



Reclamation District No. 2140

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RECLAMATION DISTRICT 2140 CELEBRATES SENATE ENERGY AND WATER APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Senator Feinstein Provides Federal Funding to Begin Construction of the Hamilton City Project

HAMILTON CITY, Calif. (April 24, 2012) — Today, the U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development released its funding recommendations for FY 2013, which includes funding to begin construction of the Hamilton City Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Project. Reclamation District 2140, the local sponsor of the Hamilton City Project, attributed the funding to the work and support of Senator Dianne Feinstein, the Chair of the committee.

“Senator Feinstein really came through for us,” said Lee Ann Grigsby-Puente, President of Reclamation District 2140’s Board of Trustees. “By funding this levee project, the Senator has given us the opportunity to protect Hamilton City from flood waters and to create many jobs.” Leigh McDaniel, the Glenn County Supervisor representing the Hamilton City area, agreed. “The County has worked very hard to get this flood control project started. Today, Senator Feinstein funded the project in the Senate appropriations bill and we will do everything we can to support her effort because we are as ‘shovel-ready’ as it gets,” he said.

The Hamilton City Project is a multipurpose flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration project. It consists of (1) construction of 6.8 miles of setback levee to provide a more reliable form of flood protection to the community and agricultural areas, (2) degradation of the existing “J” levee, and (3) reconnection of approximately 1,400 acres of native habitat to the Sacramento River flood-plain. Once constructed, the new levee will provide Hamilton City with protection against a 75-year flood event, a dramatic improvement over the level of protection afforded by the existing J Levee. Despite repairs performed by the County of

Glenn over the last decade, and emergency work conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the California Department of Water Resources, the existing J Levee remains in critically bad condition.

Larry Jones, Glenn County's Sheriff and head of Glenn County's Office of Emergency Services, is thrilled with the Senate committee's action. "I am very excited," he said. "This project is vital to our public safety. Hamilton City has been evacuated six times in the last 30 years due to the threat of flooding. We need Congress to fund this flood control to protect our residents and their jobs and property."

The Senate Subcommittee's action is in line with the President's budget, but differs from the actions taken by the House of Representatives' Subcommittee last week which did not contain funding for any new Army Corps of Engineers' projects in the United States including the Hamilton City Project. The two chambers will resolve their different approaches this summer in conference. Like Senator Feinstein, Congressman Herger has been a staunch supporter of the Project, and the Hamilton City Project proponents will be working hard with both Senator Feinstein and Congressman Herger to ensure that the final appropriations bill approved in conference contains funding for Hamilton City.

Complete construction of the project will take several years and will require additional funding. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers designed the project to be completed in phases. The total estimated cost of construction is \$52.4 million, of which the estimated federal cost is \$34.1 million and the estimated non-federal cost is \$18.3 million.

For more information about the efforts of Reclamation District 2140 and its partners to obtain a new levee, please contact Lee Ann Grigsby-Puente at (530) 321-1525 or rd-2140@sbcglobal.net.

Reclamation District 2140 is a California Reclamation District, formed and existing pursuant to California Water Code Sections 50000 et seq. RD 2140 has, in conjunction with the County of Glenn, local landowners and other partners, coordinated the effort to obtain the participation of the State of California and the United States Army Corps of Engineers in the construction and financing of a new levee to replace the existing "J" Levee.