

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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Agenda Number:
Prepared on:
Department Name: Flood Control/Public Works
Department No.: 054-04-01
Agenda Date: 2/14/06
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time: N/A
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara

FROM: Phillip M. Demery
Public Works Director

**STAFF
CONTACT:** Thomas D. Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director, Ext. 3436

SUBJECT: **Authorize a Letter Requesting the Colonel of the Los Angeles District Corps of Engineers Attend a Future Board Meeting regarding the Santa Maria River Levee, Fifth District**

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

Authorize the Chair to sign the attached letter on behalf of the Board to Colonel Alex Dornstauder, District Engineer of the Los Angeles District Corps of Engineers, requesting his attendance to a future Board Meeting to discuss funding for the Santa Maria River Levee.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation(s) are primarily aligned with Goal No. 2. A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work, and Visit.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

The Gulf Coast Hurricanes and associated levee failure have brought the public's attention on to levee safety and increased flood control protection. At both the state and federal level, funding of levee repairs is a higher priority.

While discussions over levees have increased dramatically, it is unfortunately clear that such discussions are not focusing on all problems, but more so those certain areas such as Sacramento and New Orleans. Staff has engaged the Corps of Engineers and the State Department of Water Resources to include the Santa Maria River Levee in funding requests and prioritization for repair.

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Recent discussions with Corps staff have revealed a reluctance by the Corps to support and carry requests for funding for the Santa Maria River Levee. It is not clear why the Corps would not offer such support, as the Corps appears aware of the problems with the levee.

It is hoped that the Colonel will be able to state his position on the matter, and hopefully offer a much more supportive environment at the federal level.

Mandates and Service Levels:

The Flood Control District is mandated by contract to provide maintenance on the Santa Maria River Levee. Federal assistance will help resolve structural integrity issues that go beyond maintenance issues.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

There are no fiscal or facilities impacts with this action. It is hoped that the Corps of Engineers will secure funding to address Levee integrity issues.