Southport Sacramento River Early Implementation Project

Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report

Public Scoping Meeting

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers & West Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency
Welcome and Meeting Purpose

- Chris Elliott, Project Director with ICF International, environmental consultant for the project
- Joint Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is being prepared per the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- Opportunity to describe the project and EIS/EIR process
- Your comments are invited to inform the environmental analysis
Lead Agencies

• West Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (WSAFCA)
  – joint powers authority comprised of the City and the reclamation districts that maintain the levees around the City
  – overseeing planning and implementation of the improvements
  – lead agency under CEQA

• U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
  – responsible for approval of modifications to Federal flood project levees and navigable waters under the Rivers and Harbors Act
  – responsible for approval of effects to protected resources under the Clean Water Act
  – lead agency under NEPA
WSAFCA’s Overall Goals

– Achieve a minimum of 200-year (an event that has a 0.5% chance of occurring in any given year) level of flood protection in more than 50 miles of City levees surrounding the City

– Construct levee improvements as soon as possible to reduce flood risk

– Provide recreational and ecosystem restoration elements that are compatible with flood improvement actions
About the Southport Sacramento River EIP

• What is an Early Implementation Project (EIP)?
  – Constructed in advance of the State’s Central Valley Flood Protection Plan and Federal West Sacramento Project
  – Identified as a critical need site
  – Funded through West Sacramento self-assessment and Prop’s 1E and 84

• EIP details
  – Repair approx. 6.4 miles of levee protecting Southport
  – Will treat under- and through-seepage, unstable slopes, and erosion
  – Bring levee up to Federal and State standards
WSLIP
Levee Evaluation Locations
EIP Location

Sacramento River
South Levee

PORT NORTH LEVEE
PORT SOUTH LEVEE

DWSC West Levee
DWSC East Levee

South Cross Levee

Deep Water Ship Channel (DWSC)

Sacramento River

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Recent Local Flood Protection Efforts

- 2005: USACE issues new levee design standards.
- 2006: State performs critical erosion repairs on three sites in West Sacramento.
- 2006: WSAFCA and CA DWR comprehensively evaluate levees
- 2007: WSAFCA proposes the West Sacramento Levee Improvements Program (WSLIP).
- 2007: USACE constructs a seepage berm at Davis Road under PL84-99.
- 2008: The I Street Bridge EIP is constructed and The Rivers and CHP Academy EIPs are initiated.
• 2009/10: WSLIP Draft EIS/EIR is released.
• 2010: USACE begins construction on a setback levee project south of the Barge Canal.
• 2010: WSAFCA and USACE begin planning the Southport Sacramento River EIP.
• 2011: The Rivers and the CHP Academy EIPs complete environmental review and are approved for construction (in progress).
Flood Risk-Reduction Planning Process

• Problem Identification – locating and scoping deficiencies
• Alternatives Analysis – matching potential improvements to address the deficiencies
• Environmental Documentation – evaluating possible environmental effects from the potential risk-reduction measures
• Permitting
• Construction
Identified Levee Deficiencies

- Unstable slopes caused by inadequate levee geometry
- Seepage (under or through the levee)
- Erosion
- Non-compliant vegetation
Possible Flood Risk-Reduction Measures

The environmental analysis and design process will analyze the impacts and feasibility of several combinations of the following measures:

– Slurry cut-off walls through the levee
– Slope flattening of the existing levee
– Setback levee landside of the existing levee
– Adjacent levee landside of the existing levee
– Seepage berms/stability berms on the landside of the levee
– Rock slope protection on the waterside of the levee
– Relief wells
Environmental Documentation
Process

• Solicit public input to be considered in conducting the environmental analysis
• Prepare EIS/EIR
• Circulate draft EIS/EIR for public review and comment
• Review and respond to comments and prepare final EIS/EIR
• WSAFCA adopts project and findings of fact, certifies EIR, adopts mitigation and monitoring plan, and records Notice of Determination
• USACE prepares Record of Decision
Environmental Resource Issues

- Aesthetics
- Air quality
- Geology and soils
- Land use/planning
- Recreation
- Noise
- Utilities/public services
- Biological resources
- Hazardous materials
- Socioeconomics/Environmental justice
- Cultural resources
- Agriculture
- Population and housing
- Public services
- Mineral resources
- Transportation/Navigation
Multi-objective Benefits of EIP

• Recreation
  – Corridors for walking, jogging, biking, and, where appropriate, equestrian use
  – Other recreation features may include landscaping, benches, small picnic areas, and small play areas

• Open Space and Habitat
  – Restored areas to mitigate project effects
  – Enhancement of fish and aquatic habitat along the river’s edge and wetland and upland areas on and near levees
  – Potential for areas of inundation for target species
Next Steps

• Ask questions of project team members at this meeting
• Provide written comments via mailed comment card or e-mail by September 26, 2011.
• Look for the draft environmental document to be released in mid-2012