



October 20, 2014

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The Honorable John M. McHugh
Secretary of the Army
101 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310

Dear Secretary McHugh:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), I am writing to request that a representative(s) of our association be included as part of your upcoming review of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' policy guidelines for management of vegetation on levees.

As you are aware, the *Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014* (WRRDA, PL 113-121) requires a comprehensive reexamination of the Corps' guidelines in order to determine whether current Federal policy relating to levee vegetation is appropriate for all regions of the United States. Pursuant to Section 3013 (d) of the Act, the review must be carried out in consultation with other applicable Federal agencies, as well as representatives of State, regional, local, and tribal governments. Furthermore, Corps Regional Integration Teams - in consultation with State and Federal resource agencies and with participation by local agencies - are required to submit to the Secretary any recommendations for vegetation management policies for levees that conform with Federal and State laws and other applicable requirements.

The aforementioned review process and its outcome is critically important to CSAC, as county public works departments and local flood control districts in our state maintain a significant portion of the more than 13,000 miles of levees in California. Moreover, California county officials possess a great deal of expertise and knowledge as it pertains to flood management practices, particularly with respect to local and regional diversity of flood protection systems. For these reasons, we believe that a representative(s) of our statewide association would add considerable value to the policy review process and should be consulted and involved in all aspects of the review.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to continuing to work with our Federal partners to promote policies that protect public safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew Z. Cate".

Matt Cate
CSAC Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Barbara Boxer
The Honorable Doris Matsui
National Association of Counties
National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies