



# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0511

December 6, 2012

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The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy  
Assistant Secretary  
Army for Civil Works  
108 Army Pentagon, Room 3#446  
Washington, DC 20310

The Honorable Jeffery D. Zients  
Acting Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
1650 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Re: FY 2014 Budget Request for the Lower San Joaquin River Feasibility Study

Dear Assistant Secretary Darcy and Director Zients:

As your departments prepare their FY 2014 budget requests, I would like to call your attention to the Lower San Joaquin River Feasibility Study and ask that full capability funding be provided for this important effort. The Lower San Joaquin River Feasibility Study is essential for flood protection, ecosystem restoration, and water supply to the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta region.

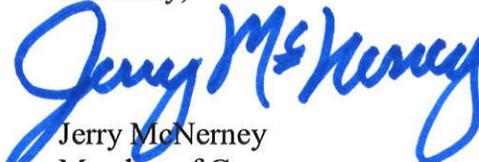
More than 450,000 people in San Joaquin County benefit from flood protection, while 24 million Californians and 7 million acres of irrigated agriculture rely on this protected water supply. The State of California and local sponsors are committed to this project, which meets the Corps of Engineers new planning paradigm and is capable of being completed within three years at a cost of less than \$3 million. This study has been funded in previous Corps work plans, and as a priority in FY 2014 can meet the Administration's objectives of creating jobs and restoring the economy; improving infrastructure and the quality of life; and restoring the environment. Improved infrastructure will protect densely populated areas rather than facilitate new development. Ecosystem restoration and endangered species habitat protection are potential additional project benefits.

The State of California and local public and private agencies, including 11 Reclamation Districts, four cities, and San Joaquin County, have partnered on the Lower San Joaquin River Feasibility Study. The study is in partnership with additional State efforts, and there is an ongoing coordination between all agencies. Further delays in completing the federal study will only complicate and postpone a high level of flood protection to currently at-risk populations and improvements to the Delta ecosystem.

This project received funding from the Corps of Engineers in its FY 2011 and FY 2012 work plans, and Congress appropriated funds for the study from FY08-FY10. As this Administration focuses scarce resources on the nation's highest flood risks and important ecosystems, I look forward to the Lower San Joaquin Feasibility Study being included in the President's FY 2014

budget. I understand that full funding for FY 2014 is \$600,000. I appreciate your attention to this study and look forward to working with you as the FY 2014 budget process continues.

Sincerely,



Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress