



February 14, 2020

California Department of Water Resources
Attn: Heather Green
3500 Industrial Blvd
West Sacramento, CA 95691

Subject: Comments on Lookout Slough Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

Dear Ms. Green:

The West Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (WSAFCA), The City of West Sacramento (City), and The Port of West Sacramento (Port) appreciate the opportunity to review and provide comments on the Draft EIR for the Lookout Slough Tidal Habitat Restoration and Flood Improvement Project. All three agencies representing the West Sacramento area support multi-benefit projects that enhance habitat for fish and wildlife while improving flood control infrastructure.

WSAFCA, in partnership with the California Department of Water Resources, recently completed the Southport Levee Improvement Project that demonstrates and implements these very same values. This project greatly reduces flood risk to the City of West Sacramento through the construction of nearly 4 miles of setback levee along the Sacramento River. This significant levee setback created the opportunity to reconnect over 150 acres of floodplain to the river in the urban core greatly improving riparian, shaded streamside and adjacent upland habitats.

Based on this and other experience collaborating with other agencies, the agencies representing West Sacramento community provide the following comments for your consideration.

1. Based upon a cursory review of the Appendix D in the Draft EIR, the source for wind speed is the Sacramento Executive Airport, which is inland and upstream of the project site. Winds near the project site are noted to be greater than those more inland and upstream of the project site. The runup heights seem small for the fetch distances compared to other studies elsewhere in the Yolo Bypass.
2. The with-project condition increases wind-wave runup with a commensurate increase of erosive effect against the east side of the Yolo Bypass, thereby increasing levee failure risk. If the levee were to fail, floodwaters from the bypass would enter the Deep Water Ship Channel (DWSC), increasing the flood risk to communities upstream, including the City of West Sacramento. Additionally, the DWSC would likely be rendered useless for commerce.
3. The City, WSAFCA, and Port request a review of the calculations to ensure that proper and adequate assumptions are used to quantify the effects of wind-wave runup on the DWSC levee. It is important that the effects are analyzed accurately so that potential unintended consequences of this very desirable project can be avoided.

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Thank you in advance for your consideration of these comments and recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Fabun'.

Greg Fabun,
General Manager
West Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rick Toft'.

Rick Toft
Chief Operations Officer
Port of West Sacramento

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Amanda Berlin'.

Amanda Berlin
Assistant City Manager
City of West Sacramento