

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0505

December 28, 2011

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
108 Army Pentagon, Room 3E446
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Dear Secretary Darcy:

Thank you for your attention to Sacramento's flood protection needs. The congressional district that I represent is the most at risk urban area for flooding in the nation and over the past twenty years the Sacramento region has worked continuously to bolster its flood defenses. During your recent trip to Sacramento in September, I was pleased that you were able to tour many of these critical projects with me and see first-hand the work of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the State of California and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency.

As you know, on December 23, 2012, the President signed into law the conference agreement on H.R. 2055, the Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY 2012. The law allocated \$59.3 million to a "Reserve Fund" for the Corps to fund on-going flood protection projects, and mandated that the Corps inform Congress within 45 days of how they plan to distribute the additional funding. As you prepare to submit the Corps' plan, I respectfully request that you fully fund flood protection projects in the Sacramento region to ensure that necessary construction and planning work is completed as soon as possible.

This year's floods in the Midwest and Atlantic states were a reminder of the destructive force of Mother Nature and the economic consequences that floods can have. They also serve as a stark reminder of the disastrous consequences that could be repeated in Sacramento if federally authorized investments in our flood defenses are not completed. As such, continued funding for work on the Corps' flood protection projects is at a critical juncture, particularly in this austere budget environment.

While I am pleased that Sacramento's flood protection priorities only received slight reductions in H.R. 2055, there is a real need for additional funding to ensure work is completed as soon as possible. Specifically, I respectfully request increased funding levels for FY2012, for each of the following projects:

- 1) **Folsom Dam Joint Federal Project:** The Joint Federal Project at Folsom Dam, is considered one of the Corps five "Mega Projects." It will require significant federal funding over the next few fiscal years. This project is critical to Sacramento region's

efforts to achieve over a 200 year level of flood protection. It is financed jointly by the federal government, the State of California and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency; and is largely seen as a major success. I request the Corps fully fund this project at a level that is at least to the Corps' previously stated capability of \$28 million for FY12. Efforts to accelerate the project's schedule might require an even higher level of funding and I urge you to consider funding it above \$28 million if warranted.

- 2) **American River Common Features Project:** The entire Sacramento urban area faces unnecessarily high flood risk, which the ongoing levee work authorized in the 1996 and 1999 Water Resource Development Acts, and the current American River Common Features General Reevaluation Report (GRR) seeks to address. Funding must be found to continue both the levee work and the crucial GRR. The GRR envisions further strengthening the levees along both the American River and the Sacramento River in order to protect most of the City of Sacramento. I request the Corps use the Reserve Fund to fully fund the GRR and levee work at a level that is at least to the Corps' previously stated capability. I also request the Corps allow use of the funds appropriated in H.R. 2055 for both continuing the GRR and the construction of the remaining authorized levee improvements. The Corps capability for this project is far greater than the \$25.037 million contained in the FY 2012 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

With hundreds of thousands of Sacramento-area residents at risk, it is crucial for the Corps to further fund Sacramento's flood protection projects over and above the funding levels identified in H.R. 2055. A catastrophic flood in the region could result in damages exceeding \$25 billion. Keeping the capital of California at risk will not only impair our ongoing economic recovery, but would seriously impair the state's economy for years to come. The State of California and local homeowners have already committed hundreds of millions of dollars to these projects and the federal government must continue to support these crucial flood protection projects. I urge the Corps to continue to act as a partner in Sacramento's flood protection and public safety goals, and to fully fund the region's priorities using the newly-created Reserve Fund.

Thank you for your consideration of my requests. As always, I stand ready to work with you and the Corps of Engineers to ensure that Sacramento's flood control projects are properly supported.

Sincerely,



DORIS O. MATSUI
Member of Congress

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
The Honorable Jacob J. "Jack" Lew, Director, Office of Management and Budget