

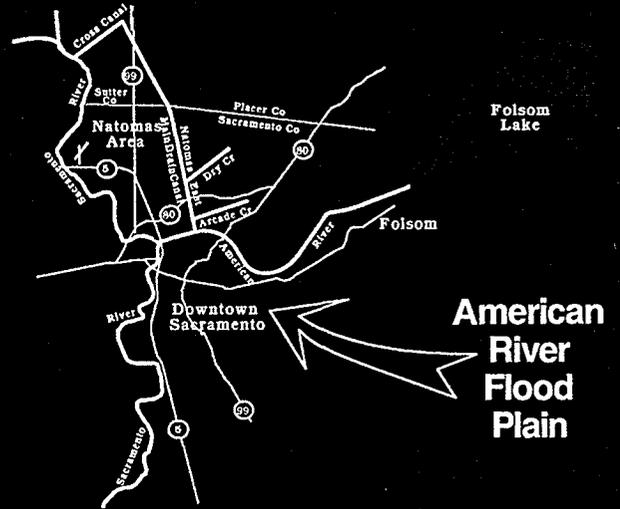


**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Sacramento District

**Draft
American River
Watershed
Investigation
California**



Feasibility Report



**Part I
Main Report**

**Part II
Draft Environmental
Impact Statement /
Environmental Impact
Report**

April 1991

AMERICAN RIVER WATERSHED INVESTIGATION, CALIFORNIA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This draft feasibility report presents the results of studies on flooding problems along the American and Sacramento Rivers in the greater Sacramento area. It identifies a Tentatively Selected Plan to resolve the problems. The report includes a main report and an environmental impact statement/environmental impact report. Public comments will be used to review the Tentatively Selected Plan and will be incorporated into a final report that will be submitted to Congress for construction authorization.

Study Authorization

The basic authority for the study is the Flood Control Act of 1962 (Public Law 87-874). Additional authority is contained in the Fiscal Year 1987 Appropriations Act and the Fiscal Year 1988 Continuing Appropriations Act. These acts instruct the Corps of Engineers to:

- o Study alternative means for flood control in the American River watershed, in Natomas, and in the Dry Creek watershed.
- o Assume that the multipurpose Auburn Dam, as previously authorized, will not be constructed.
- o Evaluate incidental water, power, and recreation benefits as they relate to a peak-flow flood control facility on the North Fork American River upstream from Folsom Dam.
- o Analyze current projected water demands for the American River basin.

Flood Problem

In February 1986, major storms in northern California caused record floodflows in the American River basin and significant flood damage. River stages encroached into the levee freeboard at many locations. Had the storms lasted even a few hours longer, major sections of levee likely would have failed, resulting in possible loss of life and billions of dollars in damage.

Recent studies have shown that large floodflows in the American River may occur much more often than previously believed and that a serious flood threat exists. Prior to

AMERICAN RIVER WATERSHED INVESTIGATION, CALIFORNIA
DRAFT FEASIBILITY REPORT

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