rural communities already exist behind the current levee system.

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

The Project would benefit the landowners and inhabitants of the rural communities in Yolo County. In addition, the results of the studies would also benefit other rural communities in California's Central Valley who are concerned about similar issues..

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

It is anticipated that the State would be a participant through future programs developed from the future bonds or other mechanisms. The State has been found to have certain

liabilities in regard to these levees; and therefore, there is no doubt that they would be interested in participating with Yolo County.

- 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.

- 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?

Yolo County is willing to serve as the non-Federal sponsor for any project that would be of great benefit to its rural communities.