



May 10, 2024

The Honorable Michael L. Connor  
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
441 G Street NW  
Washington, DC 20314-1000

Dear Assistant Secretary Connor,

We hope you are well. We write to ask that you consider assisting the city of Oroville with a feasibility study of an "orphan" levee that leaves downtown Oroville vulnerable to flooding.

More specifically, Oroville, an economically disadvantaged community, recently requested help from the Sacramento district of the Corps for a study to address the seepage, stability, and encroachment concerns associated with a 1.25-mile levee first constructed after a 1907 flood to protect downtown. Since completion of Oroville Dam upstream in 1968, two releases within the design capacity of the dam have caused flooding in the city of Oroville. The problematic levee was built using dredge spoils and mine tailings and is plagued by encroachments. Improving it would protect lives and safeguard the city's wastewater treatment plant and State Route 70, an evacuation route for the community and surrounding areas in emergencies. The high risk associated with this failing levee has been brought to our attention repeatedly by Oroville officials through the Oroville Dam Citizens Advisory Commission.

A Corps feasibility study could be conducted under Section 165(a) of the Water Resources Development Act, which allows the Corps to fully fund small water resources projects for economically disadvantaged communities.

Thank you for considering the city of Oroville's request for assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wade Crowfoot".

Wade Crowfoot, California Secretary for Natural Resources

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karla Nemeth".

Karla Nemeth, Director, California Department of Water Resources

715 P Street, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814 Ph. 916.653.5656 <http://resources.ca.gov>

