Southport Sacramento River Early Implementation Project

Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report

Public Scoping Meeting

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers &
West Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency

Welcome and Meeting Purpose

- Chris Elliott, Project Director with ICF International, environmental consultant for the project
- Joint Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is being prepared per the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- Opportunity to describe the project and EIS/EIR process
- Your comments are invited to inform the environmental analysis

Lead Agencies

- West Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (WSAFCA)
  - joint powers authority comprised of the City and the reclamation districts that maintain the levees around the City
  - overseeing planning and implementation of the improvements
  - lead agency under CEQA
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
  - responsible for approval of modifications to Federal flood project levees and navigable waters under the Rivers and Harbors Act
  - responsible for approval of effects to protected resources under the Clean Water Act
  - lead agency under NEPA

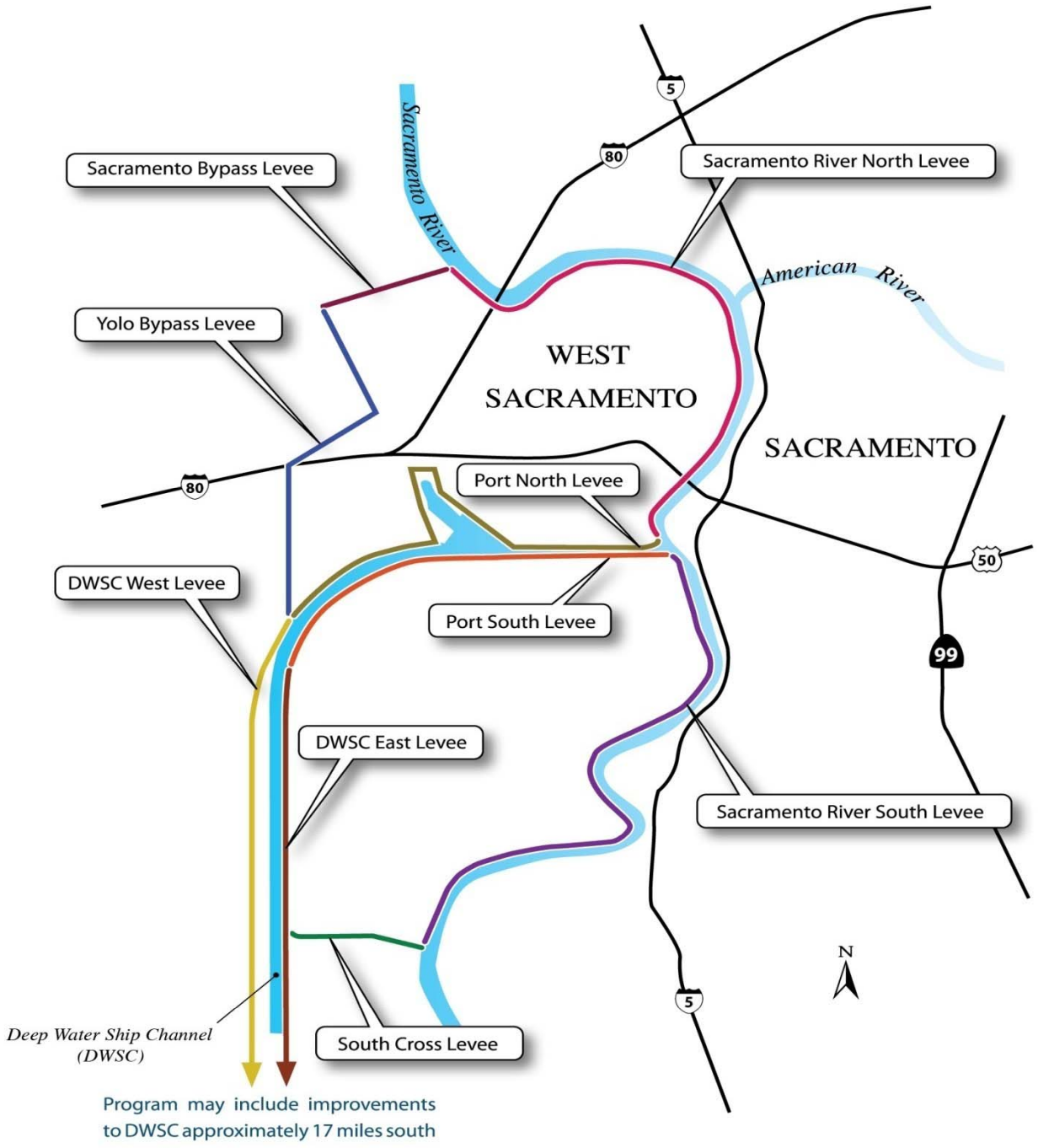
WSAFCA's Overall Goals

- Achieve a minimum of 200-year (an event that has a 0.5% chance of occurring in any given year) level of flood protection in more than 50 miles of City levees surrounding the City
- Construct levee improvements as soon as possible to reduce flood risk
- Provide recreational and ecosystem restoration elements that are compatible with flood improvement actions

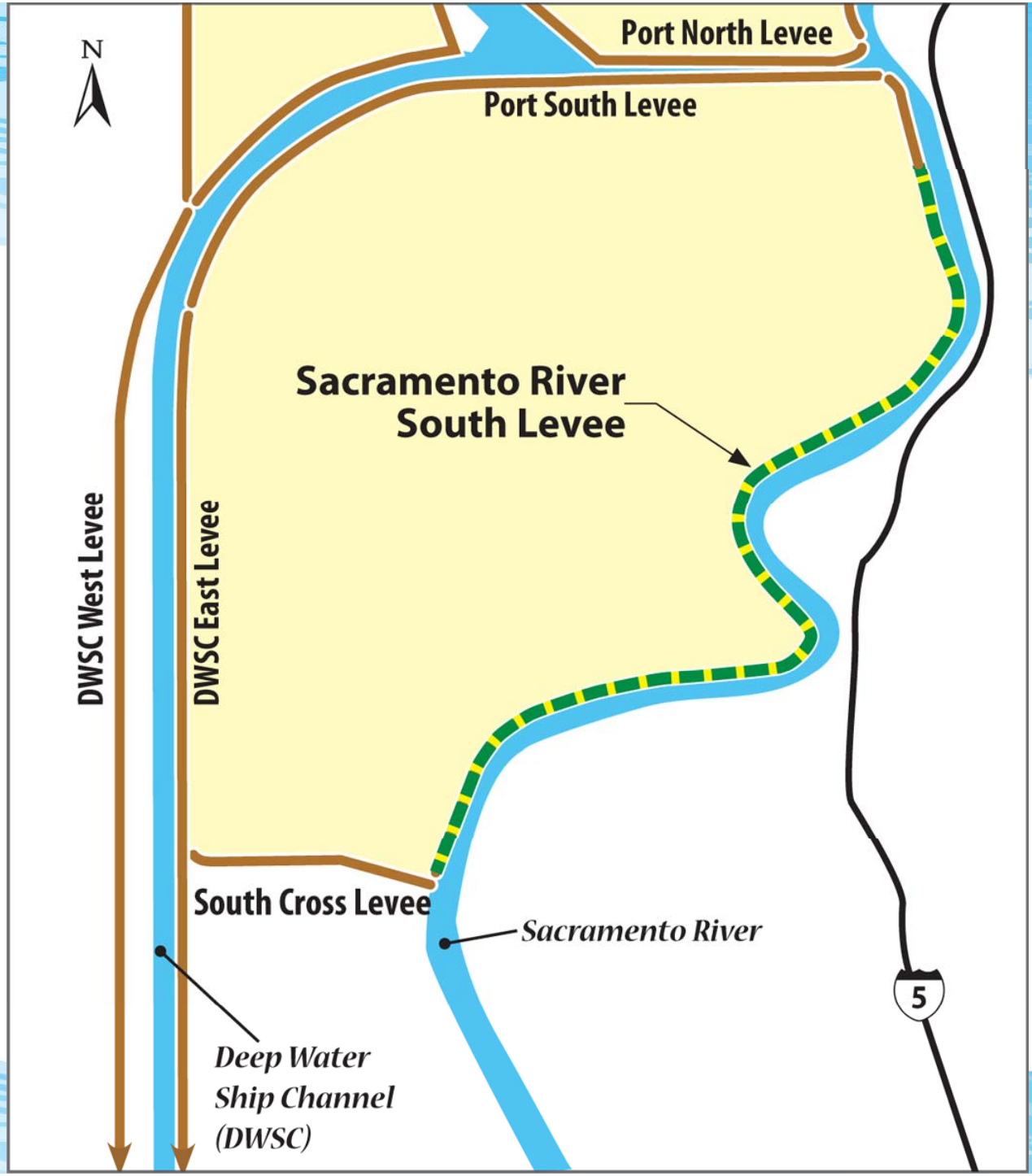
About the Southport Sacramento River EIP

- What is an Early Implementation Project (EIP)?
  - Constructed in advance of the State's Central Valley Flood Protection Plan and Federal West Sacramento Project
  - Identified as a critical need site
  - Funded through West Sacramento self-assessment and Prop's 1E and 84
- EIP details
  - Repair approx. 6.4 miles of levee protecting Southport
  - Will treat under- and through-seepage, unstable slopes, and erosion
  - Bring levee up to Federal and State standards

WSLIP Levee Evaluation Locations



EIP Location



Recent Local Flood Protection Efforts

- 2005: USACE issues new levee design standards.
- 2006: State performs critical erosion repairs on three sites in West Sacramento.
- 2006: WSAFCA and CA DWR comprehensively evaluate levees
- 2007: WSAFCA proposes the West Sacramento Levee Improvements Program (WSLIP).
- 2007: USACE constructs a seepage berm at Davis Road under PL84-99.
- 2008: The I Street Bridge EIP is constructed and The Rivers and CHP Academy EIPs are initiated.

continued…

- 2009/10: WSLIP Draft EIS/EIR is released.
- 2010: USACE begins construction on a setback levee project south of the Barge Canal.
- 2010: WSAFCA and USACE begin planning the Southport Sacramento River EIP.
- 2011: The Rivers and the CHP Academy EIPs complete environmental review and are approved for construction (in progress).

Flood Risk-Reduction Planning Process

- Problem Identification – locating and scoping deficiencies
- Alternatives Analysis – matching potential improvements to address the deficiencies
- Environmental Documentation – evaluating possible environmental effects from the potential risk-reduction measures
- Permitting
- Construction

Identified Levee Deficiencies

- Unstable slopes caused by inadequate levee geometry
- Seepage (under or through the levee)
- Erosion
- Non-compliant vegetation

Possible Flood Risk-Reduction Measures

The environmental analysis and design process will analyze the impacts and feasibility of several combinations of the following measures:

- Slurry cut-off walls through the levee
- Slope flattening of the existing levee
- Setback levee landside of the existing levee
- Adjacent levee landside of the existing levee
- Seepage berms/stability berms on the landside of the levee
- Rock slope protection on the waterside of the levee
- Relief wells

Environmental Documentation Process

- Solicit public input to be considered in conducting the environmental analysis
- Prepare EIS/EIR
- Circulate draft EIS/EIR for public review and comment
- Review and respond to comments and prepare final EIS/EIR
- WSAFCA adopts project and findings of fact, certifies EIR, adopts mitigation and monitoring plan, and records Notice of Determination
- USACE prepares Record of Decision

Environmental Resource Issues

- Aesthetics
- Air quality
- Geology and soils
- Land use/planning
- Recreation
- Noise
- Utilities/public services
- Biological resources
- Hazardous materials

- Socioeconomics/Environmental justice
- Cultural resources
- Agriculture
- Population and housing
- Public services
- Mineral resources
- Transportation/Navigation

Multi-objective Benefits of EIP

- Recreation
  - Corridors for walking, jogging, biking, and, where appropriate, equestrian use
  - Other recreation features may include landscaping, benches, small picnic areas, and small play areas
- Open Space and Habitat
  - Restored areas to mitigate project effects
  - Enhancement of fish and aquatic habitat along the river's edge and wetland and upland areas on and near levees
  - Potential for areas of inundation for target species

Next Steps

- Ask questions of project team members at this meeting
- Provide written comments via mailed comment card or e-mail by September 26, 2011.
- Look for the draft environmental document to be released in mid-2012