

Citizens' Assessment District Advisory Committee

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October 24, 2012

Via E-Mail: Bradd.R.Schwichtenberg@usace.army.mil
US Mail: Mr. Bradd Schwichtenberg, Civil Deputy - SPD RIT
US Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20314

Dear Mr. Schwichtenberg:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, municipalities and agencies, we respectfully request an expedited review and approval of the Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency's (SBFCA) 408 permit application for its Feather River West Levee Project. This critical public safety project will repair levees that have previously failed and are known to be structurally deficient, and that currently provide protection to more than 80,000 residents. In addition, we have over 20,000 students in Sutter County and these students, schools, and our community are all in danger and at risk should the levees fail and flooding occurs. Unnecessary delays in permit approvals are not acceptable to the owners of more than 35,000 properties who are charged annual assessments (akin to a property tax) to finance the local cost share for levee repairs. Given scarce local and state resources, it is imperative the project stay within budget by staying on schedule.

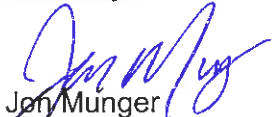
In 1955, a catastrophic failure of the west levee along the Feather River adjacent to Yuba City resulted in dozens of lives lost and hundreds of millions in property damages. Although problems with seepage have persisted since that time, including two catastrophic levee failures adjacent to our basin and heroic flood fights within the basin, no comprehensive repairs or improvements have been implemented. Our communities remain at grave risk for flooding.

For this reason, SBFCA was formed in 2007 by the counties of Sutter and Butte, the cities of Yuba City, Live Oak, Biggs and Gridley, and Levee Districts 1 and 9 to partner with the State and the Corps to plan, finance and implement modifications to 44 miles of defective levees along the west bank of the Feather River. In 2010, property owners overwhelmingly approved annual property assessments to fund their fair share of the effort. This vote of support from this economically disadvantaged community is all the more remarkable because it occurred during a recession. The California Department of Water Resources is funding half the cost of the 408 project design, which is expected to be completed in February 2013 and an equal share of the Sutter Basin Feasibility Study (SBFS). The state is also expected to pay as much as 76 percent of non-Federal construction costs using Prop 1E funding. However, we are well aware that the locally driven project cannot move forward without Corps approval of the 408 permit. We can't afford to wait.

We are also strongly supportive of SBFCA's participation with the Corps in the SBFS. We believe that this accelerated study has the potential to be a major success story for both the Corps and the local community

With that in mind, we implore the Corps to review and approve SBFCA's 408 permit application post haste and to continue to make substantial progress on the SBFS. Our community is working hard to reduce its flood risk and implement long-overdue improvements to flood protection systems. We appreciate the Corps' partnership in our efforts.


Sincerely,



Jon Munger
Chair, Sutter Butte Flood Control
Citizens Assessment Advisory Committee



Bill Cornelius
Sutter County Superintendent of Schools


Patricia Miller
President, Sutter County Tax Payers Association


Stacy Gore
President, Butte County Farm Bureau



Brynda Stranix
President/Chief Operating Officer
Yuba Sutter Economic Development Corporation



Dr. Douglas B. Houston
Chancellor Yuba Community College District


Jon Munger
President of Yuba Sutter Farm Bureau

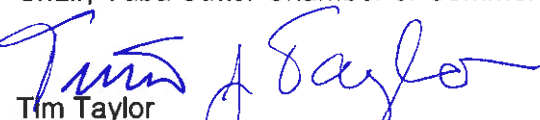

Annette Bertolini
President, Live Oak Chamber of Commerce



Larry Sessions
General Manager – Sutter Projects
CALPINE CORPORATION


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Yuba City Downtown Association


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Superintendent, Butte County Office of Education


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Chief Executive Officer, Sunsweet Growers Inc.


Sally Serger
Sutter County Citizens' Alliance


Steven Schiven
President, YC Unified School District

cc: U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer
U.S. Senator Diane Feinstein
U.S. Congressman Wally Herger
U.S. Congressman John Garamendi
California Senator Doug La Malfa
California Assemblyman Jim Nielsen
California Assemblyman Dan Logue
Brigadier General Mike Wehr SPD Commander
Colonel John Leady SPK Commander
Gary Bardini, Chief Hydrologist, State of California Department of Water Resources
Bill Edgar, President, Central Valley Flood Protection Board
Mike Inamine, Executive Director Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency
Shawne Corley, Interim County Administrator Sutter County
Paul Hahn, Chief Administrative Officer, County of Butte
John Miller, Chair, Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency Board of Directors
Sutter Butte Flood Control Board of Directors