**FACT SHEET**

**Northwest Levee Improvement and Stone Road Seepage Reduction Project**

May 30,2019

* Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District (BIMID) has entered into a partnership with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in implementation of yet another levee improvement project. BIMID has been awarded an agreement to implement the Northwest Levee Improvement and Stone Road Seepage Reduction Project (Project) to provide a higher level of flood protection to the residents and property owners on Bethel Island.
* This project, similar to the newly completed Horseshoe Bend Levee Improvement Project, is a multi-benefit project and includes components for easier access for emergency vehicles on the levee and enhancement of the habitat.
* Total cost of the project is estimated to be about $8 million with the State cost share of 93 percent of the total project improvement cost. State will pay for all costs associated with habitat enhancement portion (about $1 million).
* BIMID cost share is funded through assessment fees, including the revenues collected through Proposition 218 Assessment.

The proposed Project includes the following features.

* Provides levee improvement to the existing levee between levee stations 0+00 to 130+00,
* Improves toe drainage along the levee near Stone Road between levee stations 340+00 and 450+00 by addressing levee seepage issues.
* Widens the levee crest from existing to minimum of 18 and maximum of 22 feet to improve vehicle access during flood fighting efforts and other emergency situations, i.e., fire, earthquake, etc.
* Creates approximately 4,500 linear feet of berm on the waterside slope for shaded riverine aquatic habitat.
* Includes measures to mitigate the impacts of the project.

BIMID has chosen to design the levees to DWR Bulletin 192-82 specifications to allow for anticipated sea level rise associated with climate change while still providing greater than 100-year flood protection into the future. The Project will increase the static as well as the seismic stability of the levee.

The planning efforts on this project has been completed. BIMID has filed a combined Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act guidelines. BIMID has also filed all necessary permit applications with the following regulatory agencies:

* California Department of Fish and Wildlife for Streambed Alteration Permit,
* State Water Resources Control Board for Water Quality Certification,
* U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act,
* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services for the Endangered Species Act,
* U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service for Endangered Species Act – Section 7 Consultation

BIMID plans to proceed with the construction in three phases: Phase 1 will be addressing the seepage issue along the Stone Road, Phase 2 will include work on the landside of levee, and Phase 3 will be completion of both landside and waterside activities. Construction can begin in the Summer of 2019 providing the necessary permits are issued by the regulatory agencies, project completion is anticipated in Fall of 2020 and closing the project in 2021.

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