



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
CIVIL WORKS
108 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0108

JUL 6 2007

Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building, Room H-232
Washington, D.C. 20515-0001

Dear Madam Speaker:

In partial response to a resolution adopted by the Committee on Public Works of the House of Representatives on July 1, 1958, and provision of funds in the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of 1998, under authority of Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970, the Secretary of the Army recommends authorization of a flood damage reduction project for the Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers, Des Moines, Iowa. The proposal is described in the Report of the Chief of Engineers dated March 28, 2006 which includes other pertinent reports and comments. The views of the State of Iowa, the Department of the Interior and the Environmental Protection Agency are set forth in the enclosed communications. The Secretary of the Army supports the authorization and plans to implement the project through the normal budget process at the appropriate time, considering national priorities and the availability of funds.

The recommended plan provides for increased flood damage reduction along the Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers to the areas of Birdland Park, Central Place and downtown Des Moines. The flood damage reduction features of the recommended plan consist of constructing 7,700 feet of levee and 440 feet of retaining wall with one closure structure generally along and extending the existing non-Federal levee at Birdland Park; constructing 5,900 feet of levee generally along and extending the existing non-Federal Central Place levee; and modifying three existing pump stations. The recommended plan also includes modification to nineteen closure structures in the existing Federal downtown levee system. The recreation features include 5,100 feet of recreational trail along the Birdland Park levee with access to Riverview Park and landscaping along the levee crossing Riverview Park. Compensatory mitigation to offset unavoidable environmental impacts of the project will be accomplished through the creation of 13 to 16 acres of emergent wetland, open water, upland forest, and herbaceous upland buffer at the Chichaqua mitigation site, northeast of Des Moines. Further compensation includes approximately 5 acres of bottomland forest enhancement, and upland forest creation on the riverside of the levee at Central Place. The recommended plan is the locally preferred plan (LPP). The LPP has greater net benefits than smaller scaled plans and is smaller in scope and less costly than the national economic development plan. The LPP would provide the maximum level of flood damage reduction desired by the non-Federal sponsor.



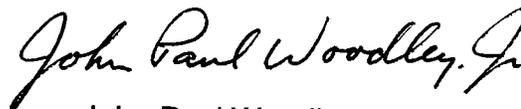
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CECW-MVD
Mr. Waters

Based on October 2006 price levels, the total first cost of the recommended plan is estimated at \$10,780,000. The total first cost of the project includes approximately \$10,516,000 for flood damage reduction, which includes \$305,000 for mitigation, and approximately \$264,000 for recreation. In accordance with the cost sharing provisions of Section 103 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986, as amended, flood damage reduction features would be cost shared 65 percent Federal and 35 percent non-Federal and recreation features would be cost shared 50 percent Federal and 50 percent non-Federal. The overall Federal share of the estimated total first cost of the project would be \$6,967,000 and the non-Federal share would be \$3,813,000, comprised of approximately \$899,000 in lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations, and dredged material disposal areas (LERRD), \$539,000 as five percent cash, and a remaining cash balance of \$2,375,000. The City of Des Moines, Iowa, the non-Federal cost sharing sponsor, would be responsible for providing the non-Federal cost share of all features of the recommended plan and all the operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, and rehabilitation (OMRR&R) of the project after construction, a cost currently estimated at \$32,000 per year. Average annual flood damage reduction benefits attributed to the plan are estimated at \$1,765,000, and the flood damage reduction benefit-cost ratio is 2.8 to 1. Average annual recreation benefits are \$135,000 and the recreation benefit-cost ratio is 8.4 to 1. The net annual flood damage reduction and recreation benefits for this plan are \$1,250,000.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection to the submission of the report to Congress. A copy of its letter is enclosed. I am providing a copy of this transmittal and the OMB letter dated June 25, 2007, to the House Subcommittees on Energy and Water Development, and Water Resources and Environment in accordance with the requirements of the Fiscal Year 2006 Omnibus Appropriations Act (P.L. 109-103).

Very truly yours,



John Paul Woodley, Jr.
Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Civil Works)

Enclosures

8 Enclosures

1. Report of the Chief of Engineers, March 28, 2006
2. Telecon with USFWS on Endangered Species requirements, August 29, 2005
3. Copy, State of Iowa letter to USACE for water quality certification, August 23, 2005
4. Copy, State of Iowa letter to USACE, December 9, 2005
5. Copy, Dept of the Interior letter to USACE, November 18, 2005
6. Copy, EPA e-mail to USACE, December 1, 2005
7. OMB Clearance Letter, June 25, 2007
8. Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment Statement, December 2005

CF: (w/o encl except as noted)

CECW-PC

CECW- MVD (Mr. Tom Waters, please provide copy to CEMVD, CEMVR)

SACW: Tornblom, Dunlop, Lamont

SACW: Read & Sign

SACW: File (Please file with enclosures 1 through 7)

Prepared: John Lucyshyn/CECW-MVD/761-4515

Revised: Terry Breyman/SACW/Apr 9, 2007

Revised: Cliff Fitzsimmons/SACW/Jun 26, 2007

J:\SHARED\PP&R- Permanent\ACTIVE PROJECTS\Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers,
IA and Riverwalk Phase I\070702 Des Moines & Raccoon Rivers to Congress.doc

Envelopes

House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
Room 2362-B Rayburn Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6020

House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment
B-376 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
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108 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0108

JUL 6 2007

Honorable Richard Cheney
President of the Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, Room S-212
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-0012

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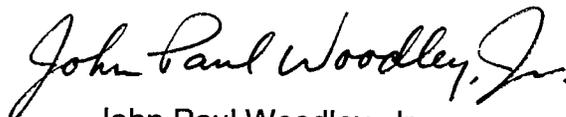


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Very truly yours,



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Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
SD 127 - Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure
SD 410 – Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6175