Environmental Resources Branch

**REPLY TO**

**ATTENTION OF**

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District (Corps) and the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) will be holding two public meetings to provide information on the Folsom Dam Water Control Manual Update (WCM Update) and to solicit input from the public. The Corps and the CVFPB intend to prepare a joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) to evaluate proposed changes to operations of Folsom Dam as a result of the WCM Update. The Corps will serve as lead agency for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the CVFPB, with support from the State of California Department of Water Resources (DWR), will serve as lead agency for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is acting as a NEPA cooperating agency and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) is acting as a CEQA responsible agency.

Folsom Dam and Reservoir is a multipurpose project operated by Reclamation as a part of the Central Valley Project (CVP). The Corps is responsible for prescribing operations pertaining to use of the storage allocated for flood risk management. The dam provides flood risk management benefits to the City of Sacramento and its surrounding areas by regulating runoff from approximately 1,860 square miles of drainage area.

The Folsom Dam Joint Federal Project (JFP), currently under construction, consists of a new auxiliary spillway with a crest elevation 50 feet lower in elevation than the current gated spillways on the main dam. The JFP will improve the ability of Folsom Dam to manage large flood events by allowing more water to be safely released earlier in a storm event, resulting in more storage capacity remaining in the reservoir to hold back the peak inflow when it arrives. The JFP will also meet Reclamation’s dam safety goal to pass the probable maximum flood (the most severe possible flood in this drainage area) without causing failure of Folsom Dam. In order to fully realize the benefits of the new auxiliary spillway, the current Folsom Dam and Reservoir Water Control Manual must be updated.

The WCM Update will identify, evaluate, and recommend changes to the flood management operation rules of Folsom Dam and Reservoir to reduce flood risk to the Sacramento area by utilizing the new auxiliary spillway and by incorporating an improved understanding of the American River watershed upstream of Folsom Dam. The findings of the evaluation will be used to help define the Dam’s new flood operations plan, with the intention of meeting flood risk management objectives and dam safety requirements in a manner that conserves as much water as possible and maximizes all authorized Folsom Dam project uses to the extent practicable.

Your input on the above topics and any associated items that are important to you will be used to:

• Further determine the scope of the analysis in the EIS/EIR.

• Refine the range of alternatives to be evaluated in the EIS/EIR.

• Obtain local knowledge or information to assist in the environmental analysis.

Staff from the Corps, CVFPB, DWR, Reclamation, SAFCA, and other members of the project team will be on hand to accept comments and address questions regarding the WCM Update. The public will be given the opportunity to provide written and verbal comments at the scoping meetings.

A Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS/EIR pursuant to NEPA will be published in the Federal Register and a Notice of Preparation (NOP) to prepare an EIS/EIR pursuant to CEQA will be submitted to the State Clearinghouse. The notices will be available online at the Federal Register website (https://www.federalregister.gov/) and on the CVFPB’s website at (http://www.cvfpb.ca.gov/PublicNotices/).

Written comments and suggestions about the WCM Update may be submitted to Tyler Stalker, Corps Public Affairs Office, or David Martasian, DWR Division of Flood Management. For e-mailed comments, please include “WCM Update” in the subject line, attach comments in MS Word format, and include the commenter’s U.S. Postal Service mailing address. Questions about the WCM Update and the EIS/EIR should be addressed to:

Tyler Stalker, David Martasian,

Corps Public Affairs Office DWR Division of Flood Management

1325 J St, Sacramento, 3464 El Camino Ave, Room 200,

CA 95814 Sacramento, CA 95821

Phone - 916-557-5107 Phone - 916-574-1448

Fax - 916-557-7853 Fax – 916-574-1478

e-mail - Tyler.M.Stalker@usace.army.mil e-mail – Folsom\_scoping@water.ca.gov

The scoping meetings will be held at the following locations:

Sacramento Library Galleria Folsom Community Center

828 I Street, Sacramento, CA 52 Natoma Street, Folsom, CA

October 15th, 2012 October 22nd, 2012

4pm to 7pm 4pm to 7pm

For more information please visit the Folsom Dam WCM Update website at <http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/JointFederalProject.aspx>

Sincerely,

Alicia E. Kirchner

Chief, Planning Division