

T&I Committee Member Day Testimony – WRDA 2022 Priorities
March 16, 2022
Rep. Doris Matsui (CA-06)

Thank you...Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to come before the Committee and lay out my key priorities for the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2022.

As the Representative of Sacramento, California, WRDA is uniquely meaningful to me and to my constituents, who live in the second most flood-prone city in the country, after New Orleans.

We need to thoughtfully prioritize projects that consider the long-term consequences of climate change...the catastrophic flooding we have seen across the country in just the last year is telling and I fear that severe flooding will no longer be 100 or even 500-year events, but a new norm for my constituents. I want to thank the Committee for including the Yolo Bypass Study in WRDA 2020 and for supporting many of the flood control projects in the Sacramento region.

In this regard, I want to highlight the phenomenal work of the non-federal sponsor in my district – the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency. SAFCA is an incredibly sophisticated and proactive partner that has been working hand in hand with the Army Corps of Engineers – getting several projects in my district started ahead of schedule and on budget. In this regard, SAFCA has received approval for nearly \$100 million in cost sharing credits for its excess cost-sharing contributions that WRDA authority allows to be transferred to another SAFCA project. However, the authority to transfer credits is set to expire in 2024.

This year, my most pressing request is to extend the authority provided in Section 1020 of the WRRDA 2014, and I have submitted draft legislation to remove the current legislative sunset in making the authority permanent. We must allow our non-federal sponsors to utilize these credits.

The Corps has approved transferring excess credit generated by implementation of components of the American River Watershed Common Features Natomas Basin (ARCF Natomas) Project for use against non-Federal Sponsor cost-share for American River Watershed Common Features 2016 Project (ARCF 2016). Both projects are scheduled to continue construction well past 2024. Additionally, the Corps continues to ask the non-Federal Sponsors to advance some components of the work in ARCF Natomas, creating additional excess credits and this will extend past the 2024 deadline.

Certainty in this will be critical in flood control planning not only for my constituents but potentially for non-federal project sponsors elsewhere.

For 15 years, I have worked tirelessly with dedicated stakeholders in my district to make the Sacramento region as safe as possible for all residents.

WRDA 2022 represents a tremendous opportunity to move forward and achieve even greater strides...through responsible and resilient flood control projects and forward-looking ideas for America's water infrastructure.

Thank you for your time and consideration.