STATE OF CALIFORNIA – CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY EDMUND G. BROWN JR., GOVERNOR

CENTRAL VALLEY FLOOD PROTECTION BOARD
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December 2, 2014

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Attn: CECW-CE (Lisa Kiefel, Planning Portfolio Manager)
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20314-1000

Subject: Proposal for a General Reevaluation Report for a Proposed Modification to the Cache Creek Settling Basin, Yolo County, California

Dear Ms. Kiefel,

The Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Board), representing the State of California, formally requests the assistance of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to undertake a General Reevaluation Report (GRR) to determine the extent of necessary improvements to the Cache Creek Settling Basin in Yolo County, California. This request is submitted in accordance with the Water Resources and Development Act of 2014 (WRDA 2014) and in response to the notice posted in the Federal Register (Vol. 79, No. 150, Tuesday, August 5, 2014 / Notices) by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) requesting proposals from non-Federal interests for proposed feasibility studies and proposed modifications to authorized USACE water resources development projects or feasibility studies. This proposal is being submitted at this time for USACE consideration and for inclusion in the Annual Report to be issued in February 2015.

The official Notice published in the Federal Register required the following eight pieces of information to be provided.

1. The Non-Federal Sponsor for this proposed GRR will be the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Board) and Department of Water Resources (DWR), representing the State of California. No other non-Federal sponsors have been identified at this time.
2. This GRR proposal is related to a previously authorized USACE project; Cache Creek Basin, California. The proposed GRR will investigate the historical and projected performance of the basin and identify feasible alternatives for extending the life of the CCSB.
3. The Cache Creek Settling Basin (CCSB) is an existing authorized USACE water resources facility, initially constructed in 1938 by USACE. It is located at the terminus of Cache Creek, near the City of Woodland, Yolo County, California. The CCSB provides a means for suspended sediments from Cache Creek to settle out before being released into the Yolo Bypass, another USACE authorized project that eventually merges into the Sacramento River. The CCSB

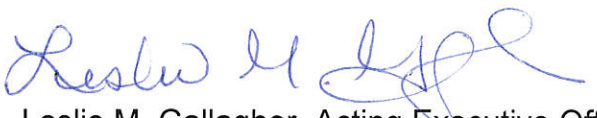
was re-authorized in 1987 by the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, Public Law 99-662, November 17, 1986, with improvements constructed in 1992 by USACE to enlarge the CCSB to its current sediment management capacity of 30,000 cubic feet per second with a new, relocated western levee and the construction of a new weir at its current release elevation of 32.5 feet (NGVD 29). The Final General Design Memorandum (GDM), issued by USACE in January 1987, indicated that raising the weir by six feet to an elevation of 38.5 feet would likely be required after 25 years of operation (approximately 2017) based on the anticipated rate of sedimentation within the CCSB. Although the anticipated requirement of raising the weir by six feet is identified as a part of the authorized CCSB modification described in the GDM, a trapping efficiency analysis will be required and additional alternatives will need to be investigated before proceeding with any improvements to the facility. Additionally, environmental analysis will be required for any proposed improvements under the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

4. Under the new USACE Planning Modernization Guidelines (3x3x3 Rule), studies are now limited to 3 years and $3 million. We would anticipate that this proposed GRR would not exceed this guideline.
5. The CCSB provides a means for suspended sediments from Cache Creek to settle out before being released into the Yolo Bypass. The CCSB is necessary to prevent the high concentrations of sediments in the creek from being deposited in the Yolo Bypass and reducing the conveyance capacity of that facility. Additionally, while the 1987 GDM did not authorize the CCSB with the intention of trapping and containment of naturally occurring mercury from the upstream Cache Creek watershed, it is now widely believed that the basin significantly reduces the total mercury and methyl-mercury load that is released into the Yolo Bypass, the California Delta and eventually into the San Francisco Bay.
6. The CCSB is a critical component of the State Plan of Flood Control and therefore provides benefit to a large geographical area and serves to protect significant downstream water resources facilities, including the Yolo Bypass, the Sacramento River, the California Delta and the San Francisco Bay. Presently, the Board is the only identified non-federal sponsor for this proposed GRR although additional regional agencies may also eventually participate.
7. As the non-Federal Sponsors identified at the present time, the Board and DWR, acting on behalf of the State of California, have the financial capability and backing of the State of California to fund the Non-Federal Sponsor's cost share portion for the proposed GRR. The Board is supportive of this project and the Board intends to enter into design and construction agreements with the federal cost share requirements and financing options for implementation. Please note that this letter of intent is not an obligation of future appropriations of State funds by the State Legislature.

8. The Board looks forward to USACE's consideration of this proposal and recognition of this GRR in the 2015 USACE Annual Report. This letter represents our statement of support for the proposed GRR. The Board and DWR will agree to offer its support and financial cost sharing responsibility as the non-federal sponsor.

If you have questions, please contact me or Michael Sabbaghian at (916) 574-1404 or by email at Mahyar.Sabbaghian@water.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Leslie M. Gallagher, Acting Executive Officer
Central Valley Flood Protection Board

cc: (See attached list.)

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