



COUNTY OF YOLO

Board of Supervisors

District 1, **Michael H. McGowan**
District 2, **Don Saylor**
District 3, **Matt Rexroad**
District 4, **Jim Provenza**
District 5, **Duane Chamberlain**

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County Administrator, **Patrick S. Blacklock**
Deputy Clerk of the Board, **Julie Dachtler**

February 9, 2012

Benjamin Carter, Board President
Central Valley Flood Protection Board.
3310 El Camino Avenue, Room 151
Sacramento, CA 95821

Jerry Meral, Deputy Secretary
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 9th Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Mark Cowin, Director
California Department of Water Resources
1416 9th Street, Suite 1115-1
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Board President Carter, Deputy Secretary Meral and Director Cowin:

The Yolo County Board of Supervisors opposes the widening of the Fremont Weir and associated measures, as proposed in the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (“Plan”). The Board was surprised and disappointed by the utter lack of public outreach in Yolo County regarding a project of this magnitude, especially considering Yolo County’s involvement over the past two years in the Bay Delta Conservation Plan’s proposal to notch the Fremont Weir and provide additional fish habitat in the Yolo Bypass.

County staff monitored the public outreach process as the draft Plan was developed by the Department of Water Resources, but the Fremont Weir widening was never a topic of public discussion nor did the Department contact Yolo County officials to communicate the intent to include the proposal in the Plan. When the County learned of the proposal in the Administrative Draft of the Plan, the County provided the attached comments and attempted to secure a meeting with the Department of Water Resources to discuss our concerns. We were rebuffed and directed to refer our concerns to the Central Valley Flood Protection Board. As the representatives of constituents whose homes and livelihoods would be directly threatened by projects to expand the Yolo and Sacramento Bypasses, the Board would have appreciated opportunities to discuss these proposals prior to their public release.

We understand that the proposal to widen the Fremont Weir by one mile is projected to result in the release of an additional 40,000 square feet per second of flood water into the Yolo Bypass. We are concerned that this could place Yolo County communities, agriculture, and our local economy in jeopardy. We also fear that there could be an increased risk of local flooding and a threat to continued viability of the Vic Fazio Wildlife Area. Yolo County has been careful to direct its growth to areas

outside of the flood plain. Our county should not be made to bear the cost of providing 200 year flood protection to other counties who have chosen to build homes and entire communities in the areas most likely to flood.

Collaboration between state and local government is as critical as ever, especially given this era of scarce public resources. We are deeply concerned that the Department of Water Resources' actions reflect an attitude that the state has the right to propose projects that profoundly affect local land use without the involvement of local elected officials and other stakeholders. The current plan proposes to "study" the widening of the weir. However, it is our experience that when a plan is developed in secret without local participation, mistakes are made that are difficult to correct as the plan gains momentum. As a result, the Board of Supervisors opposes the widening of the Fremont Weir and the Yolo Bypass, as well as associated measures proposed in the Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Provenza', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Jim Provenza, Chairman
Yolo County Board of Supervisors

Enc

cc: Senator Lois Wolk
Assemblywoman Mariko Yamada
Assemblyman Roger Dickinson
Assemblyman Jim Nielsen
Mayor Christopher Cabaldon, City of West Sacramento
Rick Johnson, Executive Director, Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency