CEMP-SPD 14 October 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Post Authorization Change Report and Interim General Reevaluation Report American River Watershed Common Features Project, Natomas Basin, Sacramento and Sutter Counties, California – Civil Works Review Board

1. The subject meeting was held 27 September 2010 from 1300 until 1600 hours Eastern Time. The agenda (Enclosure 1) and list of attendees (Enclosure 2) are enclosed.

2. The purpose of the meeting was to gain approval by the Civil Works Review Board (CWRB) to release the final Interim General Reevaluation Report and Final Environmental Impact Statement for State and Agency (S&A) review.

3. The meeting was opened by MG William Grisoli, who offered welcoming remarks and provided an overview of the meeting purpose. This was followed by self-introductions of those attending in person.

4. COL William Leady, SPK District Commander, provided the project briefing of the recommended plan for the Natomas basin, including problems addressed, alternatives considered, the recommended features and their costs, and the status of Agency Technical Review and Independent External Peer Review. Representatives of the local sponsors, Mr. Gary Bardini (California Department of Water Resources) and Mr. Rick Johnson (Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency) presented remarks in support of the recommended plan, and on the importance of the project to reduce flood risk to the Natomas basin. Dr. Christine Altendorf, Director of Programs, South Pacific Division, provided the SPD endorsement of the recommended project. This was followed by Mr. Scott Nicholson, who provided the HQ Office of Water Project Review summary of issue resolution and a recommendation to release the report for S&A review subject to document revisions reflecting current review of the Final Report.

5. Mr. Roger Setters, Louisville District, ATR lead, provided a summary of the technical review and issue resolution process. He explained how one ATR comment concerning the disparity between historical flooding and computed (modeled) flooding, that had remained open, was resolved through discussion and consensus by the vertical team. Dr. Ann Louis Sumner, Project Manager for Battelle, IEPR lead, summarized the IEPR process, results, and comment resolution. Of the six highly significant comments, concerning plan formulation, project economics, and Executive Order 11988 compliance, all were resolved.

6. The following is a summary of questions and discussion that was held during the meeting:

a) Questions were raised concerning the need for this interim solution, in view of the fact that a comprehensive GRR is also underway that includes investigation of flood risk reduction in Natomas. It was explained that with population at risk, action is needed now, then follow-on studies will investigate more comprehensive solutions. Further discussion emphasized the need for incorporating climate change, complex H&H modeling to ensure the best flood risk management project is ultimately recommended in the GRR. Hydrologic Engineering Center expertise will be used, as will other Districts' experiences.

b) A question on GRR alternatives to be considered, centered on the potential for and cost of a cross-Natomas levee that would protect population but not protect vacant land. The cost was estimated to be about 40% more for a cross levee instead of the ring levee, which was a conservatively low figure. The point was made that the Sacramento Airport would be negatively impacted by habitat/birds flight, and not protecting the upper portion of the basin would violate agreements made with USFWS.

c) Upstream levee conditions, and assumptions for failure/non-failure, were discussed. Economic modeling tools took this into account, but better tools are needed to be able to better assess sensitivity. National policy on upstream levee assumptions was used, but a regional, systemic approach may be more beneficial and will be explored in the GRR.

d) The question of whether the project we recommend would increase risk by increasing the level of protection (induced development) was raised. Development plans for the basin were discussed. Large portions of the study area will remain in a habitat conservation status or agriculture, but some development will occur. There are specific fees being levied to manage expected flood damages in the future. The sponsor indicated they are actively managing the long-term risks. It was explained that the Natomas basin and the area near South Sacramento are the only places left for development, the only places being considered for additional development.

e) Flood preparedness was discussed. With so many scenarios being investigated for levee failure/remediation, preparedness planning is critical, practice, drill, exercises. The sponsors described their efforts which include annual flood preparatory meetings with local agencies, Corps, and BoR. They update plans regularly and have a very cognizant population. They have full functional exercises planned for 2011. It was made clear that flood-fighting was not included in the economic analysis, as human interaction is not normally relied upon for Corps planning purposes or FEMA NFIP considerations.

f) Environmental mitigation was discussed. There are minimal mitigation measures in the recommended plan, and only for endangered species considerations. The adjacent levee concept greatly limits the mitigation requirements, and the project as a whole provides for connectivity, habitat corridors, creating/enhancing woodlands and

marshland. USFWS approves of the project plans. Vegetation issues have been resolved via the variance process so as to not disturb existing growth where possible.

g) H&H modeling was discussed as it pertains to accounting for coincident flows, from the American and Sacramento rivers. It was explained that the models account for coincident flows.

h) The comprehensive GRR schedule was discussed. A complete schedule is not available yet, but an estimate of about two years was proposed for completion.

7. The following lessons-learned were offered by Dr. Altendorf. The incremental submissions for vertical team review worked well to keep the study process moving. In-progress reviews were critical. Resolving Section 408 permit issues early in the study process so the sponsor could implement some early solutions was critical to the process. Information from these permit requests accelerated the report preparation process. The vegetation variance process was difficult, being a pilot or test case, but was worked through with good result. There is a need to develop/enhance systems analyses models, especially for the comprehensive GRR being performed.

8. MG Grisoli concluded the discussions with a positive, unanimous vote by the Board members to release the report for S&A review, subject to the minor revisions required by the latest HQ review of the final report package. The intent is to execute a Chief of Engineers report within the next three months.

9. Mr. Brown thanked SPK for their efforts over the past year to get the study to this stage. Mr. Stockton thanked the entire vertical team and the sponsor for same. MG Grisoli thanked everyone for their attendance and participation, and closed the meeting at 1600 hours Eastern time.

As of 09/27/10

AMERICAN RIVER WATERSHED COMMON FEATURES PROJECT
NATOMAS BASIN, CA
Civil Works Review Board - 27 September 2010

AGENDA

1300	Welcome	MG William Grisoli CWRB Chair and Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations
1305	Introductions	MG William Grisoli CWRB Chair
1310	Project Briefing	COL William Leady District Commander, Sacramento District
1400	Sponsor Support	Mr. Gary Bardini Chief, Div of Flood Management, California Dept of Water Resources Mr. Stein Buer Executive Director, Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency
1420	Division Commander Briefing	Dr. Christine Altendorf Director of Programs, South Pacific Division
1440	Policy Review	Mr. Scott Nicholson Office of Water Project Review, HQUSACE
1455	Agency Technical Review	Mr. Roger Setters ATR Lead, Flood Risk Management Planning Center of Expertise
1500	Independent External Peer Review	Dr. Ann Louise Sumner Project Manager, Battelle Memorial Institute Dr. Gregory Baecher IEPR Panel Member, University of Maryland
1510	Board Discussion • Member Questions • Office of ASA(CW), OMB Questions	MG William Grisoli CWRB Chair
1530	Action	Mr. Theodore Brown Chief, Planning & Policy Division
1535	Lessons Learned / After Action Report: • What was supposed to happen? • What did happen? • Why did it happen that way? • How will we improve next time?	COL William Leady District Commander, Sacramento District
1540	Lessons Learned	SPD, OWPR, Sponsor, Others
1545	Summary of Project Briefing	COL William Leady District Commander, Sacramento District
1550	Close	MG William Grisoli CWRB Chair

AMERICAN RIVER WATERSHED COMMON FEATURES PROJECT
NATOMAS BASIN, CA

Civil Works Review Board
27 September 2010 – 1:00pm

Attendees

Civil Works Review Board (CWRB)	**Name:**
CWRB Chair and Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations	MG William Grisoli
Director of Civil Works	Mr. Steve Stockton
Chief, Planning & Policy Division	Mr. Theodore (Tab) Brown
Chief, Engineering & Construction Community of Practice (CoP)	Mr. James Dalton
Chief, Northwestern Division Regional Integration Team (RIT)	Mr. Stacey Hirata
Office of Management and Budget (OMB)	
OMB Examiner	Mr. Tommy Williams
OMB Examiner	Mr. William (Dick) Feezle
Department of the Army – Office of Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works	
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Project Planning & Review)	Mr. Douglas Lamont
Senior Economist	Ms. Marianne Matheny-Katz
Office of Counsel	
Counsel, USACE	Mr. Aaron Hostyk
Planning & Policy Division	
Deputy, Planning & Policy Division	Mr. Harry Kitch
Office of Water Project Review (OWPR)	
Chief, Office of Water Project Review	Mr. Wesley Coleman
Policy Review Lead	Mr. Scott Nicholson
Policy Review Team	Mr. Charles (Lee) Ware
Policy Review Team	Mr. Mark Matusiak
Policy Review Team	Mr. Ken Claseman
Policy Review Team	Ms. Tammy Conforti
Policy Review Team	Mr. Miguel Jumilla
Policy Review Team	Mr. Michael Haskins
Civil Works Review Board Team	Ms. Patricia Bee
Civil Works Review Board Team	Ms. Marilyn Benner

AMERICAN RIVER WATERSHED COMMON FEATURES PROJECT
NATOMAS BASIN, CA

Civil Works Review Board
27 September 2010 – 1:00pm

Attendees (cont.)

South Pacific Division Regional Integration Team (SPD RIT)

Leader, South Pacific Division RIT	Mr. Scott Whiteford
Civil Works Deputy, SPD RIT	Ms. Ada Benavides
Program Manager, SPD RIT	Mr. Joseph Bittner
Planner, SPD RIT	Mr. Ken Zwickl
Planner, SPD RIT	Mr. Geoff Chatfield

South Pacific Division (SPD)

Director of Programs	Dr. Christine Altendorf	
Chief, Planning and Policy CoP	Mr. Clark Frentzen	(via VTC)
Planner	Mr. Eric Thaut	(via VTC)
District Support Team Lead	Ms. Karen Berresford	

Sacramento District (SPK)

District Commander	COL William Leady
Deputy District Engineer for Program/Project Mgmt	Ms. Kris Mullins
Project Manager	Mr. Dan Tibbitts
Planning Technical Lead	Ms. Jane Ruhl (Louisville Dist)
Environmental Planner	Ms. Liz Holland
Chief, Planning Division	Ms. Alicia Kirchner
Common Features Program Manager	Mr. David McDaniel

California Dept of Water Resources /Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) – Non-Federal Sponsor

Chief, Division of Flood Management	Mr. Gary Bardini

Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) - Non-Federal Sponsor

Executive Director	Mr. Stein Buer
Deputy Director	Mr. Rick Johnson

Office of Congresswoman Doris Matsui

Legislative Director	Mr. Rob Mosher

AMERICAN RIVER WATERSHED COMMON FEATURES PROJECT
NATOMAS BASIN, CA

Civil Works Review Board
27 September 2010 – 1:00pm

Attendees (cont.)

Flood Risk Management Planning Center of Expertise (PCX) – South Pacific Division

Director, FRM-PCX	Mr. Clark Frentzen	(via VTC)
Program Manager, FRM-PCX	Mr. Eric Thaut	(via VTC)
Agency Technical Review Lead	Mr. Roger Setters (Louisville District)	
PCX Lead for IEPR	Mr. Fraser Gensler	(via VTC)

Independent External Peer Review Team (IEPR)

IEPR Program Manager	(Battelle Memorial Institute)	Ms. Karen Johnson-Young	
Project Manager	(Battelle Memorial Institute)	Dr. Ann Louise Sumner	
Deputy Program Mgr	(Battelle Memorial Institute)	Ms. Rachel Sell	(via phone)
IEPR Panel	(University of Maryland)	Dr. Gregory Baecher	
IEPR Panel	(Volkert Environmental Group)	Mr. Paul Looney	(via phone)