



City of Sacramento City Council

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA, 95814
www.CityofSacramento.org

Meeting Date: 1/29/2013

Report Type: Consent

Title: Authorization: Natomas Levee Improvement Program

Report ID: 2013-00137

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Pass a Resolution in support of federal authorization for the Natomas Levee Improvement Program.

Contact: Randi Knott, Intergovernmental Relations Officer, (916) 808-5771, City Manager's Office

Presenter: Randi Knott, Intergovernmental Relations Officer, (916) 808-5771, City Manager's Office

Department: City Manager

Division: Government Affairs

Dept ID: 02001021

Attachments:

1-Description/Analysis

2-Resolution

Description/Analysis

Issue: The Sacramento region is currently the greatest at-risk urban area in the nation in terms of the potential for catastrophic flooding. In particular, the Natomas Basin is home to over 100,000 residents and critical regional and federal assets.

Policy Considerations: Congresswoman Doris Matsui (D-Sacramento) has worked tirelessly to garner federal resources to reduce the potential for such a catastrophic loss. Most recently, she introduced H.R. 135 and H.R. 136 “to authorize improvements to flood damage reduction facilities adjacent to the American and Sacramento Rivers near Sacramento, California, and for other purposes” in the U.S. House of Representatives on January 3, 2013 both of which would authorize the Natomas Levee Improvement Program.

Economic Impacts: This authorization would provide millions of federal dollars to continue to improve the levee system in the Natomas Basin.

Environmental Considerations: Not applicable

Sustainability: Not applicable

Commission/Committee Action: Not applicable

Rationale for Recommendation: Time is of the essence in support of this authorization and therefore has been brought to the City Council as an urgent measure to ensure it is available to Congresswoman Matsui as she advocates on behalf of her region.

Financial Considerations: Not applicable

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): Not applicable

RESOLUTION NO.

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

SUPPORTING FEDERAL AUTHORIZATION OF THE NATOMAS LEVEE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

BACKGROUND

- A. The Sacramento Metropolitan region is currently the greatest at-risk urban area in the nation for catastrophic river flooding.
- B. The Natomas Basin, located within the City of Sacramento, is home to over 100,000 residents as well as critical regional and federal assets including two interstate freeways, an international airport and thousands of federally protected habitat that is all currently subject to potential catastrophic flooding for which federal legislation to address such risk is pending in the United States Congress.
- C. The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) completed a Chief of Engineer's Report recommending the Federal authorization of the Natomas Levee Improvement Program in December of 2010, and the report was favorably recommended by the Department of the Army and sent to Congress on behalf of the Administration in May 2011.
- D. Congresswoman Doris Matsui introduced H.R. 135 "to authorize improvements to flood damage reduction facilities adjacent to the American and Sacramento Rivers near Sacramento, California, and for other purposes" in the U.S. House of Representatives on January 3, 2013, the first day of the new Congress, including the Natomas Levee Improvement Program.
- E. Congresswoman Doris Matsui introduced H.R. 136 "to authorize certain civil works projects, and for other purposes" in the U.S. House of Representatives on January 3, 2013, which would authorize flood control projects with USACE Chief's reports formally transmitted by the Administration to Congress, including the Natomas Levee Improvement Program.
- F. Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer are actively seeking ways to authorize the Natomas Levee Improvement Program through draft legislation developed by Senator Boxer as Chair of the Senate Environmental and Public Works Committee.
- G. The Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) and the State of California have expended \$400 million of non-Federal funding in early implementation of the project recommended by the Chief of Engineer's Report, equivalent to the non-Federal share of the project. Specifically, SAFCA has reconstructed and fortified 18 of the 42 miles of levees protecting the Natomas Basin.

H. A Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) has not been enacted into law since 2007.

BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

- Section 1: That the City Council emphasizes the urgent need for Federal authorization of the project recommended in the USACE Chief of Engineer's Report for the American River Watershed (Common Features) Project, Natomas Basin, Sacramento and Sutter Counties, California dated December 30, 2010 to protect the more than 100,000 residents of the Natomas Basin and critical infrastructure.
- Section 2: That the City Council of the City of Sacramento expresses strong support for H.R. 135 and H.R. 136, either of which would authorize the Natomas Levee Improvement Program.
- Section 3: The City Council urges the U.S. House of Representatives, the U.S. Senate and the U.S. Administration to quickly enact a Water Resources Development Act in 2013 which contains language authorizing the recommended plan in the Chief of Engineers Report for the levee improvements in the Natomas Basin.