

# The Southport Sacramento River Early Implementation Project

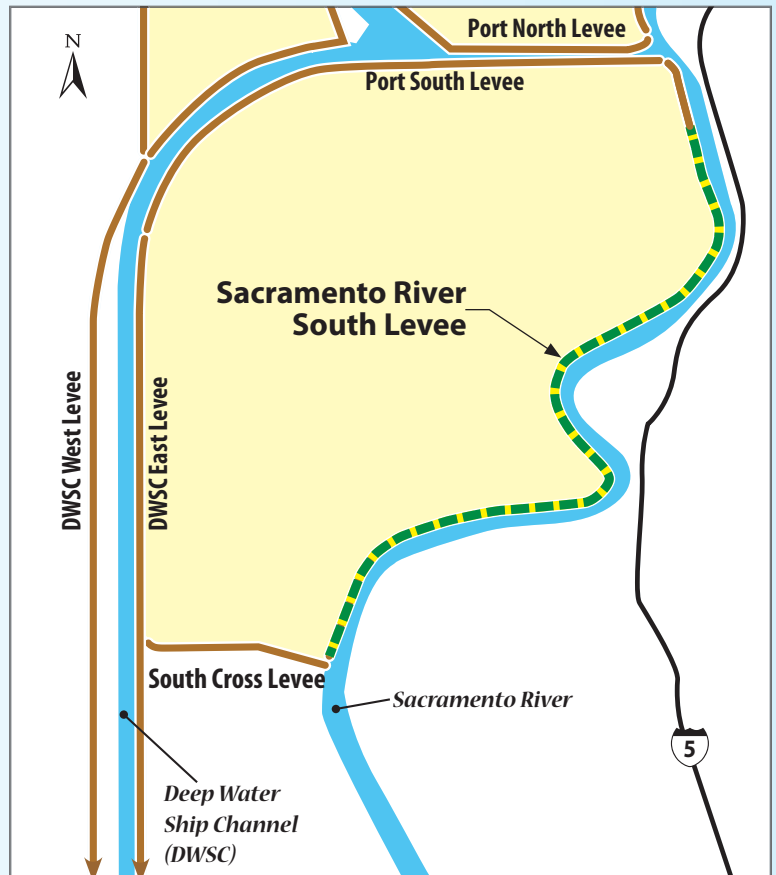
**About the Project.** The West Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (WSAFCA) is proposing the Southport Sacramento River Early Implementation Project (EIP) to implement flood risk-reduction measures along the Sacramento River South Levee that protects the Southport community. WSAFCA is proposing the measures be implemented along 6 miles of the levee that runs along the west bank of the Sacramento River from the Barge Canal to the South Cross Levee. The EIP study area also encompasses potential soil borrow sites east and west of southern Jefferson Blvd. WSAFCA's ultimate goal is to protect the lives and property of West Sacramento's residents, employees, and visitors.

An EIP is a levee site that has been identified as having significant deficiencies. Therefore the planning, environmental, and construction processes are implemented in advance of the overall West Sacramento Levee Improvements Program (WSLIP). The WSLIP is a city-wide comprehensive flood risk-reduction program initiated in 2007. WSAFCA has selected three other EIP sites (the CHP Academy, the Rivers, and the I Street Bridge) for construction in advance of WSLIP in the past 3 years.

Construction of the Southport Sacramento River EIP would bring the levee up to standard with Federal and state flood protection criteria and improve the under- and through-seepage, erosion, and slope instability that currently hinder the levee's performance. The EIP also would provide opportunities for ecosystem restoration and public recreation.

**The Environmental Process.** To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a joint environmental impact statement (EIS)/ environmental impact report (EIR) is being developed. This document will explain the proposed EIP alternatives, and effects and mitigation measures if the EIP is constructed. Potential impacts on resources—including aesthetics, soils, flood control, wildlife, vegetation, noise, recreation, and traffic—will be evaluated in the EIS/EIR.

To comply with NEPA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will act as the Federal lead agency, and WSAFCA will act as lead agency under CEQA. While WSAFCA is proposing the EIP, alterations to Federal levees cannot be made without approval from USACE.



**EIP Alternatives.** Three alternatives are being proposed. The priority of each alternative is to increase flood protection, but each also provides varying opportunities for ecosystem restoration and recreation opportunities. The alternatives are each a combination of two or more of the following flood risk–reduction measures:

- Levee slope flattening
- Setback levee and/or adjacent levee
- Relief wells
- Seepage berms/stability berms on the land side of the levee
- Rock slope protection on the water side
- Slurry cut-off walls

**EIP Schedule.** The EIP is currently in the environmental and alternatives design phase. Specialists have already gone out into the field, inspected the levee, and identified the levee’s deficiencies. Engineers have proposed three preliminary alternatives. The design and construction teams will work collaboratively to determine the feasibility of the alternatives, ensuring they provide a level of flood protection that meets current standards, are cost effective, and limit the short- and long-term impacts on the environment. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2013.

**Selecting an Alternative.** The public will have an opportunity to weigh in on the proposed alternatives during the scoping phase (August 26–September 26, 2011), and to suggest new alternatives to be considered in the Public Draft EIS/EIR. Following scoping, WSAFCA will select the alternatives that will be analyzed in the Public Draft EIS/EIR, available for public review in spring 2012.

**For More Information.** For more information about public input opportunities, the environmental process, and other flood risk–reduction projects in the city, visit [www.cityofwestsacramento.org/city/flood](http://www.cityofwestsacramento.org/city/flood).

**We Want Your Input.** If you would like to comment on the content of the EIS/EIR being developed for the Southport Sacramento River EIP, please submit comments to the contacts below. All comments must be received by 5 p.m. on September 26, 2011.

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