American River Watershed, California
Long-Term Study
Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report

Scoping Report

State Clearinghouse Number 2000092051

Prepared for

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District

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AMERICAN RIVER WATERSHED, CALIFORNIA
LONG-TERM STUDY
SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
SCOPING REPORT

Background

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), The Reclamation Board of the State of California (Reclamation Board), and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) are investigating the feasibility of providing long-term flood protection and environmental restoration for the Lower American River and the Sacramento Area.

Acting as lead agencies under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Corps and the Reclamation Board are preparing a joint Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (Supplemental EIS/EIR). The Supplemental EIS/EIR will supplement the Final Supplemental EIS/EIR prepared on the American River Flood Control Investigation in 1996. Major elements evaluated in the 1996 Final Supplemental EIS/EIR included constructing and operating a floodwater detention dam just downstream of the Auburn damsite, lowering the spillways at Folsom Dam, and increasing the conveyance capacity of the flood control system downstream of Folsom Dam.

Generally, the study area for the Supplemental EIS/EIR includes the Folsom Dam and Reservoir, the Lower American River, the Sacramento Bypass, and the Yolo Bypass. Operational impacts of the project could expand the study area to include the North and South Forks of the American River, the Sacramento River, and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

This report describes the project alternatives, scoping process, and comments received to date.

Flood Control Alternatives

During the scoping process, the Corps and the Reclamation Board brought forward a range of alternatives that would enhance flood protection for the Sacramento Metropolitan Area. These alternatives included increasing the conveyance capacity of the flood system downstream from Folsom Dam, increasing the capacity of Folsom Reservoir to store floodwaters, instituting an anticipatory release plan, and combining the three alternatives. These alternatives, along with the No-Action Alternative, will be evaluated in the Supplemental EIS/EIR.

Stepped Release

The Stepped Release Alternative would provide the maximum level of flood protection without additional detention. The Stepped Release Alternative would include modifying levees and possibly enlarging the river outlets at Folsom Dam to allow higher objective releases. Two

objective release scenarios have been proposed, one allowing releases of up to 160,000 cfs and the other allowing releases of up to 180,000 cfs. Increasing objective releases to 160,000 cfs would require strengthening some levees along the American River. Increasing objective releases to 180,000 cfs would require increasing the height of levees along the American River, raising the height of some of the bridges that cross the American River, increasing the size of the Sacramento Bypass and Weir, and increasing the heights of levees in the Yolo Bypass.

Dam Raise

The Dam Raise Alternative would improve the level of flood protection by raising Folsom Dam to a maximum flood control pool elevation of 478 feet above mean sea level (msl), 482 feet above msl, or 487 feet above msl. Elements associated with increasing the maximum flood control pool elevation would include changes to existing gates, walls, piers, bridges, main concrete, wing dams, and the spillway bridge, and the addition of a new river crossing.

Anticipatory Release

The Anticipatory Release Alternative would reduce flood damage by expanding weather forecast-based flood control operations at Folsom Dam beyond the scope of the currently authorized flood management plan. Increased flood protection would be achieved by extending the period during which dam operators make flood control releases in excess of reservoir inflows, based on flood forecasting and weather information.

Ecosystem Restoration

Ecosystem restoration is a project purpose in addition to flood control. The study will evaluate measures to enhance riparian habitat values at sites along the Lower American River.

Scoping Meetings

The Corps and the Reclamation Board held three scoping meetings in October 2001 to solicit public comments to determine the scope of the Lower American River Long-Term Investigation EIR. Scoping meetings were held in the cities of Folsom, Sacramento, and Woodland, California on October 3, 4, and 5, respectively. Before the meetings, notices were published in local newspapers announcing the time, date, location and purpose of the meetings. Invitations to the meetings and copies of the Notice of Preparation were distributed to an extensive mailing list of stakeholders throughout the Lower American River region and across the state.

The scoping meetings were conducted in an “open house” format. Participants were provided a self-guided view of exhibits describing Lower American River flood control history and potential alternatives. Attendees were invited to talk with representatives from SAFCA, the Reclamation Board, and the Corps. A court reporter was available at each meeting to record verbal comments. Interested parties also had the opportunity to provide comments through postal mail, e-mail, and a toll-free telephone number.

Publicity

To publicize the meetings, the Corps mailed approximately 2,000 public meeting notices to interested parties throughout the Lower American River region and across the state. A news release was prepared and forwarded to the local news media.

Staff

The following representatives from the Corps, the Reclamation Board, SAFCA, and consultants participated in the scoping meetings:

Tom Adams, Corps
Patricia Roberson, Corps
Jeff Groska, Corps
Jim Taylor, Corps
Debbie Layton, Corps
Susan Rosebrough, Corps
Andrea Bonilla, Corps
Gary Britter, Corps
Tore Pearson, Corps
Veronica Petrovsky, Corps
Annalena Bronson, Reclamation Board
Steve Yaeger, Reclamation Board
Butch Hodgkins, SAFCA
Tim Washburn, SAFCA
John Bassett, SAFCA
Gregg Roy, Jones & Stokes[1]
Gregg Ellis, Jones & Stokes[1]
Chris Elliott, Jones & Stokes[1]
Jerry Dion, Jones & Stokes[1]
Selene Jacobs, Jones & Stokes[1]
Ric Reinhardt, MBK Engineers[2]
Barbara Gualco[2]

[1] Consultant to the Corps

[2] Consultant to SAFCA

Meeting Agenda and Content

As previously described, the scoping meetings were presented in an open house format, using large, informative exhibits. The topics of the six exhibits included: American River Flood Control History, Decision Making Process, Folsom Dam Raise Plan, Stepped Release Plan, Additional Anticipatory Release Plan, and Ecosystem Restoration. The following is a summary of the exhibits displayed at the meetings. Please also see Appendix 1, "Scoping Meeting Exhibits."

Exhibit 1: American River Flood Control History

This introductory display provides a chronological review of flood control events such as the construction of Folsom Dam in 1956, the passage of NEPA and CEQA in 1969-1970 and the Water Resources Development Act in 1992, the floods of 1986 and 1997, and the passage of the Local Assessment District in 2000.

Exhibit 2: Decision-Making Process

Exhibit 2 describes the proposed project as a congressionally mandated extension of the American River Watershed Investigation (ARWI). The purpose of the Supplemental EIS/EIR is to (1) examine the feasibility of raising Folsom Dam to create additional flood storage capacity, an alternative not pursued in either of the preceding studies, (2) re-examine alternatives previously studied in light of the expected accomplishments of the improvements which Congress has already approved, and (3) present new information on opportunities for environmental restoration along the Lower American River. NEPA and CEQA require a comparative analysis of the environmental impacts of the proposed projects and alternatives. Potential alternatives to the proposed project include No-Action, Folsom Dam Raise Plan, Stepped Release Plan, and Additional Anticipatory Release Plan.

Exhibit 3: Folsom Dam Raise Plan

Exhibit 3 provides a project description of the Folsom Dam Raise Plan. Under the Folsom Dam Raise Plan, Folsom Dam and wing dams and dikes would be raised to create additional reservoir storage space to be used exclusively for increased flood storage. Different dam raise alternatives (up to a 12-foot raise) will be included in the evaluation of the Folsom Dam Raise Plan. Depending on the extent of the dam raise, this alternative could provide a level of flood protection as great as a 1-in-210-chance flood in any given year.

Potential environmental impacts could include construction- and operation-related impacts to vegetation, wildlife, air quality, traffic, noise, recreation and land use. Key issues associated with the Dam Raise Plan include level of flood protection, project costs, impacts on other uses of Folsom Reservoir, construction design and process, bridge construction to divert traffic, and minimization of traffic impacts.

Exhibit 4: Stepped Release Plan

Exhibit 4 provides a project description of the Stepped Release Plan. Under the Stepped Release Plan, the capacity of the American River channel below Folsom Dam would be increased to accommodate higher flood control releases from the dam. This capacity increase could entail raising the American River levees up to 3 feet higher than their current elevation, modifying existing drainage and transportation infrastructure along the lower river, and raising and strengthening portions of the levee system along the Sacramento River and the Sacramento and Yolo Bypasses. Three increased channel capacity options will be evaluated. Depending on the extent of the increase in channel capacity, this alternative could provide a level of flood protection as great as a 1-in-170 chance of flood in any given year.

Potential environmental impacts could include construction- and operation-related impacts to vegetation, wildlife, air quality, noise, levee integrity, interior drainage, fisheries, transportation, and land use. Key issues associated with the Stepped Release Plan include: level of flood protection, project costs, construction design and process, effect of increased channel capacity on lands protected by levees outside the American River watershed, modifications of the Howe Avenue Bridge to accommodate the 180,000 cfs option, and the effect of implementation of this alternative on the American River Parkway.

Exhibit 5: Additional Anticipatory Release Plan

Exhibit 5 provides a project description of the Additional Anticipatory Release Plan. Under this alternative, additional flood storage would be created within the existing configuration of Folsom Reservoir by releasing water from the reservoir, based on forecasted flood inflows. Outflows from the reservoir would be allowed to exceed inflow. This alternative would augment the Flood Management Plan. Options would vary by how much in advance of peak inflow releases would be made, and by the amount of flow that would be released.

Potential environmental impacts could include operation-related impacts to water supply, hydropower, recreation, and fisheries. Key issues associated with the Additional Anticipatory Release Plan include: reliability of flood protection provided by the plan, given the current state of weather forecasting; effect of the plan on other uses of Folsom Reservoir if anticipated reservoir inflows do not materialize; and identification and funding of potential costs of the plan.

Exhibit 6: Ecosystem Restoration

Exhibit 6 describes the purpose of ecosystem restoration. Ecosystem restoration is one of the primary missions of the Corps' Civil Works program. The purpose of Civil Works ecosystem restoration activities is to restore significant ecosystem function and structure as well as the dynamic processes that have been degraded. The intent of restoration is to reestablish the attributes of a naturalistic, functioning, self-regulating system.

The combination of a century-and-a-half of mining, development, floodplain constriction, dam construction, and flow modifications have resulted in the alteration of the physical

processes that sustain ecosystem values, thereby contributing to significant degradation of the Lower American River ecosystem. Some of the issues within this ecosystem include high flood plains, channel downcutting, invasive non-native plants, dredger tailings, and habitat for predator fish.

Restoration objectives for the Lower American River ecosystem include enhancing plant, wildlife, and aquatic habitat values, increasing shaded riparian aquatic habitat, increasing floodplain habitat diversity, improving connectivity between the low-flow channel and river terraces, enhancing habitat for the Sacramento splittail, anadromous fish, and the giant garter snake, facilitating establishment of native plant species, and allowing for recreation opportunities without compromise of habitat functions and values.

Verbal Comments

A court reporter was present at all three meetings to record verbal comments. A total of three verbal comments were recorded. Appendix 2 includes transcripts of recorded verbal comments. In addition to offering verbal comments, interested parties were invited to provide input through comment cards, postal mail, e-mail, and a toll-free telephone number during the public comment period.

Written Comments

A total of 16 written comment letters were received by the deadline of October 20, 2000. Appendix 2 includes copies of those letters. All comments received at the scoping meetings and written comments in response to the NOP are being considered during preparation of the Supplemental EIS/EIR.

Public Comment Summary

The following is a summary of the comments received to date. All comments and questions are categorized by main points of interest.

Proposed Project and Alternatives

Recommendations were offered regarding the project description and alternatives selection, including the following:

- Provide a complete summary of background information, critical issues, assumptions and decisions.

- Provide a clear description of project purpose and need, alternatives, potential impacts, and mitigation.

- Describe existing conditions of the American River Basin, including information on land use, flood control practices, and biological resources.

- Consider ideas and reasonable alternatives proposed by the public that may not be within the jurisdiction of the lead agency.

- Recognize that the Folsom Dam Raise Alternative provides needed flood protection without sacrificing water supply or impacting downstream flood control facilities.

- Recognize that the Additional Anticipatory Release Plan provides flood protection while maintaining and enhancing water supplies.

- Assess whether an increased flood plain area reduces flow rate, maintenance, impacts on wildlife, vegetation, and recreation.

- Consider establishing natural flood buffers such as wetlands rather than channelizing the river.

Land Use

Recommendations were offered regarding potential impacts on land use, including the following:

- Determine if the project will worsen conditions for landowners downstream from the proposed improvements.

- Consider how landowners prohibited from farming their land will be compensated.

- Consider implementing remedies used on the Mississippi River, such as removing homes and even towns from the flood plain.

Transportation and Circulation

Recommendations were offered regarding potential impacts to transportation and circulation, including the following:

- Consider potential effects of a Folsom Dam Road closure on traffic flow and regional transportation patterns.

- Confirm that the condition of various American River bridge footings are adequately substantial following the floodwaters of 1998.

- Recognize that local government may not be able to use Federal Emergency Relief funds to repair damage to local bridges resulting from an emergency release from the dam.

- Identify impacts and mitigation measures for all bridge locations along the main stem of the Lower American River below Folsom Dam under various release conditions.

- Preserve local bridge stability.

Air Quality

Recommendations were offered regarding potential impacts on air quality, including the following:

- Discuss air quality standards, ambient conditions, and potential air quality impacts.
- Demonstrate compliance of project with Clean Air Act.

Water Quality

Recommendations were offered regarding potential impacts on water quality and supply, including the following:

- Assess the potential impacts to water quality in all four alternatives.

- Discuss how the project will comply with State and local water quality management plans and Environmental Protection Agency–approved water quality standards.

- Identify Section 404 Clean Water Act requirements and management and mitigation proposals to ensure compliance with the Act.

- Discuss specific monitoring programs that will be implemented to determine potential impacts on water quality.

Water Supply

Recommendations were offered regarding the potential ability to store additional water, including the following:

- Assess the potential impacts to water supply in all four alternatives, including changes to water quantity, timing of diversions, and shortages in dry years.

- Provide adequate amounts of water to affected parties and municipalities.

- Consider how additional water storage may prompt future applications to appropriate water.

- Evaluate reasonably foreseeable future projects to store additional water in Folsom Reservoir.

- Assess opportunities for enhancing water supplies, such as diversion, banking, and exchange in cooperation with the American River Basin Cooperating Agencies.

- Consider how divergent type facilities such as tributary outlets and pipelines could reduce Lower American River water flow.

- Consider potential effects of a Folsom Dam Road closure on water supply for the city of Folsom.

Levee Raise

Recommendations were offered regarding the impacts of raising levee and dam levels, including the following:

- Assess whether increased dam height will cause permanent impacts on the additional acreage covered by water.

- Assess whether increased levee height will cause greater flood-stage water flow rates and require increased maintenance.

- Consider the potential graffiti attraction of flood walls and the ongoing maintenance cost of graffiti removal.

Potential Impacts of Increased Floodflows

Recommendations were offered regarding potential effects of increased floodflows, including the following:

- Determine whether alteration of downstream riverbed morphology at local bridge locations will occur.

- Determine whether contribution of runoff to downstream flood control facilities will occur under the Stepped Release Alternative.

- Ensure analysis and mitigation of impacts resulting from increased flows.

- Consider the possible increased threat of flooding to the city of Rio Vista.

- Include modeled water levels and velocities for each release scenario.

Biological Resources

Recommendations were offered regarding potential impacts on biological resources, including the following:

- Evaluate the proposed restoration project's potential for habitat restoration, habitat fragmentation, and habitat connectivity, and the cumulative effects on species viability.

- Evaluate the ability of the proposed project to help reestablish and maintain long-term species viability and productivity within the project area.

- Indicate what measures will be taken to protect critical wildlife habitat areas from potential adverse effects of the project.

- Identify potential impacts to wetlands and aquatic ecosystems.

- Consider potential effects of closing Folsom Dam Road on vegetation.

Cultural Resources

Recommendations were offered regarding potential impacts on cultural resources, including the following:

- Consult with the Native American Heritage Commission and complete an archeological inventory survey.

Recreation

Recommendations were offered regarding potential impacts to recreation, including the following:

- Consider potential effects of closing Folsom Dam Road on recreation at Folsom Reservoir and along the American River.

Jurisdiction

Recommendations were offered regarding agency jurisdiction over the project site, including:

- Determine whether the proposed project is State sovereign land under the jurisdiction of the State Lands Commission.

Interagency Consultation and Coordination

Recommendations were offered regarding the need for consultation and coordination of efforts with other agencies and organizations, including the following:

- Describe past, present and proposed flood protection projects and how they may interact with other water supply and restoration projects in the American River Basin.

- Include a discussion of related projects being investigated by other agencies to avoid a piecemeal approach to water management for water impounded by Folsom Dam.

- Consult with the Lower American River Task Force and Lower American River Fish Group on their development of a River Corridor Management Plan for the Lower American River.

- Consult with the Water Forum Successor Effort in developing ecosystem restoration measures.

- Develop a regional conjunctive use/banking program by the Sacramento Metropolitan Water Authority, the Sacramento North Area Groundwater Management Authority, and the American River Basin Cooperating Agencies.

- Determine whether National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and Clean Water Act Section 404 permits and consultation with the State Water Resources Control Board and Corps would be required.

- Coordinate with the Department of Water Quality throughout the plan review process.

Project Costs and Funding

Recommendations were offered regarding the potential project costs and funding sources, including the following:

- Provide full disclosure and discussion of possible funding, implementation, enforcement, and monitoring commitments, assurances, and mechanisms.

- Conduct a cost-benefit analysis.

- Assess whether costs of land acquisition are less than those of continuous levee and dam maintenance.

Environmental Justice

Recommendations were offered regarding potential environmental justice issues, including the following:

- Describe the measures taken by the Corps to comply with Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, including (a) analysis of the environmental effects of the project on minority and low-income populations, and (b) provision of opportunities for affected communities to provide input into the NEPA process.

Appendix 1. Scoping Meeting Exhibits

Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

State of California
The Reclamation Board

American River Flood Control History

1956
Folsom Dam Built

Construction of Folsom Dam was completed in 1956. Folsom Dam is operated to provide flood control, water supply, hydropower, and incidental recreation benefits.

Based on the hydrologic record available during the 1950s, it was thought that Folsom Dam would provide protection from a flood with a 1-in-200 chance of occurring in any year.

1969-70
NEPA/CEQA Enacted

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was enacted in 1969 in response to an overwhelming national sentiment that federal agencies should take a lead in providing greater protection for the environment.

Similarly, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), requires state, local, and other agencies subject to the jurisdiction of the State of California (State) to evaluate the environmental implications of their actions. Furthermore, it aims to prevent agency actions from affecting the environment by requiring agencies to avoid or reduce the significant environmental impacts of their decisions, when feasible.

Federally sponsored and state-sponsored flood control projects are subject to both NEPA and CEQA.

1986
Flood

The flood of 1986 was the largest flood ever recorded for the Sacramento and American Rivers. It pushed Sacramento's flood control system to its limit and triggered a major re-evaluation of the system by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps).

The re-evaluation identified numerous deficiencies and concluded that large portions of the City of Sacramento did not have protection from a flood with a 1-in-100 chance of occurring in any year.

1988
American River Watershed Investigation

In 1988, Congress directed the Corps to initiate the American River Watershed Investigation (ARWI) to identify feasible solutions to Sacramento's flood problems.

1991
ARWI Feasibility Report

The ARWI Feasibility Report analyzed Sacramento's flooding problems and identified several potentially feasible solutions. The report recommended construction of a flood control detention dam near Auburn and levee and channel improvements in and around Natomas sufficient to provide Sacramento protection from a flood with a 1-in-200 chance of occurring in any year.

1992
Water Resources Development Act

In 1992, the Corps, the State, and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) sought congressional approval for the recommended flood control dam at Auburn and levee improvements proposed in the 1991 ARWI Feasibility Report.

This effort failed because of strong opposition from environmental interests and supporters of a multipurpose dam. However, Congress authorized the Corps to develop a Flood Management Plan for Folsom Dam and Reservoir. Congress also authorized the Natomas area levee improvements.

1995
Reoperation of Folsom Dam

In March 1995, SAFCA entered into an agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to increase the space available for flood control at Folsom, with the amount of increase depending on storage conditions in three nonfederal reservoirs located in the upper reaches of the American River watershed. This agreement, known as the "reoperation agreement," provides for variable storage space for flood control, further reducing the risk of flooding from the lower American River.

1996
ARWI Supplemental Information Report

This report supplemented the 1991 ARWI Feasibility Report by presenting three candidate flood protection plans and identifying a recommended plan.

The main element of the recommended plan was the construction of an expandable flood control dam near Auburn, capable of providing Sacramento with protection from a flood with a 1-in-500 chance of occurring in any year.

1996
Water Resources Development Act

In 1996, the Corps, the State, and SAFCA again sought congressional approval for a flood control dam at Auburn. As in 1992, Congress did not approve construction of the dam. Instead, Congress authorized a series of lesser improvements, including strengthening the levees along both sides of the lower American River and continuing the variable space operation at Folsom Dam on a long-term basis.

1997
Flood

The 1997 flood nearly equaled the record volume and exceeded the peak flow of the 1986 flood. However, as a result of the improvements implemented during the preceding 7 years, Sacramento weathered this storm with a much greater margin of safety than in 1986. Nevertheless, the 1997 flood highlighted Sacramento's continuing vulnerability to uncontrolled flooding along the lower American River and underscored the urgency of continuing efforts to improve the existing flood control system.

1999
Water Resources Development Act

In 1999, Congress approved the most significant package of improvements to Sacramento's flood control system since the completion of Folsom Dam. These improvements include:

- modifications to the outlet works at Folsom designed to increase the dam's release capacity during the early stages of a flood event;
- improvements to portions of the north and south levees of the lower American River and Mayhew Drain to ensure safe containment of Folsom's emergency spillway release; and
- an updated Flood Management Plan to reflect enhanced operational capacity and improved weather forecasting.

Congress also directed the Corps to study the next possible steps in the flood control improvement process along the lower American River: increasing the design capacity of the existing levee system and/or enlarging Folsom Dam and Reservoir to create more flood control storage space.

2000
Local Assessment District

In June 2000, Sacramento property owners voted overwhelmingly to approve an assessment on properties within the 100-year floodplain to raise the local share of costs of the projects authorized in the 1999 Water Resources Development Act.

1955 1960 1965 1970 1975 1980 1985 1990 1995 2000

Daskey #1, 9/29/00

Exhibit 1
American River Flood Control History

SAFCA **Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Decision-Making Process

State of California The Reclamation Board

Alternatives Selection Process

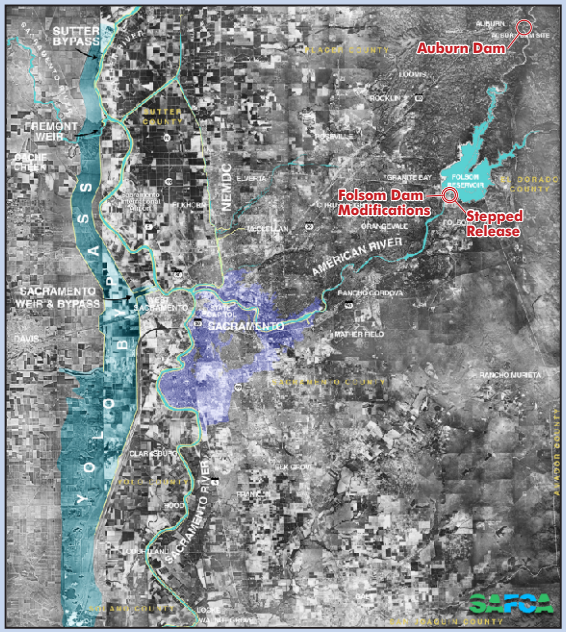
The current study was mandated by Congress as a focused extension of the ongoing American River Watershed Investigation. The purposes of the study are to:

- examine the feasibility of raising Folsom Dam to create additional flood storage capacity, an alternative not pursued in either of the preceding studies;
- re-examine previously studied alternatives (such as increasing the design capacity of the levee system and creating more flood storage space within Folsom Reservoir) in light of the expected accomplishment of the improvements that Congress has already approved; and
- present new information on opportunities for environmental restoration along the lower American River.

The scoping process provides the public the opportunity to suggest new, reasonable alternatives. However, the study will not focus on the flood control dam at Auburn because this option was sufficiently analyzed in the previous studies and Congress has not asked for further examination of it.

Both the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) require a comparative analysis of the environmental impacts of proposed projects and alternatives. This analysis will be included in the current study along with information on the costs and benefits, reliability, effectiveness, and acceptability of each alternative. It is anticipated that this information will be presented in draft form to local and state decision-makers in the summer of 2001 so that they may identify a locally preferred plan. This plan will then be the focus of a final report with recommendations to Congress in the spring of 2002.

Regional Flood Control Features



Alternatives

The proposed study will consider the following alternatives:

No-Action. Only improvements previously authorized by Congress would be implemented, including:

- Folsom Dam outlet modifications,
- anticipatory releases,
- Natomas levee work, and
- lower American River levee work.

These improvements are considered "existing", even though construction will not be completed until 2006. This alternative assumes that Congress would authorize no additional flood control improvements along the American River.

Folsom Dam Raise Plan. Folsom Dam would be raised to provide increased reservoir storage space for flood control. Different dam raise alternatives (raises of up to 12 feet) will be included in the evaluation of the Folsom Dam Raise Plan.

Stepped Release Plan. The capacity of the American River channel below Folsom Dam would be increased to accommodate higher flood control releases from the dam. Three increased channel capacity options will be presented:

- 160,000 cubic feet per second (cfs);
- 180,000 cfs; and
- 160,000 cfs, with early release through new outlets at Folsom Dam.

Additional Anticipatory Release Plan. Additional flood control capacity would be created at Folsom Dam by augmenting the updated Flood Management Plan. This alternative goes beyond the flood control elements presently authorized under the No-Action Alternative.

Combination Plan. Various combinations of the above alternatives will be created and assessed.

Other Alternatives. Other reasonable alternatives will also be considered.

Ecosystem Restoration. Opportunities for ecosystem restoration along the lower American River will be studied as a project purpose separate from flood control.

Daskey #2, 9/29/00

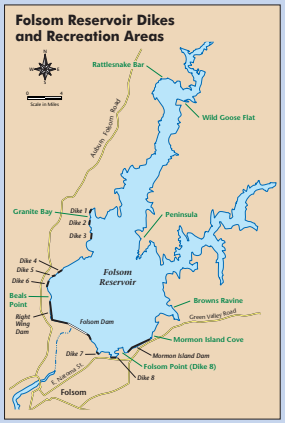
Exhibit 2
Decision-Making Process

SAFCA **Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Folsom Dam Raise Plan

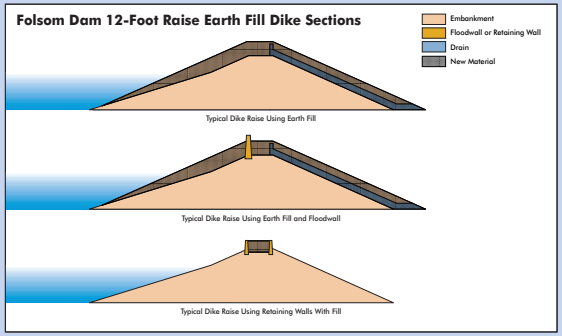
State of California The Reclamation Board



Project Description

Under the Folsom Dam Raise Plan, Folsom Dam and Folsom Reservoir dikes would be raised to create additional reservoir storage space to be used exclusively for flood water storage.

Improvements would be designed so that they could be constructed and operated without affecting ongoing water conservation and hydropower operations. Additional improvements include a detour bridge across the American River downstream of Folsom Dam to minimize traffic impacts.



Dam Raise Options

Different dam raise alternatives (raises of up to 12 feet) will be included in the evaluation of the Folsom Dam Raise Plan.

The plan would maintain the current Folsom Dam design flood control release of 115,000 cfs and the emergency release of 160,000 cfs.

Depending on the extent of the dam raise, the Folsom Dam Raise alternative could provide protection from a 210-year flood, which means a flood that has a 1-in-210 (less than 0.5%) chance of occurring in any given year.

Potential Impacts

The environmental impacts associated with the Folsom Dam Raise Plan will be fully evaluated. These impacts could include:

Construction-Related Impacts

- Vegetation
- Wildlife
- Air quality
- Traffic/circulation
- Noise
- Recreation

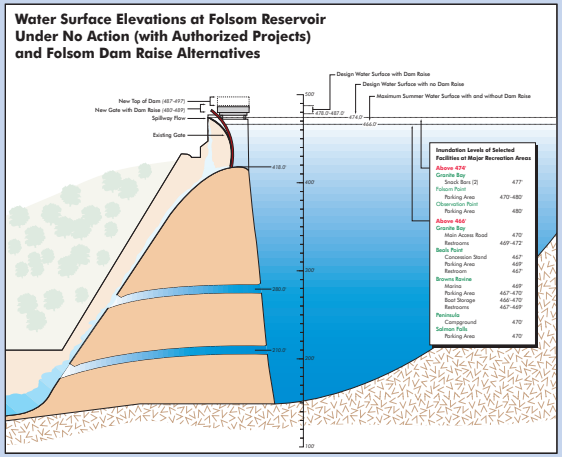
Operation-Related Impacts

- Recreation
- Vegetation
- Wildlife
- Land use

Key Issues

The key issues associated with the Dam Raise Plan include:

- How much flood protection can be provided?
- What are the estimated costs to construct, operate and maintain the new facilities?
- What effect will the dam raise have on the other uses of Folsom Reservoir?
- How will the construction process be designed?
- How long will construction last?
- What kind of bridge will be constructed to detour traffic from the top of the dam?
- How will traffic impacts be minimized?



Daskiv #3, 9/29/00

Exhibit 3
Folsom Dam Raise Plan

Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency

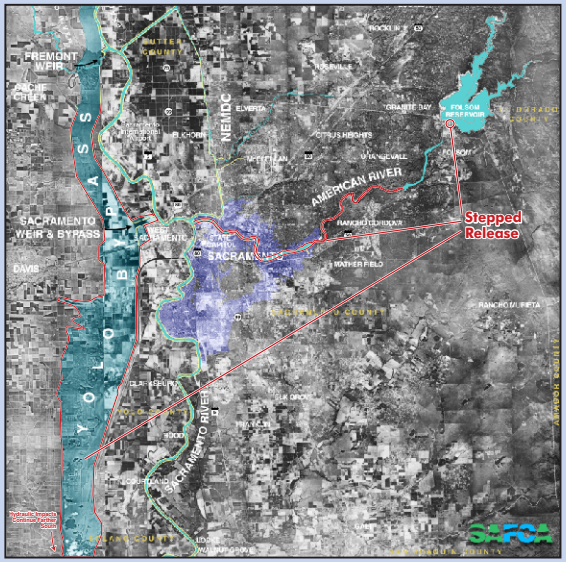
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Stepped Release

State of California
The Reclamation Board

Project Description

Under the Stepped Release Plan, the capacity of the American River channel below Folsom Dam would be increased to accommodate higher flood control releases from the dam. This could entail raising the American River levees up to 3 feet higher than their current elevation, modifying existing drainage and transportation infrastructure along the lower river, and raising and strengthening portions of the levee system along the Sacramento River and the Sacramento and Yolo Bypasses.



Stepped Release Options

The plan would be designed to preserve existing levels of service for infrastructure along the American River. It would also be designed to maintain the current flood protection capability of the levee system, protecting property outside the American River watershed, including property near the Sacramento and Yolo Bypasses.

Flood Control Releases

Options for increased channel capacity will be evaluated within this range:

- Increase design flood control release from 115,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 145,000 cfs; emergency release remains at 160,000 cfs.
- Increase design flood control release from 115,000 cfs to 145,000 cfs; emergency release increased to 180,000 cfs.
- Increase design flood control release from 115,000 cfs to 145,000 cfs; emergency release remains at 160,000 cfs with new outlet works at Folsom Dam.

Depending on the extent of the increase in channel capacity, this alternative could provide a level of flood protection as great as a 1-in-170 chance of flooding in any year.

Potential Impacts

The environmental impacts associated with the Stepped Release Plan will be fully evaluated. These impacts could include:

Construction-Related Impacts

- Traffic/circulation
- Air quality
- Noise
- Vegetation
- Wildlife

Operation-Related Impacts

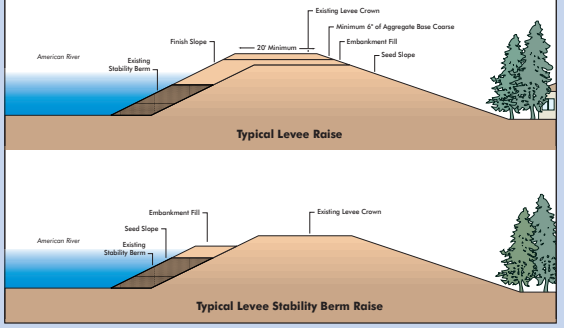
- Levee integrity
- Interior drainage
- Fisheries
- Transportation

Key Issues

The key issues associated with the Stepped Release Plan include:

- How much flood protection can be provided?
- What are the estimated costs to construct, operate, and maintain the new facilities?
- What effect will changes in channel capacity have on lands protected by levees outside the American River watershed, including the Sacramento and Yolo Bypasses?
- How will the construction be designed?
- How long will construction last?
- How will the Howe Avenue Bridge be modified to accommodate the 180,000 cfs option?
- How will the plan affect the American River Parkway?

Levee Raise Cross Sections



Daskiv #4, 9/29/00

Exhibit 4
Stepped Release Plan

SAFCA Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Additional Anticipatory Release

State of California
The Reclamation Board

Project Description

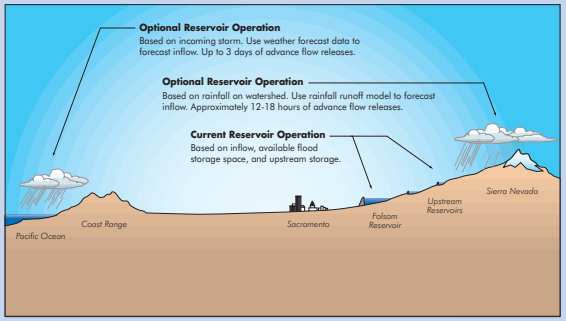
Currently, Folsom Dam flood releases are based on actual inflow to Folsom Lake. The Corps is in the process of updating the Folsom Flood Management Plan which will provide for advance releases that will not impact existing uses of the dam. These releases may be based on forecasting inflow from measured precipitation in the watershed or from weather data of incoming storms.

Under the Additional Anticipatory Release Plan, additional flood storage would be created within the existing configuration of Folsom Reservoir by releasing water from the reservoir based on forecasted flood inflows. Outflows from the reservoir would be allowed to exceed inflow. This alternative would augment the Flood Management Plan. This plan differs from the Flood Management Plan as it may impact water supply or other dam uses.

The Additional Anticipatory Release Plan would be designed to increase flood storage space only in anticipation of very large flood inflows so as to minimize the risk of any resulting impacts to the other uses of Folsom Reservoir. The plan would be operational in nature and would require no additional physical improvements to the dam.

Anticipatory Release Options

Options would vary by how much in advance of peak inflow releases would be made, and by the amount of flow that would be released.



Potential Impacts

The environmental impacts associated with Additional Anticipatory Release Plan will be fully evaluated. These impacts could include:

Operation-Related Impacts

- Water Supply
- Hydropower
- Recreation
- Fisheries

Key Issues

The key issues associated with the Additional Anticipatory Release Plan include:

- How reliable is the flood protection provided by the plan given the current state of weather forecasting?
- What affect could the plan have on other uses of Folsom Reservoir if anticipated reservoir inflows do not materialize?
- How will the potential costs of the plan be identified and funded?

Display # 6, 9/29/00

Exhibit 5
Additional Anticipatory Release Plan

SAFCA Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency

Ecosystem Restoration

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

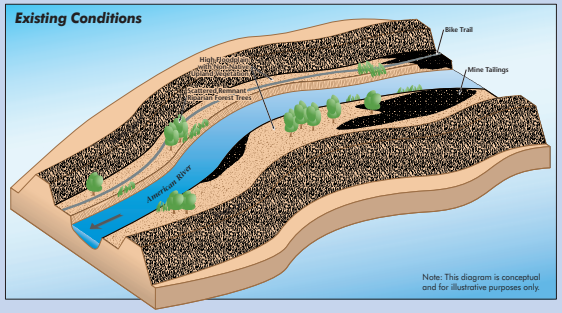
Mission and Vision of Ecosystem Restoration: An Overview

Ecosystem restoration is one of the primary missions of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps') Civil Works program.

The purpose of ecosystem restoration is to restore significant ecosystem function, structure, and dynamic processes that have been degraded. The intent of restoration is to reestablish the attributes of a naturalistic, functioning, and self-regulating system.

The Corps' mission of protecting, restoring, conserving, and managing ecological resources has taken on greater importance over recent decades. The lower American River study is an example of evaluating habitat restoration opportunities as part of a broader regional water resources management program authorized by Congress.

The stated purpose of ecosystem restoration efforts is to comprehensively examine the problems that contribute to system degradation and to develop alternative means of solving these problems.



Key Problems and Opportunities in the Lower American River Ecosystem

The combination of a century-and-a-half of mining, development, floodplain constriction, dam construction, and flow modifications have altered the physical processes that sustain ecosystem values, thereby contributing to significant degradation of the lower American River ecosystem. Some of the problems and opportunities within this ecosystem include:

Problem: *High floodplains* produced by deposition of sandy sediments from upstream hydraulic mining during the Gold Rush are disconnected from the ordinary flow of the river, except in very high flow events. Without a regular cycle of frequent inundation bringing water to the unnaturally high terraces and shallower water tables, native plant species cannot regenerate adequately.

Opportunity: Removing excess soil to reestablish more frequent inundation and a shallower water table facilitates a more natural hydrologic cycle for native plant establishment and makes a larger area subject to frequent inundation. This work results in healthy, diverse riparian communities and overall habitat improvement.

Problem: *Channel downcutting* between the high floodplain banks results in a lack of shallow aquatic habitat along channel edges, which is important to juvenile fish rearing. This also results in a lack of shallow, slow-water sidechannels and other off-channel aquatic habitats that are important to both fish rearing and fish spawning.

Opportunity: High quality fish rearing habitat can be created by cutting benches to lower bank elevations, or by constructing shallowly submerged fill benches along the channel edges, together with placing instream woody material and planting riparian vegetation near the shoreline.

Problem: The dry upland conditions of the high floodplains and the modified hydrologic cycle allow *invasive non-native plants* to outcompete the native species, because non-native plants are better adapted to these dry conditions. The system generally lacks vegetative cover and diversity.

Opportunity: Creating more frequent inundation, combined with removing invasive non-native species and planting native riparian plants, enhances ecological function.

Problem: *Dredger tailings* in the form of bars and deposits along the riverbanks and on the floodplain provide a poor substrate for riparian plants and less-than-optimal fish and wildlife habitat values. Upstream dams have eliminated transport of sediment downstream and slowed the development of substrate for plant colonization.

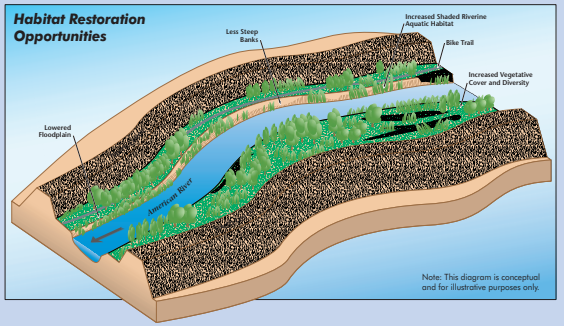
Opportunity: Removing and redistributing large river cobble, combined with reintroducing fine-grained bank material, may foster conditions more suitable for regeneration of native riparian vegetation.

Problem: Deep pools occur in several locations where the river captured abandoned gravel mining pits. These pools provide *habitat for predator fish* that prey on juvenile salmon.

Opportunity: Filling excessively deep pools, lowering the floodplain, developing sidechannels, and disposing of dredger tailings could eliminate predator habitat and increase juvenile salmon survival.

Restoration Objectives for the Lower American River Ecosystem

1. Enhance values of plant, wildlife, and aquatic habitat.
2. Increase shaded riparian aquatic cover.
3. Increase the diversity of floodplain habitat.
4. Improve connectivity between the low-flow channel and river floodplains.
5. Enhance habitat for Sacramento splittail and anadromous fish.
6. Facilitate establishment of native plant species.
7. Enhance recreation and educational opportunities by developing high-quality riparian and aquatic habitats.
8. Ensure compatability with flood control system and proposed improvements.



Developing an Ecosystem Restoration Plan

This study will follow these steps:

- Identify sites in the lower American River that present promising restoration opportunities.
- Design measures appropriate to the sites that satisfy restoration objectives.
- Analyze and compare measures in terms of cost and effectiveness.
- Select a subset of the best measures to form a best alternative plan.

The American River Long Term Study will incorporate this ecosystem restoration plan with a flood control plan.

Display #5, 9.29.00

Exhibit 6
Ecosystem Restoration

Appendix 2. Comments Received

Agency/Individual	Date
Comment Letters	
Federal Agency	
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX	September 2000
State Agencies	
State of California Department of Transportation, District 3, Sacramento Area Office	August 18, 2000
The Reclamation Board	September 20, 2000
State of California Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse	September 26, 2000
State of California Native American Heritage Commission	September 27, 2000
State of California Department of Transportation, District 3, Sacramento Area Office	October 19, 2000
State Water Resources Control Board	October 20, 2000
California State Lands Commission	November 6, 2000
Local Agencies	
Sacramento Metropolitan Water Authority	October 18, 2000
City of Folsom Public Works Department	October 19, 2000
City of Rio Vista	October 19, 2000
County of San Joaquin Department of Public Works	October 20, 2000
County of Sacramento Department of Water Resources	October 24, 2000
County of Sacramento Public Works Agency	October 25, 2000
County Sanitation District 1	October 25, 2000
Individuals	
Mathias van Thiel, PhD.	September 27, 2000
Sheila M. Ard	October 22, 2000
Colin Fletcher	October 28, 2000
Public Comments	
Ron Tadlock	October 4, 2000
Gary Estes	October 4, 2000
Unidentified speaker	October 5, 2000

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

SEP 13 2000

Ms. Patricia Roberson
Environmental Resources Branch
Planning Division
US Army Corps of Engineers
1325 J. Street
Sacramento, CA. 95814-2922

Dear Ms. Roberson:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for the project entitled **American River Project, Long Term Evaluation, California.** Our review is pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and California State Reclamation Board (The Board), intend to prepare a joint document to evaluate the environmental effects of proposed flood control and ecosystem restoration components for the Sacramento, California area. This document will be a supplement to the 1996 American River Watershed Project Supplemental Information Report and SEIS/EIR, which in turn supplemented the 1991 American River Watershed Investigation feasibility study and EIS.

The evaluation will examine alternative measures to provide additional flood protection to the City of Sacramento. Alternatives identified to date include: 1) enlarging Folsom Reservoir; 2) a downstream levee plan, which would involve raising and strengthening levees, raising bridges, and widening the Sacramento Bypass, and 3) a combination of downstream levee work and Folsom enlargement. Potential for ecosystem restoration will also be evaluated.

EPA recognizes the need for reliable flood protection within the American River basin. We agree that a new evaluation of the flood control system would be beneficial. EPA provided comments on the 1996 American River Watershed Project Draft and Final SEIS and 1991 American River Watershed Investigation Draft and Final EIS. These comment letters are enclosed and will provide you an idea of our past concerns.

For the current effort, we recommend the DSEIS include a clear description of past, present, and proposed flood protection projects and how these projects may interact with other water supply and restoration projects in the American River basin. At a minimum, describe the interplay, if any, between the proposed project and Bureau of Reclamation's American River Water Resources Investigation, American River Water Forum Agreement, East Bay Municipal

Utility District Water Supply Project, Placer County Water Agency American River Pump Station, potential closure of the Auburn Dam bypass tunnel, efforts to maintain and restore the American River Parkway, Lower American River Habitat Management Program, Folsom Reservoir temperature control device, Lower American River flow standard, and expansion and development of water supply facilities (e.g., Sacramento River and E.A. Fairbairn Water Treatment Plants).

We also believe it is important for the DSEIS to provide an overview of development within the American River basin (e.g., status of Natomas development) and water management in California. This overview would place the proposed project within the context of regional flood plain and water management. For instance, describe current Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood plain management and insurance regulations, linkages to the Central Valley Project and CALFED proposals, and relationship to flood control projects on the Sacramento River (e.g. Yolo Bypass, Sacramento River levees). It is our understanding that the methods for determining flood risk and appropriate flood protection levels have been evolving over the years. The DSEIS should provide a detailed explanation of the current approach for determining flood risk and flood protection levels.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this NOI. Detailed general scoping comments are enclosed for your information. Please send three copies of the DSEIS to this office at the same time it is officially filed with our Washington D.C. Office. If you have questions regarding this letter, please call me at (415) 744-1584, or contact Laura Fujii, of my staff, at (415) 744-1601.

Sincerely,

David J. Farrel, Chief
Federal Activities Office

Enclosures: Detailed comments (4 pages)
EJ Executive Order
5/15/96 EPA Comments on ARWI Final SEIS
9/29/95 EPA Comments on ARWI Draft SEIS
5/26/92 EPA Comments on ARWI Final EIS
6/13/91 EPA Comments on ARWI Draft EIS

Filename: AmRivernoi.wpd
MI# 003465

cc: FWS, Sacramento
NMFS, Santa Rosa
SAFCA, Sacramento
CA State Reclamation Board, Sacramento

COMMENTS

National Environmental Policy Act

EPA recommends the DSEIS include a clear description of the basic project purpose and need, project alternatives, potential impacts to the environment, and mitigation for these impacts. Particular attention should focus on an evaluation of the environmental impacts of the proposal and alternatives in comparative form, thus sharply defining the issues and providing a clear basis for choice among options for the decisionmaker and the public (40 CFR 1502.14). In addition, NEPA requires evaluation of indirect and cumulative effects which are caused by the action (40 CFR 1508.8(b) and 1508.7).

Existing Conditions

The DSEIS should clearly describe existing conditions of the American River Basin. Include specific information on existing land use, flood control practices, biological resources (e.g., threatened and endangered species, wetlands and riparian areas, sensitive or unique resources), and unresolved flood protection issues and needs.

Alternatives Analysis

We recommend consideration of ideas provided by the public and of reasonable alternatives not within the jurisdiction of the lead agency (40 CFR Section 1502.14(c)). There should be a clear discussion of how each alternative was developed and the reasons for the elimination of alternatives not evaluated in detail. We recommend developing a range of alternatives which bracket any potential flood protection approach.

Water Quality

1. The DSEIS should briefly discuss how the proposed flood control project will comply with State and local water quality management plans and State-adopted, EPA-approved water quality standards. Provide information on how the project will assure compliance with the State nonpoint source pollution program. EPA recommends that the project proponents fully coordinate with the appropriate Regional Water Quality Control Board to ensure protection of water quality and maintenance of beneficial uses.

2. In addition, the DSEIS should fully disclose potential beneficial and/or adverse impacts to water quality, wetlands, and aquatic ecosystems. The discussion should include an evaluation of potential impacts on existing fisheries, especially the threatened and endangered Chinook salmon, and nonpoint source pollution programs.

Include information on:

a. The potential of the proposed project to cause beneficial and/or adverse aquatic impacts such as increased siltation and turbidity; changes in the direction of stream flow, substrate, dissolved oxygen, and temperature; and habitat deterioration.

b. Critical fisheries habitat, especially spawning and rearing areas; and other sensitive aquatic sites such as wetlands. Outline past and potential beneficial uses of these areas, and disclose potential impacts from the proposed flood control activities.

c. The process which will be used to evaluate cumulative effects from past, present and foreseeable proposed actions.

3. Discuss specific monitoring programs that will be implemented before and after proposed flood control actions to determine potential impacts on water quality and beneficial uses, and whether maintenance and protection of water quality is being guaranteed.

Wetlands: Section 404 Comments

The DSEIS should identify impacts to water, floodplains, and wetlands, including identification of Section 404 Clean Water Act requirements, and management and mitigation proposals to ensure compliance with these requirements.

EPA will review the proposed action for compliance with the Federal Guidelines for Specification of Disposal Sites for Dredged or Fill Materials (40 CFR 230) [hereafter referred to as the Guidelines], promulgated pursuant to Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act (CWA). To comply with the Guidelines, the proposed actions must meet all of the following criteria:

- There is no practicable alternative to the proposed discharge which would have less adverse impact on the aquatic ecosystem (40 CFR 230.10(a)).

- The proposed action does not violate State water quality standards, toxic effluent standards, or jeopardize the continued existence of federally listed species or their critical habitat (40 CFR 230.10(b)).

- The proposed action will not cause or contribute to significant degradation of waters of the United States, including wetlands (40 CFR 230.10(c)). Significant degradation includes loss of fish and wildlife habitat, including cumulative losses.

- All appropriate and practicable steps are taken to minimize adverse impacts on the aquatic ecosystem (i.e., mitigation) (40 CFR 230.10(d)). This includes incorporation of all appropriate and practicable compensation measures for unavoidable losses to waters of the

United States, including wetlands. The DSEIS should fully address the feasibility of "in-kind" habitat mitigation measures.

Air Quality

The DSEIS should provide a discussion of air quality standards, ambient conditions, and potential air quality impacts for the proposed flood control project. Describe the proposed construction activities, including road, levee, and bridge construction; and their impacts on air quality. Cumulative and indirect impacts should be fully evaluated.

Federal agencies are required by the Clean Air Act to assure that actions conform to an approved air quality implementation plan. If the proposed project area is in a nonattainment area, the Corps may need to demonstrate compliance with conformity requirements of the Clean Air Act [Section 176(c)]. General Conformity Regulations can be found in 40 CFR Parts 51 and 93 (58 Federal Register, page 63214, November 30, 1993). These regulations should be examined for applicability to the proposed project.

Species Viability

The DSEIS should fully evaluate the proposed restoration project in the context of the potential for habitat restoration, habitat fragmentation, habitat connectivity, and the cumulative effects on species viability. Although endangered species and species-of-concern are notable focal points for evaluation, the DSEIS should also evaluate potential impacts on other significant or keystone species.

We recommend an ecosystem management approach which focuses on long-term management of the ecosystem and species viability. The DSEIS should address the ability of the proposed flood control project to help reestablish and maintain long-term species viability and productivity within the project area.

Indicate what measures will be taken to protect critical wildlife habitat areas from potential adverse effects of proposed flood control and management activities. The feasibility of proposed mitigation measures should be fully demonstrated.

Funding and Administration

The DSEIS should provide full disclosure and discussion of possible funding, implementation, enforcement, and monitoring commitments, assurances, and mechanisms for the flood control proposal. Include a description of current State/Federal cost-share policies. If this

information (e.g., funding agreements) has been relegated to the appendices, we recommend it be summarized in the main body of the DSEIS.

Environmental Justice

In keeping with Executive Order 12898, **Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations** (EO 12898), the DSEIS should describe the measures taken by the Corps to:1) fully analyze the environmental effects of the proposed Federal action on minority communities, e.g. Indian Tribes, and low-income populations, and 2) present opportunities for affected communities to provide input into the NEPA process. The intent and requirements of EO 12898 are clearly illustrated in the President's February 11, 1994 Memorandum for the Heads of all Departments and Agencies, attached.

General

If references to previous documents are used, the DSEIS should provide a summary of critical issues, assumptions and decisions complete enough to stand alone without depending upon continued referencing of the other documents. It would be helpful to provide a chronology of flood control efforts in the American River basin (including multipurpose projects, e.g. Auburn Dam), a legislative history, and information on relevant litigation. One possible idea is to include in an appendix the executive summaries or abstracts of previous projects such as the 1991 American River Watershed Investigaton.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 11, 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF ALL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Executive Order on Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations

Today I have issued an Executive order on Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations. That order is designed to focus Federal attention on the environmental and human health conditions in minority communities and low-income communities with the goal of achieving environmental justice. That order is also intended to promote nondiscrimination in Federal programs substantially affecting human health and the environment, and to provide minority communities and low-income communities access to public information on, and an opportunity for public participation in, matters relating to human health or the environment.

The purpose of this separate memorandum is to underscore certain provision of existing law that can help ensure that all communities and persons across this Nation live in a safe and healthful environment. Environmental and civil rights statutes provide many opportunities to address environmental hazards in minority communities and low-income communities. Application of these existing statutory provisions is an important part of this Administration's efforts to prevent those minority communities and low-income communities from being subject to disproportionately high and adverse environmental effects.

I am therefore today directing that all department and agency heads take appropriate and necessary steps to ensure that the following specific directives are implemented immediately:

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, each Federal agency shall ensure that all programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance that affect human health or the environment do not directly, or through contractual or other arrangements, use criteria, methods, or practices that discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national origin

Each Federal agency shall analyze the environmental effects, including human health, economic and social effects, of Federal actions, including effects on minority communities and low-income communities, when such analysis is required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. section 4321 et seq. Mitigation measures outlined or analyzed in an environmental assessment, environmental impact statement, or record of decision, whenever feasible, should address significant and adverse environmental effects of proposed Federal actions on minority communities and low-income communities.

Each Federal agency shall provide opportunities for community input in the NEPA process, including identifying potential effects and mitigation measures in consultation with affected communities and improving the accessibility of meetings, crucial documents, and notices.

The Environmental Protection Agency, when reviewing environmental effects of proposed action of other Federal agencies under section 309 of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. section 7609, shall ensure that the involved agency has fully analyzed environmental effects on minority communities and low-income communities, including human health, social, and economic effects.

Each Federal agency shall ensure that the public, including minority communities and low-income communities, has adequate access to public information relating to human health or environmental planning, regulations, and enforcement when required under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. section 552, the Sunshine Act, 5 U.S.C. section 552b, and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, 42 U.S.C section 11044.

* * *

This memorandum is intended only to improve the internal management of the Executive Branch and is not intended to, nor does it create, any right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any person.

William J. Clinton

SUMMARY OF EPA RATING DEFINITIONS

This rating system was developed as a means to summarize EPA's level of concern with a proposed action. The ratings are a combination of alphabetical categories for evaluation of the environmental impacts of the proposal and numerical categories for evaluation of the adequacy of the EIS.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE ACTION

"LO" (Lack of Objections)

The EPA review has not identified any potential environmental impacts requiring substantive changes to the proposal. The review may have disclosed opportunities for application of mitigation measures that could be accomplished with no more than minor changes to the proposal.

"EC" (Environmental Concerns)

The EPA review has identified environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to fully protect the environment. Corrective measures may require changes to the preferred alternative or application of mitigation measures that can reduce the environmental impact. EPA would like to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts.

"EO" (Environmental Objections)

The EPA review has identified significant environmental impacts that must be avoided in order to provide adequate protection for the environment. Corrective measures may require substantial changes to the preferred alternative or consideration of some other project alternative (including the no action alternative or a new alternative). EPA intends to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts.

"EU" (Environmentally Unsatisfactory)

The EPA review has identified adverse environmental impacts that are of sufficient magnitude that they are unsatisfactory from the standpoint of public health or welfare or environmental quality. EPA intends to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts. If the potentially unsatisfactory impacts are not corrected at the final EIS stage, this proposal will be recommended for referral to the CEQ.

ADEQUACY OF THE IMPACT STATEMENT

Category 1" (Adequate)

EPA believes the draft EIS adequately sets forth the environmental impact(s) of the preferred alternative and those of the alternatives reasonably available to the project or action. No further analysis or data collection is necessary, but the reviewer may suggest the addition of clarifying language or information.

"Category 2" (Insufficient Information)

The draft EIS does not contain sufficient information for EPA to fully assess environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to fully protect the environment, or the EPA reviewer has identified new reasonably available alternatives that are within the spectrum of alternatives analysed in the draft EIS, which could reduce the environmental impacts of the action. The identified additional information, data, analyses, or discussion should be included in the final EIS.

"Category 3" (Inadequate)

EPA does not believe that the draft EIS adequately assesses potentially significant environmental impacts of the action, or the EPA reviewer has identified new, reasonably available alternatives that are outside of the spectrum of alternatives analysed in the draft EIS, which should be analysed in order to reduce the potentially significant environmental impacts. EPA believes that the identified additional information, data, analyses, or discussions are of such a magnitude that they should have full public review at a draft stage. EPA does not believe that the draft EIS is adequate for the purposes of the NEPA and/or Section 309 review, and thus should be formally revised and made available for public comment in a supplemental or revised draft EIS. On the basis of the potential significant impacts involved, this proposal could be a candidate for referral to the CEQ.

*From EPA Manual 1640, "Policy and Procedures for the Review of Federal Actions Impacting the Environment."

STATE OF CALIFORNIA-BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENCY GRAY DAVIS, *Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 3, SACRAMENTO AREA OFFICE - MS 41
P.O. BOX 942874
SACRAMENTO, CA 94274-0001
TDD Telephone (916) 741-4509
FAX (916) 323-7669
Telephone (916) 324-6642

August 18, 2000

LSAC102
03-SAC-50
Flood Control Improvements
Main Stem of American River
FEIR
SCH#2000022029

Mr. Timothy Washburn, Agency Counsel
Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency
1007 Seventh Street, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Washburn:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the flood control Improvements along the main stem of the American River. Our comments on SAFCA responses to our letter of March 7, 2000 are as follows:

- Under the "emergency release" conditions of 160,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) of water from Folsom Dam, cited in the 1-3 response to comments, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is referenced as having performed studies in 1996 to substantiate that no modifications to any of the bridges crossing the American River or Yolo Bypass would be required given such a scenario. Do recent records confirm that the condition of various American River bridge footings (after the floodwaters of 1998) are still as substantial as during the 1996 study period?

- Has an actual 160,000 cfs emergency release from Folsom Dam ever occurred in the American River waterway? Would such a release from Folsom Dam change any downstream riverbed morphology at bridge locations?

- How would "constructing several new and enlarged outlets at Folsom Dam" reduce downstream lower American River water flows? Are several tributary outlets or large pipelines divergent from Folsom reservoir and the lower American River, upstream of the dam, being proposed? Such divergent type facilities would potentially reduce lower American River water flow.

- If downstream river conditions, after an "emergency release"from the dam, were to damage local bridges (similar to the affects of aggregate mining in rivers and streams), local government may not be able to use Federal Emergency Relief (ER) funds to repair such structures. Please refer to the enclosed October 24, 1995 Federal Highway Administration letter.

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Ken Champion at (916) 324-6642.

Sincerely,

JEFFREY PULVERMAN, Chief
Office of Regional Planning

c: Katie Shulte Joung, State Clearinghouse

Appendix I

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

To: Mailing List

(Address)

From: The Reclamation Board

1416 Ninth Street, Room 1601

(Address)

Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: **Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report**

The Reclamation Board will be the Lead Agency and will prepare an environmental impact report for the project identified below. We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the EIR prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval for the project.

The project description, location, and the potential environmental effects are contained in the attached materials. A copy of the Initial Study (☐ is ☒ is not) attached.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice.

Please send your response to Annalena Bronson at the address shown above. We will need the name for a contact person in your agency.

Project Title: Lower American River Long-Term Investigation

Project Applicant, if any: N/A

Date Sept. 26, 2000

Signature Ricardo S. Pinoda for PD Rubbon

Title General Manager

Telephone (916) 653-5434

Reference: California Code of Regulations, Title 14, (CEQA Guidelines) Sections 15082(a), 15103, 15375.

Recd 10/6/2000 via Jennings

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Governor's Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse

Gray Davis
GOVERNOR

Steve Nissen
ACTING DIRECTOR

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT

DATE: September 26, 2000

TO: Annalena Bronson
Reclamation Board
1416 Ninth Street, Room1601
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: American River Long-Term Investigation
SCH#: 2000092051

This is to acknowledge that the State Clearinghouse has received your environmental document for state review. The review period assigned by the State Clearinghouse is:

Review Start Date: September 21, 2000
Review End Date: October 20, 2000

We have distributed your document to the following agencies and departments:

Caltrans, District 3
Department of Conservation
Department of Fish and Game, Region 2
Department of Parks and Recreation
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Native American Heritage Commission
Office of Historic Preservation
Regional Water Quality Control Bd., Region 5 (Sacramento)
Resources Agency
State Lands Commission
State Water Resources Control Board, Clean Water Program

The State Clearinghouse will provide a closing letter with any state agency comments to your attention on the date following the close of the review period.

Thank you for your participation in the State Clearinghouse review process.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION
915 CAPITOL MALL, ROOM 364
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 653-4082
(916) 657-5390 - Fax

September 27, 2000

Annalena Bronson
Reclamation Board
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1601
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SCH # 2000092051- American River Long-Term Investigation

Dear Ms. Bronson:

The Native American Heritage Commission has reviewed the above mentioned NOP. To adequately assess the project-related impact on archaeological resources, the Commission recommends the following action be required:

1. Contact the appropriate Information Center for a records search. The record search will determine:
   - Whether a part or all of the project area has been previously surveyed for cultural resources.
   - Whether any known cultural resources have already been recorded on or adjacent to the project area.
   - Whether the probability is low, moderate, or high that cultural resources are located within the project area.
   - Whether a survey is required to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.

2. The final stage of the archaeological inventory survey is the preparation of a professional report detailing the findings and recommendations of the records search and field survey.
   - Required the report containing site significance and mitigation be submitted immediately to the planning department.
   - Required site forms and final written report be submitted within 3 months after work has been completed to the Information Center.

3. Contact the Native American Heritage Commission for:
   - A Sacred Lands File Check.
   - A list of appropriate Native American Contacts for consultation concerning the project site and assist in the mitigation measures.

Lack of surface evidence of archeological resources does not preclude the existence of archeological resources. Lead agencies should include provisions for accidentally discovered archeological resources during construction per California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) §15064.5 (f). Health and Safety Code §7050.5 and Public Resources Code §5097.98 mandates the process to be followed in the event of an accidental discovery of any human remains in a location other than a dedicated cemetery and should be included in all environmental documents. If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 653-4038.

Sincerely,

Debbie Pilas-Treadway
Associate Governmental Program Analyst

CC: State Clearinghouse

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DISTRICT 3, SACRAMENTO AREA OFFICE - MS 41
P.O. BOX 942874
SACRAMENTO, CA 94274-0001
TDD Telephone (916) 741-4509
FAX (916) 323-7669
Telephone (916) 324-6642

October 19, 2000

LSAC163
03-SAC-50
American River Long Term Investigation
Notice of Preparation
SCH#2000092051

Ms. Annalena Bronson
Reclamation Board
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1601
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Bronson:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Notice of Preparation for the flood control improvements inherent in carrying out the Congress authorized American River Long Term Investigation in the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-53). Our comments are as follows:

- The DEIR should identify the impacts and mitigation measures for all bridge locations along the main stem of the Lower American River below Folsom Dam under various release conditions. Specifically, impacts to the Folsom, Hazel Avenue, Sunrise Boulevard, Watt Avenue, Howe Avenue, J Street and Interstate 5 Bridges should be examined. Our concerns involve the preservation of local bridge stability (ie. scour impacts) at several American River locations in the path of the various water releases, given high water levels with "varied velocity" flow scenarios. (It should also be noted that this project increases the maximum "step release" capacity to 180,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) above the current 160,000 cfs maximum Folsom Dam "emergency release".) Modeled water levels and velocities should be provided with each release scenario to establish whether bridge abutments will be submerged and scoured while in the waterway.

- Please provide our office with the hydraulic model and studies used to assess existing conditions at each bridge and proposed conditions at each bridge under each alternative scenario. This information should show existing and proposed conditions.

  - Changes in velocity
  - Changes in water surface elevations
  - Changes in riverbed elevations

  The analysis should address the potential impacts to each bridge due to:

  - Changes in velocity
  - Changes in water surface elevations
  - Changes in bridge scour at the piers; effects of contraction; and effects of degradation.

  Please provide the hydraulic model or models used (dates of input data, etc.); cross-section location plan view overlays and topography for each alternative; backup scour calculations at each bridge; and plans and methods for mitigating potential impacts to the transportation infrastructure.

- Our comments (see enclosed letter of August 18, 2000) regarding a related project sponsored by the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency entitled, "Flood Control Improvements Along the Main Stem of the American River", are still pending and apply to the same section of the Lower American River as the American River Long Term Investigation.

Please provide our office with the requested information and the DEIR for this project. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Ken Champion at (916) 324-6642.

Sincerely,

JEFFREY PULVERMAN, Chief
Office of Regional Planning

c: Katie Shulte Joung, State Clearinghouse

Winston H. Hickox
Secretary for Environmental Protection

State Water Resources Control Board

Division of Water Rights
901 P Street • Sacramento, California 95814 • (916) 657-1269
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2000 • Sacramento, California • 95812-2000
FAX (916) 657-1485 • Web Site Address: http://www.waterrights.ca.gov

Gray Davis
Governor

MEMORANDUM

TO: Annalena Bronson
Reclamation Board
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1601
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Russell Stein
Environmental Specialist
Hearing Unit

DATE: OCT 2 0 2000

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON NOTICE OF PREPARATION FOR THE AMERICAN RIVER LONG-TERM INVESTIGATION

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has received a copy of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the American River Long-Term Investigation (ARLTI) draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The NOP discusses four alternatives that describe various methods to provide long term flood protection for the Lower American River and the Sacramento Area. Alternatives two and four describe increasing the storage capacity behind Folsom Dam by increasing the height of the dam. Since the SWRCB is responsible for appropriation of water in California, and as a potential Responsible Agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, SWRCB staff offers the following comments.

A review of alternatives two and four indicates that there would be short-term storage of water during heavy winter inflow to the reservoir. The SWRCB staff understands from the NOP that this would be short-term storage, and therefore, additional rights to appropriate water may not be necessary. Additionally, SWRCB staff is aware that the Water Resources Development Act (ACT) of 1999 directs the study of Folsom Dam to assume no increase in conservation storage. Although the Act currently indicates that storage would not increase in Folsom Reservoir, the shear nature of the ability to store additional water may prompt future applications to appropriate water. Therefore, the EIR should contain a discussion on reasonably foreseeable future projects to store additional water in Folsom Reservoir.

The Sacramento Water Forum (Forum) is currently investigating ways to increase water supplies in the Sacramento Area as well as provide flows in the Lower American River for fisheries resources. Some of the proposals being studied by the Forum discuss various methods of water

management for water stored behind Folsom Dam. Therefore, SWRCB staff recommend that the EIR include a discussion of related projects being investigated by other agencies. This could avoid a piecemeal approach to water management for water impounded by Folsom Dam.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the NOP for the American River Long-Term Investigation draft EIR. I am formally requesting that two copies of the draft EIR be provided to the SWRCB staff, Division of Water Rights, for the purposes of review and comment. If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 657-1269.

CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South
Sacramento, CA 95825-8202

PAUL D. THAYER, *Executive Officer*
(916) 574-1800 FAX (916) 574-1810
California Relay Service From TDD Phone **1-800-735-2922**
from Voice Phone **1-800-735-2929**

Contact Phone: **(916) 574-1868**
Contact FAX: **(916) 574-1885**

November 6, 2000

File Ref: SCH#2000092051

Ms. Annalena Bronson
State Reclamation Board
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1601
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Bronson:

Staff of the California State Lands Commission (CSLC or Commission) has reviewed the proposed Notice of Preparation for the American River Long-Term Investigation Project, SCH#2000092051. The CSLC is a Responsible Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act. Based on this review, we offer the following comments.

Jurisdiction

The State acquired sovereign ownership of all tidelands and submerged lands and beds of navigable waterways upon its admission to the United States in 1850. The State holds these lands for the benefit of all the people of the State for statewide Public Trust purposes which include waterborne commerce, navigation, fisheries, water-related recreation, habitat preservation, and open space. The landward boundaries of the State's sovereign interests in areas that are subject to tidal action are generally based upon the ordinary high water marks of these waterways as they last naturally existed. In non-tidal navigable waterways, the State holds a fee ownership in the bed of the waterway between the two ordinary low water marks as they last naturally existed. The entire non-tidal navigable waterway between the ordinary high water marks is subject to the Public Trust. The State's sovereign interests are under the jurisdiction of the State Lands Commission.

The proposed project involves the American River which, in the area of the study, may be State sovereign land under the jurisdiction of the State Lands Commission. When site specific proposals are available, please contact Diane Jones, Public Land Management Specialist, at (916) 574-1843, to determine if the project involves the Commission's leasing jurisdiction.

Environmental Review

We suggest that you consult with both the Lower American River (LAR) Task Force and the LAR Fish Group. These groups are currently working to develop a River Corridor Management Plan for the LAR, along with restoring key elements, including riparian habitat and aquatic habitat for fish. As part of this effort, they conducted substantial research in establishing a baseline of the existing conditions of the river. This information could be helpful in preparing the document, and assessing potential environmental impacts. Furthermore, there is a technical subcommittee for the LAR Fish Group that could be consulted with when refining the different alternatives of the document. The coordinator for these two groups is Marci DuPraw, Senior Mediator, California Center for Public Dispute Resolution, 1303 J Street, Suite 250, Sacramento, CA 95814.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this environmental document. Please contact Kris Vardas at (916) 574-1877, concerning the environmental review comments.

Sincerely,

Mary Griggs

MARY GRIGGS
Assistant Division Chief
Division of Environmental
Planning and Management

cc: Diane Jones
Kris Vardas
OPR

bcc: SCH County File
SCH Chron File
Judy Brown

Sacramento
Metropolitan
Water
Authority

October 18, 2000

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Sacramento District
1325 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attn: Thomas Adams, CESPK-PD-A

Re: Notice of Preparation – American River Long-term Investigation

Dear Mr. Adams;

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the subject Notice of Preparation (NOP). We did not receive the notice prior to the scoping meetings, but Mr. Hodgkins of the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) provided several representatives of American River Basin water purveyors a briefing on October 16, 2000. The following brief comments result from our quick review of the NOP, and information provided at the briefing. They have not been reviewed by the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Metropolitan Water Authority, which will not meet until late next week.

We believe the alternatives to be investigated, as proposed in the NOP, are appropriate. In particular, the innovative proposal for anticipatory flood control releases, when operated in conjunction with a regional groundwater/surface water conjunctive use plan appears to have substantial promise. Such a program might provide the desired flood protection while maintaining and even enhancing water supplies.

As you may know, the Sacramento Metropolitan Water Authority, the Sacramento North Area Groundwater Management Authority and the American River Basin Cooperating Agencies are currently developing a regional conjunctive use/banking program. We expect to be able to provide a description of the manner in which such a program could work in the near future.

We look forward to working with the Corps of Engineers, the State Reclamation Board and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency on this vital project. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Walt Pettit

Walter G. Pettit,
General Manager

cc: SAFCA
Reclamation Board

user4/mydocuments/smwa/noticeofpreparation

Sacramento Metropolitan
Water Authority
A Public Entity

5620 Birdcage Street
Suite 180
Citrus Heights
California 95610-7632

(916) 967-SMWA (7692) Phone
(916) 967-7322 FAX

CITY OF FOLSOM
50 Natoma Street
Folsom, California 95630

Public Works Department
Administration/Engineering

October 19, 2000

Ms. Annalena Bronson
The Reclamation Board
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1601
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: **LOWER AMERICAN RIVER LONG-TERM INVESTIGATION**

Dear Ms. Bronson:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your Notice of Preparation regarding the Lower American River Long-Term Investigation. While the City of Folsom supports providing long-term flood protection and environmental restoration for the Lower American River and the Sacramento area, we are concerned with several of the anticipated impacts associated with the proposed alternatives.

In particular, adequate consideration needs to be given regarding the closure of Folsom Dam Road and the impacts to vegetation, to recreation at Folsom Reservoir and along the American River, and to water supply. Proposed mitigation measures for all these impacts need to be both realistic and obtainable.

Of great concern to the City of Folsom is the potential impact to water supply that one of the proposed alternatives would create. Since all of the City's water supply comes from Folsom Reservoir, any reduction in our ability to meet demands will not be acceptable. With surplus water supply in this area extremely limited, if available at all, we will be very interested in the proposed mitigation of this impact.

In addition, the closure of Folsom Dam Road would have significant traffic impacts on the balance of the City of Folsom. As you are probably aware, the City of Folsom had this experience several years ago. The Dam Road continues to be an important part of the regional transportation system for the City of Folsom and El Dorado and Placer counties. Therefore, traffic mitigation for any alternative that causes the closure of the Dam Road is extremely important.

As always, your assistance is appreciated. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to give me a call at (916) 355-7268.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Lorenz, P.E.
Acting Public Works Director/City Engineer

RJL:GT:dso

c: Mayor and City Council Members
City Manager
Assistant City Manager
Project & Chron File

rl053ld.doc

CITY OF RIO VISTA

October 19, 2000

California State Reclamation Board
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1601
Sacramento, CA 94814
Att: Annalena Bronson

RE: Notice of Preparation of DEIR for Lower American River Long-Term Investigation

Dear Ms. Bronson:

The City of Rio Vista is located in Solano County on the eastern bank of the Sacramento River, immediately below the Yolo Bypass. The City is not protected by levees and has experienced periodic flooding since its founding in 1852.

Increasing urbanization of the Sacramento River watershed has increased flood flows to the Yolo Bypass, causing the Bypass to be operated at near or at design capacity during winter storms. These increased flows to the Bypass have increased the threat of flooding to Rio Vista because the Bypass empties into the River just north of the City.

The Notice of Preparation for the Lower American River Long-Term Investigation Project ("the Project") indicates that some project alternatives under consideration propose to further increase flows to the Bypass. Given the existing threat of flooding to Rio Vista, which is often compounded by high winds and tides, this proposal to increase flood flows is of serious concern. **Therefore, it is the City's position that the DEIR must analyze, evaluate and propose mitigation for the potentially significant adverse environmental impacts that implementation of any of the alternatives which increase flows may have upon the City of Rio Vista.**

To reinforce the seriousness of the threat of flooding to the City of Rio Vista, and in the vein of a picture being worth a thousand words, I enclose aerial photographs from our most recent flood. In January 1997, the flood flows exceeded the capacity of the Yolo Bypass and spilled over into Egbert Tract, the last "safety valve" before reaching Rio Vista. Egbert's lower levee was not breached, but flood flows entering the river washed out a large section of River Road (state Route 84) which runs north from the Rio Vista Bridge to the Ryer Island ferry. Large portions of the City's river frontage were also inundated.

One Main Street • Post Office Box 745 • Rio Vista • California • 94571

City Website: ci.rio-vista.ca.us • Phone: 707/374-6451 • Fax: 707/374-5063

Because of the importance to the City of the issues raised by the Project, please keep us informed and include us on all Project mailing lists. The City also would welcome the opportunity to participate on any committee of stakeholders which the Project sponsors may form. The City's contact person is Joe Donabed, City Manager.

Very truly yours,

Mayor Fred Harris

C: Congressman Doug Ose
Senator Maurice Johannessen
Assemblywoman Helen Thomson
Solano Board of Supervisors
Delta Protection Commission
Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency

Rio Vista Flooding
1997

City Hall

Front Street

Rio Vista Flooding
1997

Bruning and Edgewater

Edgewater Drive

Rio Vista Flooding
1997

River Road

River Road

Rio Vista Flooding
1997

Egbert Tract

Egbert Tract

Rio Vista Flooding
1997

River Road

River Road

Rio Vista Flooding
1997

River Road

Vierra's Resort

COUNTY OF SAN JOAQUIN

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

P. O. BOX 1810 - 1810 E. HAZELTON AVENUE
STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA 95201
(209) 468-3000
FAX (209) 468-2999

MANUEL LOPEZ
DIRECTOR

THOMAS R. FLINN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

THOMAS M. GAU
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STEVEN WINKLER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

October 20, 2000

Ms. Annalena Bronson
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1601
Sacramento, California 95814

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF PREPARATION DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
AMERICAN RIVER - LONG TERM INVESTIGATION

Dear Ms. Bronson:

The San Joaquin County Department of Public Works has reviewed the descriptions of the proposed project alternatives outlined in the Notice of Preparation for the American River Long Term Study. Comments regarding the specific proposed project alternatives are as follows:

1. Stepped Release Alternative - This alternative increases the objective releases from Folsom Dam, and, therefore, the contribution of runoff to downstream flood control facilities from the American River. Impacts to these downstream facilities must be fully mitigated.

2. Additional Anticipatory Release Alternative - This alternative provides for lowering of Folsom Reservoir to provide additional flood control storage prior to a flood event by utilizing weather forecasts. The alternative has the potential to reduce the available water supply from the reservoir if the predicted rainfall is greater than the actual rainfall resulting from the storm. Impacts from the reduction in available water supply must be fully mitigated.

3. Folsom Dam Raise Alternative - This alternative provides for additional flood storage by raising Folsom Dam. The alternative provides for needed flood protection for the Sacramento area without sacrificing water supply or impacting other downstream flood control facilities. For these reasons, this option should be vigorously pursued as the preferred alternative for long-term flood protection.

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard. Should you have questions or need additional information regarding the above comments, please contact me at (209) 468-3085 or send your fax to (209) 468-2384.

Sincerely,

ROBIN KIRK
Environmental Coordinator

RK:mr
TP-0J106-M1

c: Tom Flinn, Deputy Director/Engineering
Tom Gau, Deputy Director/Development
Mike Callahan, Senior Civil Engineer

COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
827 SEVENTH STREET, ROOM 301
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 874-6851
Fax: (916) 874-8693

www.sna.com/saccowr/wrd

PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY
WARREN H. HARADA, Administrator

CHERYL F. CRESON, Director
County Engineering/Administration
ROBERT F. SHANKS, Director
Water Quality
JOHN W. NEWTON, Director
General Services
KEITH DEVORE, Director
Water Resources
TOM ZLOTKOWSKI, Director
Transportation

October 24, 2000

Ms. Annalena Bronson
The Reclamation Board
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1601
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report for the Lower American River Long-Term Investigation

Dear Ms. Bronson:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this NOP. The County of Sacramento and its Department of Water Resources, through the Sacramento County Water Agency, are major supporters of the Sacramento Area Water Forum. As stakeholders in this regional endeavor to resolve water supply and reliability issues and to protect the lower American River, we are interested in the effect that the actions proposed in the NOP could have on water supply and the local river environment.

The NOP describes four proposed alternatives, however it does not discuss the potential effects of the Stepped Release and the Dam Raise Alternatives on water supplies. At first glance it would appear that there would be no adverse affect to water supplies but, without an evaluation and an assurance of that, that may not be the case. Please include assessments of the potential impacts to water supplies in all four alternatives with discussions of changes in quantities available, changes in water quality, effects on timing of diversions from the lower American River and Sacramento River downstream of the mouth, and the potential to exacerbate shortages in dry years. Also, please examine the opportunities for enhancing water supplies, such as diversion and banking of surface water or groundwater-surface water exchanges in cooperation with the American River Basin Cooperating Agencies.

The Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency and the Water Forum Successor Effort are implementing several habitat enhancements along the lower American River. Please ensure that these measures are considered and that the ecosystem measures proposed in this project are integrated with them.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this NOP. If have any questions please call Mr. Tad Berkebile or me at the phone number above.

Sincerely,

Darrell Eck
Senior Civil Engineer

cc: Tad Berkebile

COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
827 SEVENTH STREET, ROOM 304
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 874-6581
Fax: (916) 874-7100

WARREN H. HARADA, Administrator
CHERYL F. CRESON, Director
County Engineering & Administration
ROBERT F. SHANKS, Director
Water Quality
JOHN W. NEWTON, Director
General Services
KEITH DEVORE, Director
Water Resources
TOM ZLOTKOWSKI, Director
Transportation

October 25, 2000

Ms. Annalena Bronson
The Reclamation Board
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1601
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: **NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE LOWER AMERICAN RIVER LONG-TERM INVESTIGATION**

Dear Ms. Bronson:

In response to your request for comments regarding the above-cited project, I have attached comments from the following Public Works agencies:

1. Department of Water Quality (Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District and County Sanitation District No. 1) - Refer to the attached letter from Neal B. Allen, Senior Civil Engineer, dated October 25, 2000.

2. Department of Water Resources (Water Supply) - Refer to the attached letter Darrell Eck, dated October 24, 2000.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please call Steve Hong of the Department of County Engineering/Administration at 874-6525.

Sincerely,

Warren H. Harada
Agency Administrator

WHH:SLH:slh/2000-43
Attachment

cc: Cheryl Creson, Keith DeVore, Tom Zlotkowski, Randy Foust, Robert Shanks, Bob Davison, Wendell Kido, Steve Pedretti

CSD-1
COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT 1
Wastewater Conveyance For a Growing Sacramento

9660 Ecology Lane
Sacramento
California
95827-3881
Tele: [916] 875-6704
Fax: [916] 875-6911
Website: www.srcsd.com

October 25, 2000
E225.000

Annalena Bronson
The Reclamation Board
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1601
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Bronson:

Subject: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the Lower American River Long-term Investigation

County Sanitation District 1 (CSD-1) has reviewed the subject documents and has the following comments.

Coordination of the proposed future improvements should be done through the plan review process.

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please call Stephen Norris at 875-6096 or myself at 875-6875.

Sincerely,

Neal B. Allen
Senior Civil Engineer

NBA/SN:sd

cc: Stephen Norris

bronson102500.ltr.205641

2519 Oakes Dr.
Hayward, CA 94542
9/27/00

Analena Bronson
The Reclamation board
1416 ninth street, Rm. 1601
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

Dear Ms Bronson:

May I thank you and the Army Corpse of Engineers in Sacramento for the description of the flood mitigation work on the Sacramento and American Rivers. I can of course not get a complete picture of this complicated watershed and its environment without considerably more detailed maps and descriptions. I unfortunately do not have the time to come to one of your meetings. I do however, feel strongly that detailing the impacts is important to the taxpayers who will foot this bill and future maintenance. Please do a cost as well as environmental impact analysis.

In terms of peak flood stage mitigation I am not for raising the levels of levies and dam, simply because:

Increasing dam height produces permanent impacts on the additional acreage covered with water.

Raising levee height implies higher flood-stage water flow rates and increased maintenance.

It appears to me that offering a larger amount of flood plane as is part of your proposal is greatly preferred.

- The initial cost has not been detailed in your analysis, but it must be realized that land acquisition is a one time cost, while levee and dam maintenance is a continuous drain on our pocket books.
- The increased flood-plane area offers a way to reduce flow rate and maintenance, and in my estimation reduce other impacts by offering space for plant life, wild life, and recreation.
- A lowering of the flood level reduces the need for raising bridges and other potentially impacted structures.

Respectfully yours

Mathias van Thiel

Mathias van Thiel PhD.
Email. <mvthiel@pacbell.net
0r <vanthiel@llnl.gov>

10-22-00

Annalena Bronson
The Reclamation Board
1416 Ninth St., Room 1601
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Bronson:

I am an interested private citizen. My response to the information forwared to me re the American River Long Term Study is that the Army Corps of Engineers, the Reclamation Board, and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency did not study or did not learn anything from the disastrous flooding along the Mississippi River in the early '90s.

The measures that are being proposed have been shown to worsen conditions for those living downstream of the proposed "improvements" to the American River.

Did any of the entities involved here even consider implementing some or any of the remedies put into effect along various reaches of the Mississippi after the aforementioned floods — such as removing homes — even towns — from the floodplain, etc. ???

Sincerely,

Sheila M. Ard
1450 E. El Murada Dr.
Fullerton, CA 92835

Colin Fletcher
Circle K
Carmel Valley, California 93924-9725

October 28, 2000

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Sacramento District
1325 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attention Mr. Thomas Adams CESPK-PD-A

Dear Mr. Adams:

While I recognize that it would be difficult and also -- perhaps more cogently -- at odds with current engineering practice, I suggest that instead of designing more engineering plans to mitigate the results of many years' dam-and-straightjacket engineering we at least consider natural flood buffers - such as restoring or even creating absorbant wetlands, along with slowing flow by reviving the river rather than speeding it up by channelizing it into a ditch.

Sincerely yours,

Colin P. Fletcher

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

OCTOBER 4, 2000, 6:30 P.M.

---oOo---

MR. TADLOCK: Ron Tadlock, private citizen.

I was wondering what they are going to do about the landowners that are in the Yolo Bypass. If they are going to put more water through the bypass, especially late in spring, could happen in this idea, how are they going to compensate the landowners that are in there because they won't be able to farm their ground?

---oOo---

MR. ESTES: Gary Estes.

Regarding the proposal to raise Folsom, referencing the Folsom Dam Raise Plan, the two proposals, which include flood walls, it is recommended that they evaluate potential graffiti attraction of such flood walls and the ongoing maintenance cost for graffiti removal.

---oOo---

WOODLAND, CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2000, 6:00 P.M.

---oOo---

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. They're talking about spending $560 million to do this project, and I believe it would make more sense if they just bought the property. There's about 50,000 acres approximately in the bypass at $3,500 an acre, and they could be money ahead if they just rented it back to the farmers.

That's it.

(Public comments were concluded at 8:00 p.m.)

---oOo----