



Hamilton City
Community
Services District



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 23, 2002

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HAMILTON CITY RECEIVES BOOST FROM CALFED FOR FLOOD PROTECTION

\$420,000 Will Fund Study for Flood Protection and Ecosystem Restoration on Sacramento River

HAMILTON CITY, GLENN COUNTY – California’s Secretary for Resources Mary Nichols and CALFED Director Patrick Wright announced today, with other state, federal, and local representatives, the commitment of \$420,000 to complete a feasibility study for a project to protect Hamilton City from floods while also providing ecosystem restoration benefits to the Sacramento River.

“This project clearly demonstrates the collaboration and cooperation that reflects the spirit of the CALFED Program and the Comprehensive Study – government agencies working together with local interests to meet the most pressing local needs.” said state Secretary for Resources Mary Nichols. “We’re pleased to be part of the solution for Hamilton City.”

This multi-objective study integrates the goals of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and State Reclamation Board Comprehensive Study to develop plans that integrate flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River basins. The \$420,000 is state funding from Proposition 204, and is delivered through the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program.

”This is an immense boost for the local citizens in this area. We have tried for years to raise the revenue for the local cost share to have this study completed. With this assistance, we have a new beginning that we hope will lead to a long-term solution for the town of Hamilton City,” said Jose Puente, General Manager of the Hamilton City Community Services District.

Local interests involved include Glenn County, the Hamilton City Community Services District (HCCSD), the Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum (SRCAF), and The Nature Conservancy. Local residents have been holding ‘Levee Festivals’ twice a year for the past 4 years to raise money for the study by various methods including donations from local landowners. In total, \$70,000 has been collected that will now be available for other levee improvements. The HCCSD has been very instrumental in coordinating the fund raising efforts, and the SRCAF has assisted with bringing diverse interests along the river together to focus on a solution for Hamilton City.

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The state grant is needed to match federal funds available to complete the feasibility study. The partnership of state and federal funds at this stage of planning will result in significant cost savings to the Hamilton City Community Services District, and potentially future phases. Under new State law, flood management projects that provide multiple benefits are eligible for a greater percentage of state funds, thereby reducing the local cost share.

The study should begin in November 2002 and be completed in December 2003. Opportunities for public participation and input will be provided as planning moves forward. Please contact Burt Bundy, Manager of the Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum, to be notified of local meetings.

Speakers at today's event included:

- Keith Hansen, Glenn County Supervisor
- Mary Nichols, Secretary of Resources
- Patrick Wright, Director, CALFED Bay-Delta Program
- Jonas Minton, Deputy Director, Dept. of Water Resources
- Jose Puente, General Manager, Hamilton City Community Services District
- Colonel Michael J. Conrad, Jr., Sacramento District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Betsy Marchand, President, State Reclamation Board
- Sam Lawson, Central Valley Managing Director, The Nature Conservancy
- Former state Senator Jim Nielsen

The Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum is a nonprofit organization that includes representatives from the seven Sacramento Valley counties, landowners along the river, and – in an ex officio capacity – state and federal agencies. For more information on the SRCAF, call Burt Bundy at (530) 528-7411 or visit <http://www.sacramentoriver.ca.gov>.

The Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins Comprehensive Study is a joint effort by the State Reclamation Board and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to investigate flood and ecosystem related problems and to develop a comprehensive plan to address these problems. For more information on the Comprehensive Study, visit <http://www.compstudy.org>.

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is a cooperative effort of more than 20 state and federal agencies working with local communities to improve the quality and reliability of California's water supplies and revive the San Francisco Bay-Delta ecosystem. The CALFED strategic plan is the largest, most comprehensive water management effort in the nation. For more information about the CALFED Program, visit <http://calfed.ca.gov>.

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CALFED

California

The Resources Agency
Department of Water Resources
Department of Fish and Game
The Reclamation Board
Delta Protection Commission
Department of Conservation
San Francisco Bay Conservation
and Development Commission

California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board
Department of Health Services
Department of Food and Agriculture

Federal

Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Fish and Wildlife Service
Geological Survey
Bureau of Land Management
Environmental Protection
Agency
Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Forest Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service
Western Area Power Administration