



FLOOD PROTECTION

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THE YUBA RIVER BASIN PROJECT

Requested Action:

Fund the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers FY 10 capability of \$12,000,000 for the Yuba River Basin Project.

This flood damage reduction project is an unprecedented effort to strengthen levees to a 200-year level of protection for communities in Yuba County, California. An FY 10 appropriation will enable the Corps to begin levee repairs for the City of Marysville, complete a project General Reevaluation Report and certify advanced levee improvements by the State and local interests. A Corps Chief of Engineer's Report is anticipated to complete in 2010.

Background:

The Corps initiated a General Reevaluation Report on the project to address new Corps underseepage guidelines and to certify the advanced levee repairs by the State of California and local interests. The Yuba River Basin Project was initiated by the State, Yuba County Water Agency, and the Corps following the devastating 1986 flood. Congress authorized the project in 1999 (P.L. 106-53, section 101(a) (10).) and the California Legislature authorized it in 2000 (AB 1147, 2000 Stats. Ch. 1071). Congress authorized a "new start" for the project in FY 03 and provided funding for it in FY 03, FY 04, FY 05, FY 06, FY 07, FY 08 and FY 09 (pending). Congress reauthorized the project in the 2007 Water Resources Development Act (P.L. 110-114, section 3041).

Benefits:

The fast-developing communities of Arboga, Linda, Olivehurst and Plumas Lake are likely to be the first communities in California's Central Valley with 200 year flood protection because of this project. This includes planned Corps repairs to levees protecting the City of Marysville. Throughout Yuba County, nearly 40 miles of levees will be strengthened. The project also provides significant environmental benefits. A 1.8 mile long setback of the Bear River levee, creating 600 acres of habitat, was completed in 2006. A new 6 mile long Feather River setback levee scheduled for completion this year will create over 1,500 acres of habitat and reduce flood flows in both Yuba and Sutter Counties.

Because of the advanced work by the State and local interests, nearly all of the repairs in the southern part of the Yuba Basin Project's design will be complete this year. So far, the State and local interests have expended over \$246,500,000 and anticipate an additional investment of up to \$118,200,000 (for a total non-Federal investment of \$364,700,000 or 82% of the \$445,000,000 project cost). The Chief of Engineer's Report to Congress will document this financing to preserve the potential of Section 104 credits; to date the Corps has approved \$118,700,000 in preliminary credits. The large State and local investment in the project means the ultimate federal cost will be significantly less than the authorized 65%-35% ratio.