THE KAW VALLEY DRAINAGE DISTRICT

WYANDOTTE COUNTY, KANSAS

FLOOD CONTROL ON THE KANSAS RIVER

719 OSAGE AVENUE

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December 2, 2014

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

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

The Kaw Valley Drainage District (KVDD) area has survived devastating floods in 1903, 1908 and 1951. Substantial improvements were made to the flood protection system after the 1951 flood. However, during 1993, the Kansas River came very close to overtopping our levees and KVDD was forced to write an evacuation order to move over 5,000 residents and businesses out of the Armourdale Community.

The sponsors of the seven levee units in the Kansas City area have worked together for years because our levees are interrelated and we share responsibility for the protection of our common community. The recent studies have shown the Armourdale and Central Industrial District Levee Units, for which we, KVDD, are responsible, do not provide the performance level equal to the other area levee units. Work on our third unit, the Argentine Unit, was previously authorized in Phase I Kansas Citys Levees Project – Kansas and Missouri. To provide equal protection for our residents, businesses and industry, we are asking you to modify the authorized total project cost of the Phase I authorized Kansas Citys Levees Project to $516,000,000 fully funded and include the Armourdale and Central Industrial District, Kansas and Missouri Levee Units in the authorized project per pending Chief's Report. The addition of the improvements proposed in the Phase II Feasibility Report to the authorized Phase I project would provide the desired uniform level of performance for all the area levee units.

Cooperation of the seven Kansas City levee units and area cities was demonstrated during the 1993 near flood event. The 1993 event put our flood protection facilities and our emergency plan to the test. River monitoring, early warning, levee operation and ultimately an evacuation

were all carried out with assistance from the Corps, other levee units and city/county emergency management.

Funding for the proposed improvements will require a joint effort between the drainage districts and municipalities. We are working with the City of Kansas City, Missouri and our other levee partners to develop a feasible funding program to address the projected costs and construction schedule.

On behalf of the Kaw Valley Drainage District, and our citizens and businesses, the Board wants to give its full support for the requested modifications to the Kansas Citys Levee Project and the recommended levee improvements.

We appreciate the efforts of the Corps of Engineers in assisting us to serve the constituents in our District.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to express our support for the Project.

Sincerely,

Mr. James L. Jenkins

Kaw Valley Drainage District of Wyandotte County, Kansas