DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SACRAMENTO DISTRICT
1325 J STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-2922

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

OCT 21 2015

Environmental Resources Branch

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District (Corps), the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB), and the State of California Department of Water Resources (DWR) are preparing a joint draft environmental impact statement/ environmental impact report (DEIS/EIR) for the general reevaluation of the Sacramento River Flood Control Project, California (SRFCP). The Corps will serve as the lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the CVFPB will serve as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The purpose of the SRFCP general reevaluation is to identify opportunities to restore ecosystem function along the Sacramento River and improve flood risk reduction capabilities of the flood conveyance system originally constructed in 1917. Eventual authorization and funding by Congress would allow for implementation of those opportunities.

The SRFCP is located along the Sacramento River and a number of its tributaries, from Elder Creek near Tehama to its confluence with the San Joaquin River in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Enclosed is a map showing the locations of the SRFCP levees and bypasses.

The existing project is a levee system that was designed and built in the early 1900's following engineering and design standards of that time. The system includes levees along mainstem rivers supplemented by overflow weirs and bypasses to convey excess flood flows. The levees were constructed close to the river to increase velocities which would flush out hydraulic mining debris that caused widespread deposition and disruption of economic uses of the river. In the mid 1900's reservoirs with dedicated flood storage were constructed on the major tributaries of the levee system to reduce peak flows. The combination of levees and flood storage resulted in a substantial reduction in the probability of flooding in the Sacramento Valley.

As a result of the levee improvements, important ecosystem processes directly associated with riverine systems such as channel migration, meander cutoffs, and wetland habitats were severely reduced by near-channel levees, bank revetment, and water diversions. Reservoirs on the system reduced the size of peak flows released to the leveed system. However, this lengthened lower flows and further altered the

river's natural geomorphic processes. Consequently, significant habitats and native species populations continue to decline.

In addition, it is now recognized through use of more modern engineering analysis and collection of additional historical data that flood risk in the Sacramento Valley may be higher than previously thought. The high velocities that flushed out mining debris are eroding the levees. There is greater understanding of through- and under-seepage as geotechnical modes of levee failure at flows less than the design capacity. Also, analysis of more than a century of recorded flood flows has revised the probability calculations of exceeding the system's design capacity.

Since the SRFCP was completed in the 1950s, only localized improvements have been made. Most of the recent work consists of bank protection and seepage and stability fixes to correct localized problems within reaches. Over this same period, many areas have seen substantial urban development. This urbanization has dramatically increased the consequences of levee failure in these areas.

A number of alternatives integrating a combination of ecosystem restoration and flood risk management measures will be evaluated. Proposed measures to be considered include widening existing bypasses, modifying existing weirs, optimizing weir operations, constructing setback levees, developing floodplain management plans, restoring riverine aquatic and riparian habitat, removing barriers to fish passage, and restoring natural geomorphic processes, among others.

Public Scoping meetings will be conducted on November 3rd and 9th, 2015 to solicit public input. The purpose of the Scoping meetings is to present information about the proposed action and alternatives, the Corps and CVFPB decision-making processes, and to listen to the views of the public on the range of issues relevant to the scope and content of the DEIS/EIR. The Scoping meeting locations, dates, and times are as follows:

City of West Sacramento
1110 W. Capitol Avenue
West Sacramento, CA 95691
November 3rd, 2015
3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Yuba County Board of Supervisors
915 Eighth Street
Marysville, CA 95901
November 9th, 2015
3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Staff from the Corps, CVFPB, and DWR will be on hand at the meeting to accept comments and address questions regarding the general reevaluation.

For questions about the proposed action, alternatives, and the DEIS/EIR, or to receive a copy of the NEPA Notice of Intent (NOI) or CEQA Notice of Preparation (NOP), please contact Mr. Dan Artho, 916-557-7723 or daniel.f.artho@usace.army.mil, or Ms. Shelly Amrhein, 916-574-1415 or rochelle.amrhein@water.ca.gov. The NOI is also available to view and download on the Federal Register website at https://www.federalregister.gov/, and the NOP is available on the CVFPB's website at http://www.cvfpb.ca.gov/PublicNotices/. Study information will be posted periodically on the internet at http://bit.ly/sacrivergrr.

Written comments and suggestions concerning the proposed action, alternatives, or other issues of concern must be received or postmarked by November 23rd, 2015. Please submit comments at the earliest possible date to:

Mr. Dan Artho
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
Planning Division
1325 J St, Sacramento, CA 95814
Or by e-mail to daniel.f.artho@usace.army.mil

Or to:

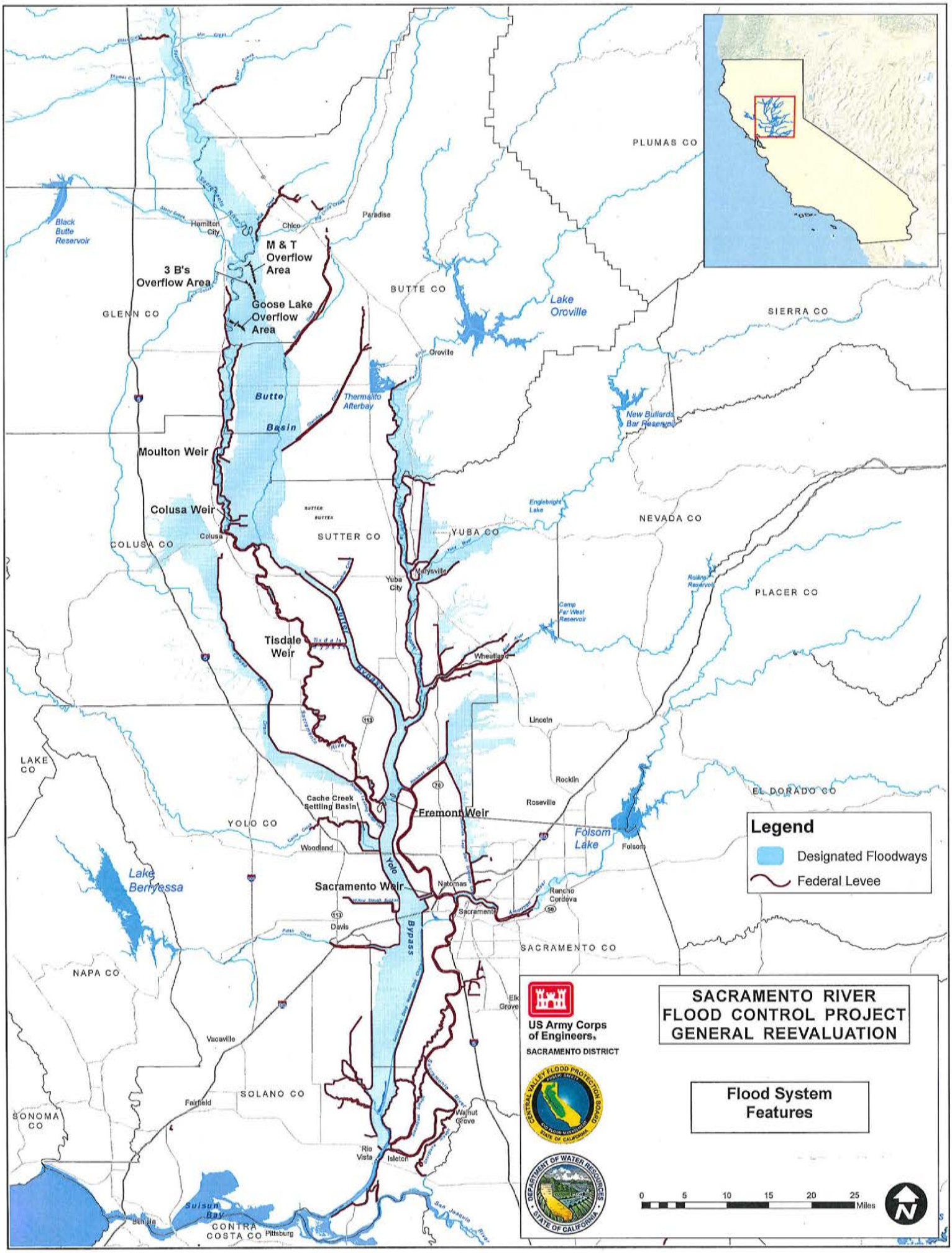
Attn: Shelly Amrhein
Central Valley Flood Protection Board
3464 El Camino Ave, Room 150
Sacramento CA 95821
Or by email to Rochelle.amrhein@water.ca.gov

The DEIS/EIR is scheduled to be available for public review and comment in spring 2017. A 45-day public review period will be provided for individuals, interested parties, and agencies to review and comment on the DEIS/EIR. All interested parties are encouraged to respond to this notice and provide a current address if they wish to be notified of the DEIS/EIR circulation.

Sincerely,

Alicia E. Kirchner
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosure


PLUMAS CO
Black Butte Reservoir
Hamilton City
Chico
Paradise
M & T Overflow Area
3 B's Overflow Area
Goose Lake Overflow Area
GLENN CO
BUTTE CO
Lake Oroville
SIERRA CO
Oroville
Butte Basin
Thermalito Afterbay
New Bullards Bar Reservoir
Moulton Weir
Colusa Weir
Colusa
COLUSA CO
SUTTER CO
YUBA CO
NEVADA CO
Englebright Lake
Marysville
Yuba City
Rollins Reservoir
PLACER CO
Camp Far West Reservoir
Tisdale Weir
Wheatland
Lincoln
LAKE CO
Rocklin
EL DORADO CO
Cache Creek Settling Basin
Fremont Weir
Roseville
YOLO CO
Folsom Lake
Folsom
Woodland
Lake Berryessa
Sacramento Weir
Natomas
Rancho Cordova
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SACRAMENTO CO
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Elk Grove
Vacaville
SOLANO CO
Fairfield
SONOMA CO
Walnut Grove
Rio Vista
Isleton
Suisun Bay
Benicia
CONTRA COSTA CO
Pittsburg
San Joaquin River
Legend
Designated Floodways
Federal Levee
US Army Corps of Engineers
SACRAMENTO DISTRICT
SACRAMENTO RIVER FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT GENERAL REEVALUATION
Flood System Features
0 5 10 15 20 25 Miles
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