

## Sutter Basin, California, Feasibility Study

### Peer Review Plan August 2007 (provisional)

The following paragraphs correspond to paragraphs 6.a. to 6.j. of Engineer Circular 1105-2-408.

a. The Sutter Basin, California feasibility study is investigating flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration and recreation in Sutter County, California. The study is considering improvement of up to 47 miles of existing levees, as well as construction of new levees, reservoir re-operation, and other structural and non-structural measures for flood damage reduction. The ecosystem restoration and recreation measures that are being considered would be secondary to the flood damage reduction objective. Because the feasibility study is predominantly focused on flood damage reduction, the USACE Planning Center of Expertise for Flood Damage Reduction (PCX-FDR) at the South Pacific Division (SPD) has the responsibility for accomplishment and quality of peer review per EC 1105-2-408. This provisional Peer Review Plan is being coordinated with the PCX-FDR and may be revised based on input from the PCX-FDR.

The feasibility study was initiated in 2000 and a Feasibility Scoping Meeting (FSM)(SPD F3 Milestone) was held in 2005. The 2000 Project Study Plan is currently being updated as a revised Project Management Plan (PMP). Recent guidance (CECW-P memorandum dated 30 Mar 2007, subject: Peer Review Process) extended the applicability of EC 1105-2-408 (Peer Review of Decision Documents) to all studies and reports requiring authorization, regardless of the date the FCSA was signed. Therefore, this Peer Review Plan has been prepared as part of the revised PMP.

The feasibility study has been undergoing inter-District Independent Technical Review (ITR) in accordance with Corps guidance. ITR was conducted for the FSM document in 2005. Team members and designated points of contact in the responsible District and PCX to whom inquiries may be directed are identified in the table on the next page.

b. The Corps feasibility report is not likely to be influential scientific information or a highly influential scientific assessment. It is expected to undergo ITR with both Corps and external peer reviewers on the ITR team. The external reviewers will be selected to specifically address the aspects of the project that are higher in magnitude or risk.

Team Members/Designated Points of Contact		
Name/District	Title/Discipline	Office
<b>Sacramento Dist</b>		
Name Removed	Lead Planner	CESPK-PD-W
Name Removed	Project Manager	CESPK-PM-C
<b>San Francisco Dist</b>		
Name Removed	ITR Team Leader	CESPN-ET-P
<b>South Pacific Div</b>		
Name Removed	Director, PCX FDR	CESPD-PDS
Name Removed	Technical POC, PCX FDR	CESPD-PDS-P

c. Peer review will be performed for the Alternative Review Conference/Alternative Formulation Briefing (SPD Milestones F4/F4A) pre-conference document, and the draft and final feasibility reports.

d. Peer review will be conducted through individual access to the DrChecks website. If an external reviewer cannot access the DrChecks website for any reason, then review comments and responses may be conveyed by email. The external peer reviewers and other ITR team members may convene to receive briefings or discuss issues of mutual concern.

e. The public will have the opportunity to comment on the draft and final feasibility reports by submitting comment letters to the Corps.

f. Significant and relevant comments received in response to the draft feasibility report will be provided to reviewers before they conduct their review of the final report.

g. Approximately 8 to 10 reviewers are anticipated.

h. The primary disciplines/expertise needed in the review are hydrology and hydraulics, geotechnical engineering, civil design, cost engineering, economics, real estate, environmental compliance, ecosystem restoration, and plan formulation/civil works policy. It is anticipated that external peer reviewers will be included in the ITR for geotechnical and hydraulic engineering, which are expected to be the areas of greatest technical concern and risk.

i. External peer reviewers will be selected by the Corps. The public will not be asked to nominate potential peer reviewers.