



Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency

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Yuba City, CA 95991
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sutterbutteflood.org

Counties

Butte County
Sutter County

Cities

City of Biggs
City of Gridley
City of Live Oak
City of Yuba City

Levee Districts

Levee District I
Levee District 9

September 16, 2013

Transmitted by Email (Beth.Spivey@mail.house.gov)

Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman, House Committee on
Transportation & Infrastructure
United States House of
Representatives
2209 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Nick Rahall II
Ranking Member, House Committee
on Transportation & Infrastructure
United States House of
Representatives
2307 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Rahall:

On behalf of the Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency, a flood control agency charged with minimizing flood risk for 100,000 constituents, we write today to applaud the bipartisan efforts of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in crafting the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) of 2013 (H.R. 3080). This important step is vitally important to public safety and local fiscal issues and we strongly support passage by the Committee.

As drafted, WRRDA includes many measures that will help the Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency carry forth our mission of delivering projects to reduce flood risks in a responsible and expeditious manner while simultaneously making the Federal role in flood damage reduction more efficient. In particular, we very much appreciate the Committee's efforts:

- To reduce study time for Army Corps of Engineers projects by eliminating the reconnaissance phase,
- To allow locals to step forward to advance projects that would be otherwise identified for deauthorization,
- To set up an annual process for project authorizations and project modifications to move forward,
- To promote a common sense approach to vegetation on levees, and
- To streamline the environmental permitting process for these vitally needed flood risk reduction projects.

This common sense approach to project delivery is refreshing and reflects the urgent need for greater flood protection in the cities located within Sutter and Butte counties of Yuba City, Live Oak, Biggs and Gridley.

We are also pleased that the Committee has elected to take on reform of issues such as Corps approval of locally-driven improvements to Federally authorized levees (WRRDA section 106) and Corps crediting for work performed by non-Federal interests in advance of Corps construction (WRRDA section 113). Both of these issues are vital for advancing flood risk reduction in this country and leveraging the willingness of non-Federal interests to invest in these projects. We are, however, concerned that the bills' treatment of crediting in section 113 and of local project permitting in section 106 falls short of the reforms necessary to address the current challenges facing local communities. We are also concerned that Section 107 of the bill, in amending Section 211 of 1996 WRDA, may inadvertently de-authorize projects which have already been constructed. As WRRDA makes its way through the committee process we would appreciate your willingness to further address our concerns.

Thank you for your leadership in making WRRDA a priority.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Inamine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "I".

Mike Inamine
Executive Director
Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency

Cc: Congressman John Garamendi
Congressman Doug LaMalfa