

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 31, 2023

The Honorable Michael L. Connor
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310

Dear Assistant Secretary Connor:

As Members of Congress representing California communities profoundly impacted by flooding during the early months of 2023, we urge you to prioritize the critical emergency repairs requested under the provisions of P.L. 84-99 and to allocate the requisite resources required to bolster Central Valley communities, like those represented by the California Central Valley Flood Control Association (CCVFCA), before California's flood season begins.

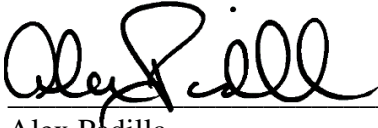
Many regions in California are critically dependent on the California State Plan of Flood Control, a network of levees in the Sacramento and San Joaquin River watersheds. These levees have proven to be vital in mitigating flood risks and ensuring the safety of our residents and businesses. However, the relentless storms of 2023 caused extensive damage to this network, leaving numerous communities susceptible to potential levee failures during the upcoming flood season. The consequences of such failures would be devastating, resulting in property damage and destruction, severe economic setbacks for our constituents, and even potential loss of life. These damaged levees protect major cities, including Sacramento and West Sacramento, as well as numerous rural towns adjacent to the rivers, home to over a million people and the economic backbone of our region.

The existing levee deficiencies are especially concerning with the current El Niño Advisory in effect. According to the latest El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Diagnostic Discussion published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on October 12, 2023, the atmospheric conditions for a wet flood season are present and strengthening. Current projections show a greater than 95 percent chance for ENSO to continue through March 2024, and a 75 - 85 percent likelihood it will develop to at least a "strong" El Niño.

In light of NOAA's projections and the already damaged state of the levees, we strongly urge the Corps to take immediate action to prioritize the necessary emergency repairs and allocate the requisite resources under the provisions of P.L. 84-99. By doing so, the Corps will be taking critically important steps to protect lives, safeguard property, and maintain the strength of our local economy.

We understand the considerable challenges that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers faces in allocating resources across various projects nationwide, and we thank you for your unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of our constituents.

Sincerely,



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



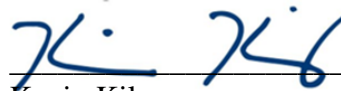
Josh Harder
Member of Congress



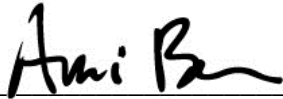
Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Kevin Kiley
Member of Congress



Ami Bera
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress

cc: Lt. Colonel Kevin Arnett, Acting Commander, USACE Sacramento District

Attachment: California Central Valley Flood Control Association Letter to USACE Sacramento District, September 15, 2023



CALIFORNIA CENTRAL VALLEY
FLOOD CONTROL
ASSOCIATION

<i>Executive Director</i>	MELINDA TERRY
<i>President</i>	THOMAS SLATER
<i>Vice President</i>	MEEGAN NAGY
<i>Treasurer</i>	PETE GHELFI

September 15, 2023

Lt. Colonel Dianna Lively
Acting Commander
Sacramento District Office
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1325 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Request for Prioritizing PL84-99 Emergency Levee Repairs

Dear Lt. Colonel Lively:

The California Central Valley Flood Control Association (CCVFCA/Association) is writing to request your immediate attention to urgently needed PL84-99 emergency levee repairs in our region, before the onset of the upcoming flood season.

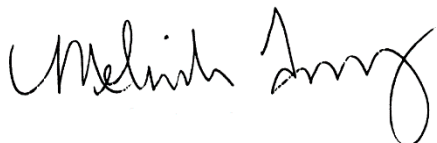
In existence since 1926, CCVFCA was established to promote the common interests of its membership in maintaining effective flood control systems in California's Central Valley for the protection of life, property, and the environment. The Association is comprised of more than 75 public agencies that have flood protection authority and responsibility, and primarily represents reclamation districts, levee districts, cities, counties, joint powers agencies, and other special districts.

Our Districts rely heavily on a network of project levees on the Sacramento and San Joaquin River systems, known as the California State Plan of Flood Control, to mitigate flood risks and ensure the safety of our residents. During the intense and sustained storms of 2023, these vital levee systems suffered significant damage, leaving them susceptible to potential failure during the upcoming flood season. The consequences of such failures could be catastrophic, leading to loss of life, destruction of property, and severe economic setbacks for our constituents. The damaged levees protect cities such as Sacramento, Stockton and West Sacramento, as well as numerous rural, disadvantaged communities adjacent to the Sacramento and San Joaquin River systems. These communities are home to over one million people and are the economic engine of our region.

We understand that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers faces numerous challenges in allocating resources across various projects nationwide. However, we cannot stress enough the importance of addressing this situation promptly. Every day of delay in implementing emergency levee repairs increases the threat to our communities and exacerbates the potential property damage and displacement of residents during the upcoming flood season. The State is also doing its part to address the flood risk concerns with the recent Executive Order N-10-23 issued by Governor Newsom to expedite levee repairs and debris removal before the next storm season begins.

Therefore, we respectfully request that the Corps also prioritize the necessary emergency repairs and allocate the required resources under the provisions of PL84-99. By doing so, our combined local, state, and federal efforts will safeguard lives, protect property, and maintain the stability of our local economy. Thank you for your prompt attention to this urgent matter. We look forward to a positive response and the initiation of necessary actions to secure these critically important emergency levee repairs before the flood season begins.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melinda Terry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Melinda Terry,
Executive Director

Cc: Central Valley Flood Protection Board
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Alex Padilla
The Honorable Ami Bera
The Honorable John Duarte
The Honorable Josh Harder
The Honorable Doug LaMalfa
The Honorable Doris Matsui
The Honorable Mike Thompson
The Honorable John Garamendi
Gary Lippner, DWR
Jeremy Arrich, DWR

