



REPORT TO COUNCIL

City of Sacramento

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915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2604
www.CityofSacramento.org

Consent
January 23, 2007

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

Title: Execute Reimbursement Agreement with the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA)

Location/Council District: 1, 4, and 7

Recommendation: Adopt a **Resolution** authorizing the City Manager to execute a Reimbursement Agreement with SAFCA, in the amount of \$125,000, for expenses related to the City's share of funding for the Sacramento River Corridor Planning Forum.

Contact: David L. Brent, Engineering Manager, (916) 808-1420, Dave Schamber, Supervising Engineer, (916) 808-1423

Presenters: Not applicable

Department: Utilities

Division: Engineering Services

Organization No: 3330

Description/Analysis

Issue: The Sacramento River Corridor Planning Forum was created in July 2002 by means of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the California Reclamation Board, SAFCA, the City of Sacramento, the City of West Sacramento and the Counties of Sacramento, Yolo and Sutter. The purpose of the Forum, as set forth in the MOU, is to develop a floodway management plan (FMP) for the Sacramento River corridor extending from the Fremont Weir to the town of Courtland. Some of the key items to be addressed in the FMP include: achieve greater certainty and predictability in the permitting process for development along the corridor; establish goals and policies for sound floodplain management, flood conveyance, erosion control, levee stability and levee maintenance; create better understanding of the existing flood management system; discuss proposed and future floodway encroachments; explore opportunities for proposed development to maintain and improve existing levee structures; and expand riparian habitat in the permitting of floodway encroachments. In June of 2006, Forum participants completed a draft of the FMP.

Policy Considerations: This action is consistent with the City's Strategic Planning goals to establish and strengthen community and regional partnerships; to enhance the quality of life; to preserve and expand the arts, culture, open space, urban forest, parks and recreation opportunities; and to promote and support economic vitality.

Environmental Considerations: This recommendation pertains only to planning studies for possible future actions, which are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Section 15262 of the CEQA Guidelines.

Rationale for Recommendation: The City through the MOU has agreed to support the work of the Forum. The amount of payment requested represents the City's fair share payment for work performed by SAFCA for the preparation of the FMP.

Financial Considerations: Sufficient funds are available in the Flood Control Planning Project (WG01, fund 425) to execute this agreement. This reimbursement agreement is consistent with the MOU and the City's desire to support the work of the Forum.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): Not applicable.

Respectfully Submitted by: 
David L. Brent
Engineering Manager

Approved by: 
for Gary A. Reents
Director of Utilities

Recommendation Approved:

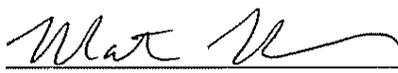

for Ray Kerridge
City Manager

Table of Contents:

	Report	Pg 1-2
Attachments		
1	Background	Pg 3-4
2	Resolution	Pg 5

Attachment 1**Background and Forum Accomplishments**

In July of 2002 the California Reclamation Board (Reclamation Board), the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA), the City of Sacramento, the City of West Sacramento, Yolo County, Sacramento County and Sutter County entered into Memorandum of Understanding to develop a Floodway Management Plan (FMP) for the reach of the Sacramento River extending downstream from the Fremont Weir to Courtland. The MOU states, "At a minimum, the FMP is to identify goals and policies for sound floodplain management, flood conveyance, erosion control, levee stability and levee maintenance, including guidelines for riparian habitat, public recreation, and riverfront development."

The Sacramento River Corridor Planning Forum (Forum) was created under this MOU and the Convening Report of the Forum identified the following key purposes to be pursued in the work leading to creation of the FMP:

1. achieve greater certainty and predictability in the permitting process relating to encroachments in the flood control system by recommending broadly accepted decision criteria, including guidelines for habitat restoration, public recreation, and levee protection;
2. provide an informal setting, including all significant interests, for discussion of proposed encroachments in the floodway;
3. create better understanding of the existing flood management system, the laws and policies governing the system, and its capability to provide long-term flood protection to withstand the stress of existing and potential new encroachments;
4. project future scenarios of potential floodway encroachments and land uses in order to analyze cumulative impacts and clarify the roles of land use and public safety in future visions of the corridor;
5. explore in a comprehensive and balanced manner various opportunities for enhancing system functionality in a manner that will maintain or improve existing flood control levels;
6. improve transparency, communication, and coordination of the land use and permitting process on the river;
7. explore opportunities to expand riparian habitat restoration and enhancement generally in the permitting of floodway encroachments;
8. enhance the economic feasibility of agriculture and the open space it protects, which is enjoyed by the traveling urban population; and
9. mediate local visions with regional and state wide needs to coordinate resources and liabilities.

To achieve these purposes, the MOU agencies invited 45 organizations to send representatives to the Sacramento River Corridor Planning Forum to help undertake this work. These organizations gathered for an initial meeting in August 2002.

As the Forum began its work, the cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento also were beginning a planning process to update their Joint Riverfront Master Plan. The preparation

of this new Sacramento Riverfront Master Plan (SRMP) provided an initial focus for the development of Forum goals, policies and guidelines affecting the approximately 3.5-mile reach of the Sacramento River corridor between the mouth of the American River and the mouth of the Sacramento River Deepwater Ship Channel and Miller Park. During 2003, Forum members met in several joint working group sessions to consider the proposed features of the SRMP. That work made up Phase 1 of the Forum process and concluded with consensus adoption of guidelines in November 2003.

During 2004-2005, the Forum considered how to address the river reaches upstream and downstream of the SRMP corridor. That work made up Phase 2 of the Forum process.

The efforts of Phase 1 and Phase 2 culminated in a draft FMP which was presented to the Reclamation Board in June 2006. It is anticipated that the Reclamation Board will provide comments and ultimately endorse the document.

It is important to note that the Forum itself has no formal decision-making authority. The guidelines in the document for consideration by the signatories to the MOU and other participants in the Forum process do not alter current law, regulations, or land use designations but do reflect a common understanding by those agencies of a set of principles that would help create greater certainty for all interests attempting to introduce changes into the floodway, whether for economic development, public access and recreation, or ecosystem restoration.

RESOLUTION NO.

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

**Reimbursement Agreement with the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency
(SAFCA)**

BACKGROUND

- A. The Sacramento River Corridor Planning Forum was created in July 2002 by means of a Memorandum of understanding between the California Reclamation Board, SAFCA, the City of Sacramento, the City of West Sacramento and the Counties of Sacramento, Yolo and Sutter.
- B. The purpose of the Forum is to develop a floodway management plan (FMP) which would serve as a guide for development along the Sacramento River from the Fremont Weir to the town of Courtland. The Forum has completed a final draft of the FMP.
- C. The City through the MOU has agreed to support the work of the Forum. The amount of payment requested represents the City's fair share payment for work performed by SAFCA for the preparation of the FMP.

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

- Section 1. The City Manager is authorized to sign and execute a Reimbursement Agreement with Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) for work performed for the preparation of the Floodway Management Plan (WG01, fund 425) for an amount not to exceed \$125,000.00.