

February 14, 2006

Colonel Alex Dornstauder, District Engineer  
Los Angeles District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 532711  
Los Angeles, CA 90053-2325

**RE: Request to Discuss the Santa Maria River Levee, Santa Barbara County**

Dear Colonel Dornstauder:

On behalf of the County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors, I would like to request your attendance at a regularly scheduled meeting with our Board to discuss action items for protection of the Santa Maria Valley from serious flooding.

As you are aware, a significant portion of the City of Santa Maria and thousands of acres of prime agricultural lands are protected from the Santa Maria River by the Santa Maria River Levee. Our County staff has been in contact with your staff over the issue of the Levee's adequacy, and potential solutions to protect our County.

To date, we are not aware of any action by Corps staff to request funding for this vital piece of infrastructure. Our Board would greatly appreciate your attendance to discuss this issue with us. Our County staff is prepared to work with the Corps and assist you in any manner possible. To follow up, our Board has directed the Public Works Department to work with your staff to arrange a date when you can join us. Our Board meets in Santa Barbara and Santa Maria on alternating Tuesdays. Your attendance will be greatly appreciated.

The Santa Maria River Levee is the largest flood control facility in Santa Barbara County. It protects urban and agricultural lands. It is imperative that the Levee be strengthened to provide the Santa Maria Valley with crucial protection from flooding as was witnessed in other areas of the Country.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

Joni Gray, Chair  
County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors