MEETING DATE: November 19, 2013

Submitting Department(s):
Board of Supervisors – Supervisor McDaniel

Contact: Leigh McDaniel
Phone: 934-6400

BRIEF SUBJECT/ISSUE DESCRIPTION:
Approve a letter in support of the J Levee and authorize the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to execute letter.

AGENDA PLACEMENT

APPOINTMENT – Appearances by: (Specify Name & Title)

Required ___ Minutes

☐ Business – No ☐ Consent
☐ Correspondence ☐ Reports & Notices

AFFECTED DEPARTMENT(S)

☐ Receive Concurrence

ATTACHMENTS

☐ Board Report
☐ Letter
☐ Minute Order
☐ Contract
☐ Transfer
☐ Grant App.
☐ Resolution

LEGAL/PERSONNEL/FISCAL

☐ County Counsel
☐ Personnel
☐ Finance

CLERK INSTRUCTIONS

☐ Return Minute Order
☐ Return Certified Copy Of:

☐ Other:

PUBLIC HEARINGS & COMMITTEE VACANCIES

☐ State ☐ Federal

Public Hearings:
☐ Published
☐ Affidavit on File w/Clerk
☐ Affected Parties Notified

Bill#: __
☐ Latest Version of Bill
☐ Draft Letter Attached
☐ List of Supporters/Opposers
☐ Statement of Relevance to County Interests
☐ Description Attached

☐ General Fund Impact
☐ Other: CDBG Funds
☐ Budgeted
☐ Transfer Attached
☐ 4/5ths Vote Required
☐ Contingency Request

CONTRACTS, LEASES & AGREEMENTS

☐ New ☐ Renewal
☐ Amendment
☐ Insurance Certificate
☐ Contract Report

Date of Original Contract:
Contract No.:
Fiscal Year:

FUNDING SOURCE/IMPACT

RECOMMENDED ACTION/MOTION:
Recommendation of Supervisor McDaniel to approve, and authorize the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Board to execute, a letter in support of the J Levee on an as-needed basis up to the end of February 2014.

Reviewed By (if applicable):

Department Head

Personnel Director

Department of Finance

CC:
TO: Honorable Board Members

FROM: Supervisor Leigh McDaniel

DATE: November 19, 2013

SUBJECT: Letter of Support – J Levee

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
RD 2140 has requested the Glenn County Board of Supervisors be on “standby alert” to provide multiple Letters of Support for the Hamilton City Restoration and Flood Protection Project (the J Levee). The situation in Washington D.C. is in a state of change as key committee chairs are being rotated through at the end of the year. Furthermore, both Congressman LaMalfa and Garamendi are working in concert to provide funding for the project. According to the Lobbyists assisting RD 2140, Letters of Support may be needed within 24 hours of a decision, which would not allow the BOS to work through our regular approval cycle. It is requested to authorize either the Chair or Vice Chair to sign Letters of Support as necessary during this period of activity.

RECOMMENDATION(S):
Authorize Chair or Vice Chair of the GC BOS to sigh Letters of Support for RD 2140 levee project as needed until the end of February 2014.

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND:
The Hamilton City Restoration and Flood Protection Project has been in the President’s Budget for multiple years but new start funding has not been authorized by Congress. There now is some movement to fund certain new projects. Authorizing Letters of Support on an ‘as needed’ basis will facilitate our Congressman, RD 2140, and their lobbyists in this effort. A sample letter is attached for review. It is anticipated that future letters will be provided by our D.C team and will have similar content.
May 31, 2011

The Honorable Wally Herger
United States House of Representatives
Cannon Building Room 242
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Hamilton City Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Project – Request for 2012 Appropriations

Dear Congressman Herger:

The Glenn County Board of Supervisors is writing to ask for your assistance with an appropriation to the United States Army Corps of Engineers for FY 2012. The President has recommended an appropriation of $8 million for the Hamilton City Project, and we are asking for your help in making sure that the recommended amount remains in the Energy and Water Development FY 2012 Appropriations bill. Such appropriation is vital to Glenn County as it will enable the Corps to begin construction, providing the Hamilton City community with sorely needed flood protection.

For several years, Glenn County and its partners have been taking interim measures to shore up the failing J Levee. In November 2000, we used the County’s entire flood control budget to widen and raise the northern most portion of the J Levee for a distance of approximately 300 feet. In November 2002, we again used the County’s entire flood control budget to construct an emergency set-back levee at the extreme north end of the J Levee for a distance of approximately 1000 feet. In January 2006, we constructed a bank erosion control utilizing plastic sheeting and sandbags on approximately 1000 feet of the levee south of Highway 32. In 2007, in cooperation with The Nature Conservancy, Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, and the State of California, we constructed another 800 feet of repair work to a critical erosion site along the northern portion of the J Levee. While we are proud of these efforts, they are only temporary, stop-gap measures designed to provide the community with a minimal amount of flood protection until the larger Hamilton City Project can be completed. Although these measures will help insure that the J Levee remains intact until the larger Project can be constructed, they do not increase the level of protection for the town, which remains at a 6-7 year level of protection.

The recommended appropriation of $8,000,000 will allow the Corps to initiate construction in FY 2012. The Corps has broken up the construction of the Hamilton City Project into several phases, based upon its engineering and construction expertise, and will be able to complete two miles of levee construction downstream of Dunning Slough.
May 31, 2011
Hamilton City Project – J Levee
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Construction of the Hamilton City Project will also represent an influx of federal dollars into a depressed area that has no other on-going federal projects. The Corps estimates that the first phase of construction would directly generate between 200 and 250 jobs. Moreover, it anticipates that there would be between 167 and 190 secondary jobs created. While the provision of the long-overdue increase in flood protection is a sorely needed long-term benefit, the community and Glenn County will certainly enjoy immediate economic benefits from the construction of the Project.

We have worked closely with our urban, agricultural and conservation constituents in the Hamilton City area regarding the development of the Hamilton City Project. As such, we have seen first-hand the collaborative effort put forth by all involved, and have been impressed with the local support the Project has earned and maintained. We are excited for our constituents, and wish to help them complete the Project as expeditiously as possible.

The Glenn County Board of Supervisors appreciates the strong and consistent leadership and support you have shown for the Hamilton City Project. We know that you have been instrumental not only in past appropriations, but also in getting the Project authorized as part of the 2007 WRDA bill. We look forward to working with you in making sure that the necessary funds are appropriated to the Corps to initiate construction on this vital undertaking.

Thank you for your time and attention. Please let me know if I can answer any questions.

Very truly yours,

GLENN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

STEVE SOETH, CHAIRMAN

Cc: The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen, Chair, Subcommittee on Appropriations
Members of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development