

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI
Member of Congress

Serving California's 5th District

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MATSUI ADVOCATES FOR SACRAMENTO FLOOD PROTECTION

*Testifies before House Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources & Environment
to promote projects improvements*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Representative Doris Matsui promoted flood control improvements today before the House Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources & Environment.

The committee heard testimony from members requesting projects to be included in the anticipated Water Resources Development Act of 2005 (WRDA). This legislation authorizes projects that provide navigation, flood control, water supply, environmental restoration and other water resource improvements throughout the nation. The last WRDA was enacted as P.L. 106-541 in 2000.

Congresswoman Matsui's testimony follows:

"Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

"I represent the 5th Congressional District of California and I am pleased to appear before you today on behalf of the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (or SAFCA). Mr. Chairman, as you know, the Sacramento region is in jeopardy of catastrophic flooding. Thanks to the leadership of this Committee, much has already been done to address the flood control needs of the region. Indeed, several project authorizations are already in place that, once completed, will provide in excess of 200-year flood protection for much of the area.

"Completion of the authorized flood control improvements for Sacramento is one of my highest priorities.

"Today I appear before the Subcommittee to seek its support for modification of two projects.

Credit for non-federal at the Natomas Levee

"Construction of the Natomas Levee Improvement Project was initiated and completed by SAFCA totally at non-federal cost, estimated at \$80 million. Pursuant to Public Law 102-396, SAFCA and the Corps of Engineers entered into an agreement for the federal government to reimburse SAFCA for the Federal share of the cost of the project. The total amount expended by SAFCA for the Natomas project that would have been the federal share is approximately \$40 million, of which only \$16 million has been reimbursed by the Corps of Engineers. The balance is still due. However, in view of the Corps' funding constraints and the difficulty of obtaining reimbursements, SAFCA is seeking authority for a "credit" towards its future cost-sharing commitments on other flood control projects. My proposal would allow SAFCA to convert the remaining federal reimbursement requirement associated with the Natomas Project into a credit that would be applied toward other authorized flood control projects. All costs expended by SAFCA would be fully audited by the Corps of Engineers before credit was allowed. This approach would recognize the substantial effort SAFCA has already made and would expedite

completion of remaining projects. Mr. Chairman, this provision is urgently needed to allow SAFCA to move forward with its cost-sharing commitments.

Magpie Creek

“My second request relates to a small flood control project known as Magpie Creek. Through SAFCA’s initiative, the Corps is currently looking at a revised project at Magpie Creek that is not only less expensive but also more environmentally compatible than the original project design. The proposed improvements include construction of a low floodwall on top of an existing levee, minor improvements to the levee and, as its main feature, the purchase and preservation of approximately 76 acres of privately owned flood plain. My proposed legislation would (1) acknowledge the purchase and preservation of the floodplain acreage as a “non-structural” component of the project; and (2) allow credit to the non-Federal sponsor for the work paid for by SAFCA in re-formulating the project.

“Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee, I would be glad to provide additional details on these requests. I congratulate you on moving forward with the Water Resources Development Act of 2005.

“Thank you.”

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