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**TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC MEETING**  
**CALIENTE CREEK STREAM GROUP INVESTIGATION**  
**CALIFORNIA**

HELD BY THE KERN COUNTY WATER AGENCY  
IN  
LAMONT, CALIFORNIA  
9 JULY 1979



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**SACRAMENTO DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS**  
**SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA**

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**TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC MEETING  
CALIENTE CREEK STREAM GROUP INVESTIGATION  
CALIFORNIA**

**HELD BY THE KERN COUNTY WATER AGENCY  
IN  
LAMONT, CALIFORNIA  
9 JULY 1979**

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**ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING**

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Stuart T. Pyle  
Engineer-Manager

George E. Ribble  
Assistant Engineer-Manager

Edna M. Purvines  
Secretary

25 June 1979

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING  
AND INITIATION OF INVESTIGATION  
FOR  
CALIENTE CREEK STREAM GROUP INVESTIGATION

- SUBJECT:** Study of Flood and Associated Water Resources Problems of the Caliente Creek Stream Group
- TIME:** Monday, 9 July 1979 at 7:30 p.m.
- PLACE:** Lamont Community Center  
West End of Hall Street  
Lamont, California (see Inclosure 1)
- PURPOSE:** At this meeting, the public will be informed of the study that the Corps of Engineers recently initiated for the Caliente Creek Stream Group. The public will also have the opportunity and will be encouraged to comment and exchange information concerning the study. The reasons for the study and the current status are provided in the inclosed information summary (Inclosure 2).
- MEETING FORMAT:** The Kern County Water Agency will conduct the meeting. Corps of Engineers representatives will be present to describe the study. After their presentation, all interested individuals, groups, and agencies will be invited and are encouraged to express their views on flood and related water resource problems of the area. Information may be presented at the meeting either orally or in writing. However, for accuracy of the record, all important facts and statements should be submitted in writing. Written comments may be handed to the chairman at the meeting or may be sent to Kern County Water Agency or the Corps of Engineers at the address listed below.

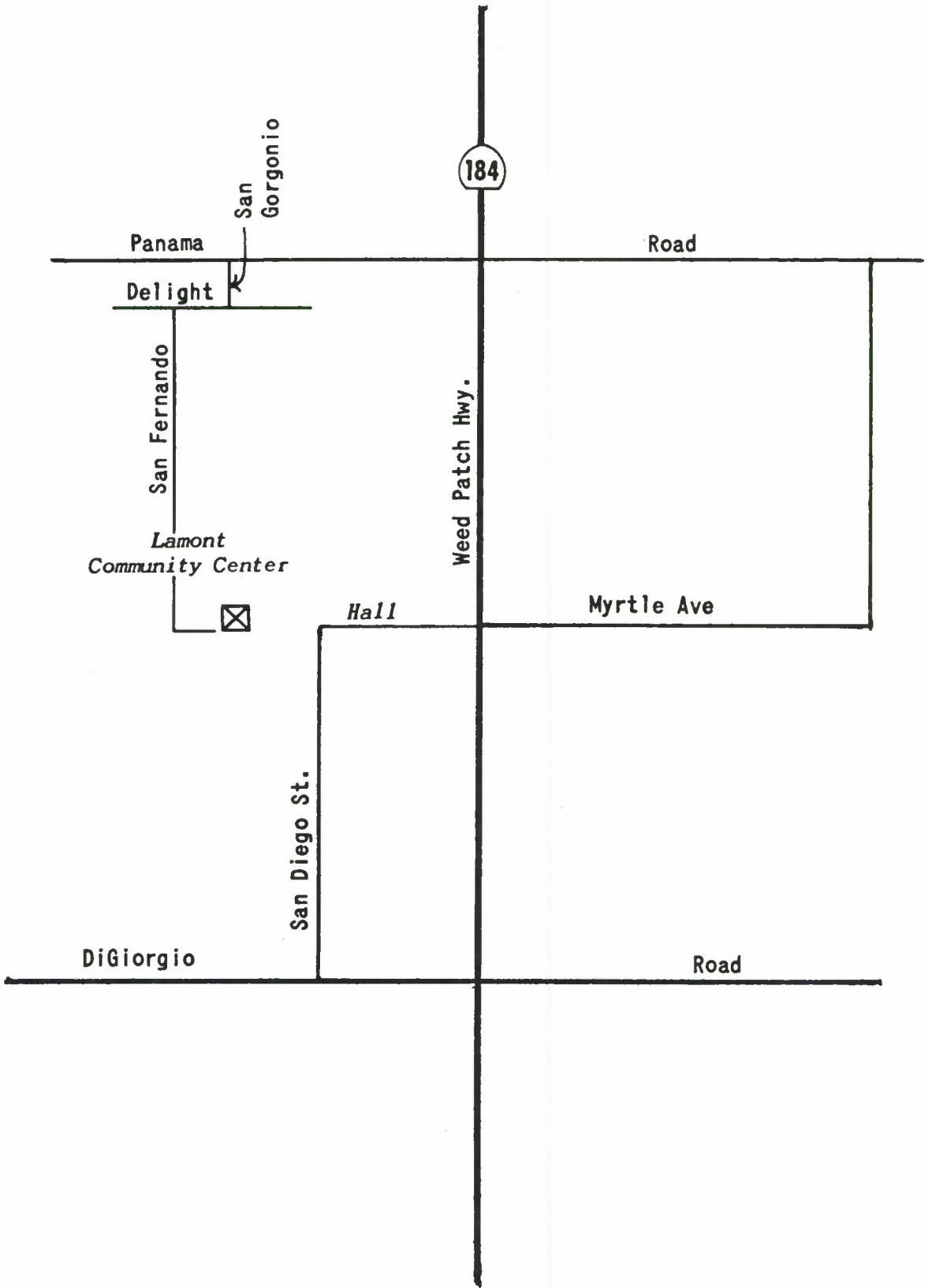
Kern County Water Agency  
4114 Arrow Street, P.O. Box 58  
Bakersfield, California 93302

Sacramento District  
Corps of Engineers  
ATTN: Investigations Section C  
650 Capitol Mall  
Sacramento, California 95814

All statements, both oral and written, will be made a part of the official transcript of the meeting. For receiving additional comments, the records will remain open for two weeks following the meeting. The inclosed comment sheet (Inclosure 3) is provided for your convenience.

Please bring this announcement to the attention of others you know who may be interested.

LAMONT



**INFORMATION SUMMARY**

INFORMATION SUMMARY  
CALIENTE CREEK STREAM GROUP INVESTIGATION

Initiation. - The Corps of Engineers has initiated an investigation of the Caliente Creek Stream Group at the joint request of the Kern County Board of Supervisors and Kern County Water Agency.

Location. - The study area is located in Kern County southeast of the city of Bakersfield. (See attached map.)

Authority. - This investigation will be part of the San Joaquin River Basin Investigation which was authorized by a resolution adopted 8 May 1964 by the Committee on Public Works of the House of Representatives. The San Joaquin River Basin Investigation includes the Caliente Creek Stream Group.

Past Studies. - A brief feasibility report on the Caliente Creek Stream Group flood problems was prepared by the Corps of Engineers in 1966. This report presented various flood control alternatives including a system of upstream reservoirs and also a system of foothill detention basins connected by diversion and percolation channels. In all plans considered, the separable cost of flood control exceeded the flood control benefits. Therefore, it was recommended that no further consideration be given to a Federal flood control project for the Caliente Creek Stream Group at that time.

Problems. - The Caliente Creek Stream Group area is subject to major flooding, especially on the valley floor. Since the studies conducted in the 1960's, considerable development has occurred in the flood plain areas. Most of the damage has been to agricultural development, but several communities have sustained considerable flood damages. It is estimated that the 1978 floods caused \$10 million in flood damages.

Planning Process. - Feasibility investigations are conducted under a three-phase planning process.

Stage 1 - Development of a Reconnaissance Report

Stage 2 - Development of Intermediate Plans

Stage 3 - Development of Detailed Plans

The purpose of Stage 1 is to obtain a preliminary view of what the overall study will involve and to determine how the study will be managed. This stage emphasizes problem identification and culminates in the preparation of the Reconnaissance Report. During Stage 2, the broad range of potential courses of action for managing the resources in the study area is explored, with emphasis on the formulation of alternatives. During Stage 3, principal attention is given to formulation, assessment, and evaluation to further refine and reduce the number of alternatives to obtain a reasonable array of fully implementable plans. The plan to be recommended for implementation is selected from the final alternative plans. This recommended plan will be described in a feasibility report which will be forwarded to the Congress for consideration of authorization.

The entire study will take approximately 4 years to complete, provided sufficient funds are made available by the Congress.

Inclosure 2



**MAILING LIST FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING**

MAILING LIST  
FOR  
PUBLIC MEETING ON  
CALIENTE CREEK STREAM GROUP, CALIFORNIA  
9 JULY 1979 IN LAMONT, CALIFORNIA

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BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301

**TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC MEETING INCLUDING ATTENDANCE**

Joint Meeting

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, SACRAMENTO DISTRICT  
U. S. CORPS OF ENGINEERS

and

KERN COUNTY WATER AGENCY

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In the Matter of:

CALIENTE CREEK STREAM  
GROUP INVESTIGATION

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Kern County

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held in  
Community Center  
Lamont, California

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Monday, July 9, 1979  
7:30 p.m.

**ALICE BOOK**  
CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER  
P. O. BOX 710, COLUMBIA, CALIFORNIA 95310  
PHONES: 916 457-7326 & 209 532-2018

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HEARING PANEL

CORPS OF ENGINEERS:

RICHARD J. VASQUEZ, Assistant Chief, Engineering  
Division of the Sacramento District

DARYL SALLADAY, Assistant Chief, Water Resources  
Planning Branch

CARL GREENSTEIN, Public Affairs Officer

ROGER JANSSEN, Chief of Section conducting Study

BOB CHILDS, Project Engineer

KERN COUNTY WATER AGENCY:

GEORGE RIBBLE

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A T T E N D A N C E

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Page

- ANDREW, MURTISS M., 11004 San Fernando, Lamont, CA 95241
- AUSTIN, JIM, 9717 Main Street, Lamont, CA 93241, Lamont Reporter
- BENHAM, EARL, Lamont, CA 93241 5
- BOWERS, CHARLES, Caliente, CA 93518
- BOWERS, ZELDA, Caliente, CA 93518, U. S. Post Office 19
- BRINSON, DANNY, 8201 Bernard, Lamont, CA 93241, First Full Gospel, Assistant Pastor 15
- BURNSWORTH, JOSEPH, 8805 Jeffery, Lamont, CA 93241, Full Gospel Church, Youth Pastor
- COLLINS, JOHN B., 10409 Silver Street, Lamont, CA 93241
- EID, RONALD J., 345 Chester, P. O. Box 1961, Bakersfield, CA 93303
- FRICK, KENNETH, Route 1, Box 318, Arvin, CA 93203 9
- HEAD, DAVID A., Kern County Supervisor, 2nd District 14
- HEITZ, CLIFFORD A., P. O. Box 350, Tehachapi, CA 93561, Soil Conservation District
- HENDRIX, J. PAUL, 3800 Q #71, Bakersfield, CA 93301, Bookman & Edmonston Engineering, Inc.
- JAMES, BILL, Lamont CA 93241
- JOHNSTON, BUDDY, 8121 Bertal, Lamont, CA 93241
- KIRRCNER, PHYLLIS, 2805 Summit Circle, Bakersfield, CA 93306
- KIRRCNER, ROY E., P. O. Box Box 3036, Bakersfield, CA 93305, Southern Pacific Transportation Company
- KOHL, PEGGIE, Room E-2727, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95824, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service 27
- McCULLOUGH, FLOYD, 3374 E. Shields, Fresno, CA, Department of Water Resources

1	ATTENDANCE (continued):	<u>Page</u>
2	MOORE, ROLLIE, 1415 - 18th Street, Room 411, Bakersfield, CA 93301, Water Association of Kern County	
3	PATTERSON, FRED D., P. O. Box 57, Tehachapi, CA 93561	
4	PRINCE, J. M., P. O. Box 455, Lamont, CA 93241	
5	SORENSEN, DARRELL, Box 58, Bakersfield, CA 93302, Kern County Water Agency	
6		
7	THOMAS, JACK G., Route 6, Box 183, Bakersfield, CA 93307, Kern County Water Agency	14
8	TOWNSON, WILLIAM T., 10429 Habecker Road, Lamont, CA 93241	
9		
10	TROTTER, C. E., P. O. Box 175, Arvin, CA 93203, Arvin- Edison Water Conservation District	
11	WALL, STEPHEN, 7400 Delight Avenue, Lamont, CA 93303	
12	WILLIAMS, JAMES E., 10408 Elmco, Lamont, CA 93241	6
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LAMONT, CALIFORNIA, MONDAY, JULY 9, 1979

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MR. RIBBLE: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen.

My name is George Ribble of the Kern County Water Agency. I would like to welcome you here tonight to the initial public meeting on the Caliente Creek Stream Group Investigation.

As a result of flood problems which have occurred last year and in the past on the Caliente Creek stream group, the Kern County Board of Supervisors and our Water Agency have requested the Corps of Engineers to evaluate these problems to determine if there are any economically feasible and acceptable solutions.

First, I would like to take care of some administrative details. If you haven't filled out an attendance card as you came in tonight, we request you to do so. These cards not only serve as a record of attendance, but let us know who wishes to speak here this evening. If anyone needs a card to fill out, please raise your hand so that we may give you one at this time.

This meeting is being recorded and a transcript will be made of everything said here tonight.

Also, written comments submitted will be included in the transcript. To be included, written material may be submitted within two weeks.

Following a statement by Mr. Vasquez, Assistant Chief, Engineering Division of the Sacramento District, Corps of Engineers, we will receive statements from those who have indicated on the cards they wish to speak.

1           Now, I would like to introduce Mr. Vasquez from the  
2 Corps of Engineers in Sacramento.

3           MR. VASQUEZ: Thank you, George.

4           If you do have something more to put in the record, send  
5 us a letter expressing your opinions.

6           First, I would like to introduce a few of the people  
7 from the staff here:

8           Mr. Daryl Salladay, Assistant Chief, Water Resources  
9 Planning Branch; Mr. Carl Greenstein in the back is our Public  
10 Affairs Officer; Roger Janssen is Chief of the Section conducting  
11 the study; and Bob Childs is the Project Engineer who will be  
12 actually making the study.

13           As indicated in the announcement, the purpose of this  
14 meeting tonight is to provide you with the opportunity to  
15 express your interests and ideas in regard to our investiga-  
16 tion.

17           I would like to explain why we are conducting this in-  
18 vestigation, give you a brief description of the area involved  
19 in the study, mention past studies conducted by the Corps in  
20 the area, and indicate what our current investigation will  
21 consist of.

22           In February and March of last year, serious flooding  
23 occurred along the Caliente Creek streams. As a result of  
24 this and past floods, the Kern County Board of Supervisors  
25 and the Kern County Water Agency requested the Corps to rein-  
26 vestigate the Caliente Creek stream group.

27           The Caliente Creek stream group includes the creeks of  
28 Caliente, Sycamore, Comanche, Tejon and El Paso. These streams

1 drain a watershed of about 8,000 square miles which consists  
2 of a portion of the Southern end of the Sierra Nevada and part  
3 of the Northwesterly slopes of the Tehachapis. These streams  
4 discharge onto the floor of the San Joaquin Valley where most  
5 of the flows either evaporate or percolate into the ground.

6 This portion of the San Joaquin Valley has developed  
7 from a desert-like region to one of high agricultural pro-  
8 ductivity which is subject to significant flood damages.

9 In 1966, the Corps of Engineers prepared a feasibility  
10 report which presented various flood control plans for the  
11 Caliente Creek stream group. These included a system of up-  
12 stream reservoirs and a system of foothill detention basins  
13 connected by a diversion and percolating channel.

14 The various plans considered flood control alone and  
15 flood control in combination with irrigation. However, in all  
16 plans considered, the separable costs for flood control ex-  
17 ceeded the flood control benefits.

18 In general, the Federal Government cannot participate  
19 in a project where the benefits don't exceed the costs. There-  
20 fore, it was recommended by the District Engineer, and con-  
21 curred in by the Chief of Engineers in Washington, D. C., that  
22 no further consideration be given to a federal flood control  
23 project for the Caliente Creek stream group at that time.  
24 That was 1966.

25 We are now beginning a new investigation to see if condi-  
26 tions have changed enough since 1966 to permit an economically  
27 justifiable solution to the flood problems. We have already  
28 started hydrologic studies and economic and environmental

4  
1 inventories of the area. Information from these studies and  
2 input from you people, and your agencies, will be used to de-  
3 velop alternative flood control plans.

4 Our planning procedure for water resource project  
5 follows a three-stage process with the first stage focusing  
6 on identification of problems and analyzing possible alterna-  
7 tive solutions. This is the stage that we are starting now.

8 Subsequent stages go into more detailed feasibility  
9 studies of potential solutions to the problems. The three  
10 stages will take about four years to complete. However, we  
11 will know at the completion of the first stage, in about 18  
12 months, whether or not there is a good chance to develop an  
13 economically feasible solution to the flood problems.

14 During the four-year study period, we will hold a mini-  
15 mum of three formal public meetings, and if desirable, we will  
16 hold some less formal public workshops. This is the first  
17 of three formal public meetings that we are holding.

18 Near the end of the investigation, a Feasibility Report  
19 and an Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared. The  
20 Feasibility Report will recommend what action, if any, should  
21 be taken.

22 Any proposed plan that is recommended for implementation  
23 by the Corps of Engineers, and that is subsequently approved  
24 by our higher authorities, would require congressional  
25 authorization and funding before the proposal could be  
26 implemented.

27 As I said, this meeting we are having tonight is the  
28 first formal public meeting and the purpose of this meeting

1 is to get your views as to what are the problems, how you feel  
2 about the problems, what possible solutions you may have in  
3 mind, and what other aspects or considerations should we keep  
4 in mind when we are making this study.

5 So, to get your input, I would like to turn the meeting  
6 back to George Ribble, who will call upon you who have indi-  
7 cated that you wish to make a statement. George.

8 MR. RIBBLE: Thank you, Mr. Vasquez.

9 I would like now to call on those who wish to make a  
10 statement as indicated on their attendance card that they have  
11 filled out. First, Mrs. Murtiss Andrew.

12 In summary, Mrs. Murtiss Andrew stated that she lived  
13 at 11004 San Fernando, the second house from the end; that  
14 water has never gotten into her yard, but just goes down the  
15 street. She requested that someone come and look at her  
16 place. She also stated that she is not able to pay taxes for  
17 flood control.

18 The next is Mr. Earl Benham.

19 MR. BENHAM: I am Earl Benham. I have lived in Lamont  
20 since 1943 and we have had more of those floods, and when I  
21 was farming, if you had several acres, you couldn't plow it  
22 all today. You do some more tomorrow. And I wonder about  
23 this, if we can't get the \$24 million and stop it all at one  
24 time, some of those other creeks, Comanche, put a little  
25 dam on it; or Tejon, or some of the others, or dig a big pond  
26 and do what we can and then when we get some more money --  
27 this is our number one headache by far.

28 This last flood in one accident there were two deaths.

1 They were drowned. In an accident on the highway they were  
2 drowned.

3 There was another man, his car was washed down the  
4 stream and, really, it's not at Caliente Creek at times, it's  
5 Caliente River.

6 I don't know whether you have seen it or not, but they  
7 have a magazine showing some of the pictures, and this in-  
8 cludes more than just Lamont. These other places, I don't see  
9 too much reason in having some ponds over here to hold the  
10 water after it gets through Lamont here.

11 If we are going to do anything about Caliente, get it  
12 up in the mountains or sandhills where the land would be  
13 cheaper.

14 Okay, thank you.

15 MR. RIBBLE: Thank you, Mr. Benham.

16 MR. BENHAM: Did you want to see this?

17 MR. RIBBLE: Yes, I think we would.

18 James Williams.

19 MR. WILLIAMS: I think what should be cleared up is the  
20 fact that we are trying to deal with two different problems  
21 in this community at the same time, one of the problems being  
22 the Caliente Creek group and the other problem being the  
23 curbs and the gutters that we are trying to put in, and I  
24 have lived here a while, too, and I have seen that when  
25 Caliente Creek comes through Lamont, it tends to soak in a  
26 little bit except in extreme rainy seasons when it does flood  
27 on down this area.

28 But what we are, a lot of us are here for, is really for

1 the other project because you see we don't get notification of  
2 these meetings.

3 Now, we have been told we do, but no one has. There  
4 have been three or four meetings I didn't come to because I  
5 didn't know anything about them.

6 I'm a property owner and I would like to know about what  
7 is going on. I am a taxpayer also.

8 Another thing, what I am trying to get at basically is  
9 these curbs and these gutters, if put in before the Caliente  
10 Creek problem is taken care of, I believe it will increase  
11 the problem of flooding of Lamont because what you have is  
12 hard surface that doesn't soak in. You have got water that's  
13 running like a river and it's going to flood more of Lamont  
14 on a normal flood-like when we have a hard rain, it's going  
15 to flood more so than it does right now. In other words, it  
16 takes a real heavy rain to flood like it did this last season  
17 or season before last.

18 And if you have nothing but curbs and gutters and there  
19 is no way for the water to soak into the ground at all, you  
20 are going to have more flood water and I think more flood  
21 damage in Lamont.

22 I think just common sense will tell you that, that when  
23 you have water that has some place to soak in, it's going to  
24 retard the rushing of the water a little more than just hard  
25 cement and curbs and gutters, and I kind of resent the fact  
26 that we are dealing with two issues here instead of one, be-  
27 cause it's really one problem as far as Lamont as a community  
28 is concerned.

1           The Caliente Creek is a problem, yet if we have curbs  
2 and gutters and we don't take care of Caliente Creek, we are  
3 going to have three times the problem next time of floods.

4           Okay, fine. If you take care of Caliente Creek or do  
5 something to divert the water around Lamont, such as a six-  
6 foot pipeline or something from the canal east of Lamont to the  
7 other side of the railroad tracks over here, you would  
8 alleviate quite a bit of the problems with the drain, and  
9 then, we could go ahead and start on the curbs and gutters,  
10 but I see that these two problems are the same.

11           I may be wrong. Of course, I'm not an engineer, but I  
12 am concerned about it. For one reason, we are going to assess  
13 the people on the south end of Lamont, or the north end of  
14 Lamont. They say as low as \$6 and it could be as high as  
15 \$15. We don't know really what it is going to cost and still  
16 yet when the rains come they are going to have the same  
17 problem.

18           So the money they are paying out monthly for 40 years  
19 as in the proposal won't do all that much good. I think  
20 there's others here that feel the same way.

21           The first problem is Caliente Creek. Maybe a temporary  
22 device or something that will divert the water around Lamont  
23 until you can finish this examination of the situation, and  
24 maybe I have talked too much, but the idea is that I think  
25 we should all be concerned about it because one day it may  
26 rain a big rain.

27           We have had just some pretty heavy rains and it could  
28 do a lot more damage than we ever imagined, so I think we

1 should check into both of them at once before we do either of  
2 them, either the curbs or the gutters or Caliente Creek.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. RIBBLE: Thank you, Mr. Williams.

5 Kenneth Frick.

6 MR. FRICK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the  
7 Corps being here and I guess I would divide my comments into  
8 three parts.

9 First of all, I am a long-term resident having lived  
10 here since I was born in the Lamont area, and I saw the '32 or  
11 the '33 flood and the damage then, of course, was not very  
12 much because there was not much in the path of that particular  
13 flood.

14 Yes, there were drains and the like that were covered  
15 up coming down and so forth, but as far as the town of Lamont  
16 and as far as the community around, a lot of it was not  
17 farmed and there were not many people in Lamont.

18 Of course, as we see the areas settling up and as we  
19 see the town of Lamont growing, and I am presuming we will see  
20 it grow more and more as time goes on, why the damage figures  
21 go up dramatically, and I would be hopeful, and I realize you  
22 have your formula, but I would be hopeful in your figuring that  
23 you would look ahead rather than behind.

24 We are really talking about the next half century when  
25 you talk about getting after Caliente because I am looking back  
26 a half century -- it's almost that long ago when the flood  
27 that I guess is called a big one, the '32 or '33 flood was a  
28 large one at Lamont, and the amount of damage that will be

1 done in the year 2030 is rather large by comparison of the  
2 expenditures that are necessary at this point in time.

3 The second item -- I have been involved in the small  
4 ad hoc committee that supervised, helped put together, and  
5 we have asked various agencies to try to put together reports.  
6 They have. I am most appreciative of what the Kern County  
7 Water Agency has done, that the Board of Supervisors has been  
8 willing to get behind this and, also, I am holding in my hand  
9 a report and if anyone is interested in the box at the back  
10 of the room, I think there are copies for everyone.

11 If they are interested, it is called "A Review of Plans  
12 for Flood Control on Caliente Creek," which was submitted to  
13 the Board of Supervisors and financed by the Board of Super-  
14 visors, put out by Bookman & Edmonston Engineering, and I  
15 think it is a good summary and I am particularly taken by that  
16 part of the summary that does talk about, I believe it is  
17 the Sivert Dam site or the Tamarack Dam site, or what have  
18 you, the idea of damage for the 50 or 100-year flood, and  
19 letting out 360 cubic feet per second or 500, or whatever -- I  
20 see different figures; and that actually being the amount of  
21 stream that would go downstream from Caliente, which would  
22 get me to the third point.

23 It would seem to me that Caliente is the one to really  
24 look at. The others do flood land. The others do flood farms.  
25 The others do not affect the people that Caliente affects.  
26 Caliente truly gets right here in the heart of Lamont and  
27 it would seem to me that that's where the investigations and  
28 the attention by the Corps should be, and I would be hopeful

1 that the other streams that they have talked about that are  
2 shown on the map do not pull down the cost of the feasibility.

3 I would hate to think of Sycamore, Little Sycamore,  
4 Comanche, Tejon, El Paso and Tunis pulling down the effective-  
5 ness factor that the Corps must come up with as compared to  
6 Caliente itself.

7 Finally, since this has been studied considerably and  
8 I'm sure everything you go into has been studied over the  
9 many years, I was wondering if it is not possible to shorten  
10 the period, although you said that in 18 months you are  
11 going to have a pretty good feel as to where you are headed,  
12 which does make a big difference as to what is going to  
13 happen, but as many reports and studies as have been made by  
14 both you and others, certainly there's a lot of information  
15 already available that I would be hopeful that the quicker  
16 that something could be forthcoming, why certainly the people  
17 of Lamont are going to be happier as far as water coming  
18 down out of the hills.

19 And I don't think it is possible for anybody who under-  
20 stands what it does to one's home who have been through a  
21 flood, to your possessions and those things that are dear to  
22 your heart, particularly if you find that you do not have the  
23 wherewithal to replace those items or if they are personal  
24 items that are not replaceable. I think there's a lot of  
25 pain that goes on and I think it is very important that you do  
26 not dilute your study worrying about those other streams.

27 MR. RIBBLE: Anybody else want to make a statement?

28 MS. KOHL: Excuse me, I didn't have an opportunity to  
give you back the card before, but I do have a brief statement

1 to make. My name is Peggie Kohl and I do have a copy of this  
2 statement to give to you for reference. I represent the U. S.  
3 Fish and Wildlife Service.

4 I am here at the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' request  
5 to inform you of my agency's role in this study.

6 Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1958 requires all  
7 federal agencies involved in water resource development proj-  
8 ects, such as the Caliente and the stream group investigation,  
9 to consider wildlife conservation equally with other features  
10 of the project throughout the agency's planning and decision-  
11 making processes.

12 To fill this requirement, construction agencies, such as  
13 the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, must coordinate with State  
14 and Federal wildlife agencies, including my agency, U. S.  
15 Fish and Wildlife Service.

16 As part of the coordination process natural resource  
17 agencies develop and recommend ways of adopting the project's  
18 facilities and operation to offset adverse impacts to fish  
19 and wildlife resources, resulting from project implementation.  
20 Measures to enhance these resources are also recommended.

21 In the case of the Caliente stream group investigation,  
22 the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers will be required to include  
23 in the project plans such means and measures for wildlife  
24 conservation as they may find justifiable to obtain maximum  
25 overall project benefits.

26 The cost of these provisions are to be considered an  
27 integral part of the project.

28 Since the Caliente stream group investigation is just in

1 the initiation stage and our office has only received the  
2 announcement for this public meeting, we have not had an oppor-  
3 tunity to evaluate the alternatives presented this evening.  
4 Therefore, we cannot offer any substantive input to the study  
5 at this time.

6 I would, however, like to take this opportunity to  
7 announce that the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service invites  
8 public participation in the process of developing our reports  
9 and recommendations. If anyone here has information on the  
10 wildlife resources of this area, can help identify their  
11 problems and needs, or knows of people interested in these  
12 issues, please get in touch with me at the close of this  
13 meeting, or letting me know of this through the Army Corps of  
14 Engineers, or through my office in Sacramento.

15 Thank you very much.

16 MR. RIBBLE: Thank you.

17 Anybody else like to make a statement?

18 I think that there's one thing that we know by this  
19 time, that this project is going to cost a lot of money to  
20 cure Caliente Creek stream's flooding problem, and I think it  
21 may be our best hope here tonight to appeal to the Corps of  
22 Engineers to solve it.

23 I think the libraries are filled now with studies of  
24 Caliente Creek and I think most of us, or those of us who live  
25 in the flood plain and are flooded periodically, are probably  
26 tired of seeing more and more reports and would like to get  
27 something done to stop the flooding, and in that regard, I  
28 would like to say to the Corps that I think that four years

1 is an awfully inordinately long time for a study when you  
2 really are not plowing any new ground. It's been studied and  
3 restudied so many times that there's an enormous amount of  
4 data on it.

5 So, I would hope that they would take less time than  
6 four years.

7 Now is your chance to say what you feel about it. Any-  
8 body else have a statement?

9 MR. HEAD: I am David Head. I would like to echo what  
10 Ken said and one other thing in the Corps' study of the  
11 problems there are offsets that I would hope that we just  
12 don't come to a figure, X number of dollars, and then set that  
13 against the damage and say that it is not cost effective be-  
14 cause if we know where these structures are going to be, I  
15 think the people in the area are willing in a lot of cases to  
16 provide the land.

17 There are projects, both publicly funded and privately  
18 funded that will move rock or that will move dirt, or that  
19 will do various things, so when we get the plan, if we can  
20 use all the offsets we can, then I think we could bring the  
21 cost effectiveness into a range that we can afford, but you are  
22 right, it's going to take a lot of money.

23 MR. RIBBLE: Thanks, Dave.

24 We have with us Kack Thomson of the Water Agency Board  
25 of Directors. Jack, would you like to say anything?

26 MR. THOMSON: I am representing Kern County Water Agency,  
27 and, of course, we are participating along with the Board of  
28 Supervisors in the study.

1           I, personally, have a more direct interest because our  
2 home is right alongside the East Side Canal and I don't know  
3 if Caliente Creek -- I don't think it would probably flood us  
4 if it wasn't for the backup breaks in the canal which runs  
5 over and so we usually have quite a little water on our farm  
6 and so far we have managed to keep it away from the house.  
7 But I certainly agree with the statement Kenneth and Dave  
8 made that I think that it's more and more important as Lamont  
9 grows that some protection be awarded because I know I had a  
10 chance to observe some of the homes that were flooded, and  
11 these are not, you know, the largest and most expensive  
12 houses, but in many cases they are all the people have and  
13 to them they are vitally important, and it's really bad to  
14 see something like this that, for instance, in 1978, broke  
15 right alongside of Lamont and just let the water run right  
16 through the center of town.

17           I think that as time goes on, the damages are going to  
18 be very significant unless something is done to control the  
19 flooding.

20           Thank you.

21           MR. RIBBLE: Thanks, Jack.

22           MR. BRINSON: My name is Danny Brinson. I am Assistant  
23 Pastor of the First Gospel Church here in Lamont, and as Dave  
24 Head already stated, this is a meeting concerning Caliente,  
25 feasibility of some type of plan or proposal that would  
26 eliminte most of the flooding, and I wouldlike to echo the  
27 sentiment of Mr. Williams, the fact that there is a plan  
28 right now in the town of Lamont consisting of putting curbs

1 and gutters throughout the city.

2 I believe it is 21 miles and we have been mentioning  
3 funding here, and it is definitely going to be very expensive  
4 and costly to place these dams at the sites that you have  
5 chosen. I believe it is \$24.4 million, but the point I would  
6 like to make is that the funds that we do now have available  
7 and the funds that have been pledged already to this curbs  
8 and gutter proposal, I think, to me, and I'm speaking as a  
9 voice for our church, that any funds that are now available  
10 for water for this problem, that we do have the water problem,  
11 should be diverted to the Caliente project 100 percent, because  
12 even if we do go ahead and put curbs and gutters in Lamont  
13 and this project is not gone through with first, as Mr.  
14 Williams already said, it would more or less be useless.

15 Just last week I found myself with a shovel out in the  
16 curbs and gutters cleaning up some of the mud that came down  
17 from the flood last year. It would be no time at all when our  
18 curbs and gutters that we paid \$4.2 million for, that could  
19 go on this project, would be filled with this same guck I was  
20 cleaning out of our gutter in front of our church.

21 Therefore, our system would be of no use and we would  
22 have to go ahead and do this anyway, so what I am saying is  
23 that the funds that are now available, they should be, in my  
24 opinion, diverted to this project, and that, as Earl Benham  
25 already stated, is our problem right here, and as the people  
26 of Lamont last year right after the flood spoke their voice  
27 a little louder than normal and said, "We need something done  
28 here," and a proposal was brought up for this local rain water

and local flooding which is really not what the people wanted.

1           What the people have wanted and the opinions they have  
2 expressed and the voice that they have made has been for this  
3 project for the past year, and we just would like to express  
4 our support that any funds that are available anywhere else  
5 for any other project, we would like to say that they should  
6 be diverted and placed to go against the cost of \$25 million.

7           Thank you.

8           MR. RIBBLE: The funds that are available for the curbs  
9 and gutters, are they federal funds or local funds?

10           MR. BRINSON: I'm not sure. Ed might correct me. I be-  
11 lieve there are three or four agencies.

12           MR. HEAD: The curb and gutter project is a project  
13 that will be two and a half million dollars coming from the  
14 Community Development Fund for curbs, gutters and roads, and  
15 this type of thing, and then, the community of Lamont will  
16 bond itself for the \$1.7 million or whatever the break is in  
17 that, but the community will put up that.

18           There are no funds other than the money that's in the  
19 budget now for the Caliente Creek. The monies that are  
20 available for curbs and gutters are not available for Caliente  
21 Creek.

22           That project has not been submitted, nor has it been  
23 approved for CD funding. The other project has been.

24           So, it isn't just automatic that way, but that answers  
25 the question, I think.

26           While I am on my feet, let me ask a question in relation  
27 to what the young man said. I didn't understand clear the dam  
28 sites we have on the map. Those are dam sites that were

proposed in a prior study.

1 MR. BRINSON: Essentially yes.

2 MR. HEAD: The feasibility of say, let's take Clear  
3 Creek dam site on the Tehachapi Creek right there -- now, the  
4 feasibility of saying a small structure there not costing the  
5 \$20 million or whatever, but costing a good deal less than  
6 that, would that then serve as a viable control of that parti-  
7 cular contributing stream to the overall problem? Would that  
8 be feasible? In other words, if we are looking at this thing  
9 so we can do it in phases, is there a logical phasing that  
10 we see there in the construction of the dams?

11 MR. JANSSEN: Well, Mr. Head, it would depend upon, first  
12 of all, how much that dam, how much water this dam would con-  
13 trol and maybe --

14 MR. HEAD: Let me clear my question. Is there sufficient  
15 information to answer the question I asked? In other words,  
16 has that been looked at? Does that control a sufficient  
17 amount of water that if that were structured alone it would  
18 have a "significant" -- and that's not a good word -- would it  
19 contribute an important phase of flood control in the Lamont  
20 area?

21 MR. JANSSEN: Well, at this particular stage, I couldn't  
22 answer that because we are currently redeveloping our hydrology,  
23 for instance.

24 MR. HEAD: That would be in the study, in the first 18  
25 months?

26 MR. JANSSEN: Right.

27 MR. HEAD: Thank you.

28 MR. RIBBLE: I could add, too, on the funding, if the

1 Corps builds the project, usually the construction costs are  
2 federally funded, and lands, easements, rights-of-way and re-  
3 locations and operation and maintenance is locally funded, so  
4 that usually means the formation of some kind of an improvement  
5 or taxing district to guarantee operation and maintenance of  
6 the project after the Federal Government constructs it.

7 So, that's what you are looking at. That's one of the  
8 estimates that will come out of the study.

9 Anyone else? Yes.

10 MS. BOWERS: May I ask a question, please? My name is  
11 Zelda Bowers, Postmaster of Caliente. Is this going to affect  
12 the town of Caliente, this proposed dam site that you are re-  
13 ferring to?

14 MR. JANSSEN: At this stage, ma'am, I couldn't say yes  
15 or no. From the dam sites that are shown there, these two up  
16 here probably would not affect the town of Caliente, but at  
17 this stage we haven't developed the information in sufficient  
18 detail to answer questions such as that. Eventually, yes, we  
19 will be able to say yes or no definitely.

20 MR. RIBBLE: Anyone else?

21 If there aren't any further statements, we, members of  
22 the staff of the Corps and Water Agency, will be available for  
23 discussion or questions after the meeting.

24 So, the meeting is adjourned. Thank you for coming.

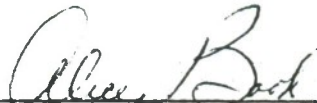
25 (Thereupon the meeting was  
26 adjourned.)  
27  
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1  
2  
3 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

4 ---o0o---

5 THIS IS TO CERTIFY that I, ALICE BOOK, a Certified  
6 Shorthand Reporter, was present during the proceedings of the  
7 DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, SACRAMENTO DISTRICT, U. S. CORPS OF  
8 ENGINEERS, and KERN COUNTY WATER AGENCY, held in Lamont,  
9 California, on Monday, July 9, 1979; that as such reporter I  
10 took down in stenographic shorthand writing the statements  
11 presented and discussion had in the matter of Caliente Creek  
12 Stream Group Investigation; that I thereafter caused my  
13 stenographic shorthand writing to be transcribed into longhand  
14 typewriting and that the foregoing 19 pages constitute said  
15 transcription; that the same is a true and correct transcript  
16 of my stenographic shorthand writing as aforesaid.

17 Dated this 23rd day of July, 1979.

18   
19 \_\_\_\_\_  
ALICE BOOK, CSR #43

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## CONTENTS

### EXHIBIT

- 1      **Comment Sheet from Zelda Bowers**
- 2      **Comment Sheet from G. Hopkins**
- 3      **Letter from Mrs. Goldie Benham**
- 4      **Letter from Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology**

WE

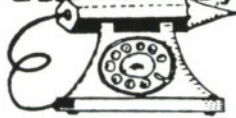
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What new names and addresses have you for our mailing list?



CALIENTE CREEK STREAM GROUP  
INVESTIGATION

Attended meeting of 7/9/79 in Lamont, regarding Caliente Creek Stream Group investigation. No mention was made of flood damage to town of Caliente and Caliente Creek area above Caliente--due to flood of 1978. Our house which also included lease of portion of building by U.S. Postal Service, was damaged to such an extent, that building was condemned by the Health Dept. and had to be destroyed.

Flood in this area was due to lack of proper drainage below town of Caliente where Caliente Creek and Tehachapi Creek came together. This caused backup of flood waters in this area. Very extensive damage was also done to several homes in this area. Many obtained Federal aid to rebuild.

The postal department is now in temporary location in mobile unit furnished by Postal Service, and are in the process of re-locating on a permanent basis. Due to these problems of re-location the proposed flood control projects are of prime importance at this point. Would appreciate all current findings and proposals information be-forwarded to this office and/to MSC Office U.S. Postal Service, Bakersfield, Ca. 93302, ATTN: BOB CRUZ

US Post Office  
Caliente, Ca. 93302

*Zelda Bowers*  
Zelda Bowers, Postmaster

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Do you wish to remain on our mailing list? Yes ( ) No ( )

Do we have your correct mailing address? Yes ( ) No ( )

What new names and addresses have you for our mailing list?

CALIENTE CREEK STREAM GROUP  
INVESTIGATION

My question is why are the people of Lamont  
suppose to pay for Caliente water. why  
not tax the farmers they are the ones  
who will benefit from it mostly of all  
at one time 4 years ago the water  
went through (Arroyo) till the farmers  
dug up their land & turned the  
water so it would come through  
Lamont,

Some farmers set out rows of tamarack  
to keep water off their land,

I'm not worried about flooding. I  
just don't think that the people of Lamont  
should be taxed for taking care of  
Caliente water,

the people that owns Caliente should  
foot the bill.

So many people cannot pay. So their  
places will have to be taken to pay

I say drop the whole thing. far  
most every one don't want curb & gutter  
me I know I don't want them  
if their rushed down my throat we  
sell & more -

Please fold this sheet and tape or staple the edge. -- NO POSTAGE REQUIRED --

Al Hopkins  
1100 1/2 Santa Paula  
Santa Paula Ave., Lamont, CA 92341

Inclosure 3

11009 Santa Paula,  
Lamont, Calif. 95241,  
7-13 -79.

District Engineer,  
Sacramento District, Corps of Engineers,  
650 Capitol Mall,  
Sacramento, Calif. 95814.

Dear Sir,

CalienteCreek floods are our worst problem . Lamont is the home of many elderly and poor persons and we can do little to prevent <sup>or</sup> ~~to~~ alleviate this problem. In addition to all the property loss and misery of the 1978 flood, two Lamont residents were drowned.

Somebody' else's water causes most of our flood problems. Mountain snows and rains send Caliente water rushing downstream. DiGiorgio Dam prevents the water from flowing south in its old channel. New levees protect farms but flood more homes.

Kern Lake, the old lake bed, is now being farmed and there is no place for water to go without doing damage. Future floods are sure to come endangering lives and property.

I don't know what action should be taken, but please do something. A dam to care for 50-year floods is preferable to no dam at all.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Goldie Benham

*Goldie Benham*

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
DIVISION OF MINES AND GEOLOGY  
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT OFFICE  
107 SOUTH BROADWAY, ROOM 1065  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012  
(Phone 213-620-3560)



July 18, 1979

District Engineer  
Sacramento District Corps of Engineers  
650 Capitol Mall  
Sacramento, California 95814

ATTN: Investigations Section C

SUBJECT: Caliente Creek Stream Group Investigation

Gentlemen:

We appreciate this early opportunity to comment on your study. Due to the present conceptual level of the project our comments are general and are intended to direct your investigation to consider certain geologic hazards to the proposed facilities. Many of the proposed dam sites and other facilities are near the White Wolf fault which displayed surface rupture during the 1952 Arvin-Tehachapi earthquake. Consideration should be given to the effects of possible future surface rupture.

It is assumed that site specific engineering geologic investigations appropriate to the proposed facilities will be performed, at which time other potential geologic hazards may become apparent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jerome Treiman".

Jerome Treiman

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J.F. Davis".  

---

J.F. Davis  
State Geologist

JT:JFD:vh

TO: Defense Technical Information Center  
ATTN: DTIC-O  
8725 John J. Kingman Road, Suite 0944  
Fort Belvoir VA 22060-6218

22 October 2008

FROM: US Army Corps of Engineers  
Sacramento District Library  
1325 J Street, Suite 820  
Sacramento CA 95814-2292

SUBJECT: Submission of technical reports for inclusion in Technical Reports Database

The enclosed documents from USACE Sacramento District are hereby submitted for inclusion in DTIC's technical reports database. The following is a list of documents included in this shipment:

- ADB344304 • Lemon Reservoir Florida River, Colorado. Report on reservoir regulation for flood control, July 1974
- ADB344333 • Reconnaissance report Sacramento Metropolitan Area, California, February 1989
- ADB344346 • New Hogan Dam and Lake, Calaveras River, California. Water Control Manual Appendix III to Master Water Control Manual San Joaquin River Basin, California, July 1983
- ADB344307 • Special Flood Hazard Study Nephi, Utah, November 1998 (cataloged)
- ADB344344 • Special Study on the Lower American River, California, Prepared for US Bureau of Reclamation - Mid Pacific Region and California Dept. of Water Resources..., March 1987
- ADB344313 • Transcript of public meeting Caliente Creek stream group investigation, California, held by, the Kern County Water Agency in Lamont, California, 9 July 1979
- ADB344302 • Initial appraisal Sacramento River Flood control project (Glenn-Colusa), California, 10 February 1989
- ADB344485 • Report on November-December 1950 floods Sacramento-San Joaquin river basins, California and Truckee, Carson, and Walker rivers, California and Nevada, March 1951
- ADB344268 • Reexamination Little Deil Lake, Utah, February 1984
- ADB344197 • Special report fish and wildlife plan Sacramento River bank protection project, California, first phase, July 1979
- ADB344264 • Programmatic environmental impact statement/environmental impact report Sacramento River flood control system evaluation, phases II-V, May 1992
- ADB344201 • Hydrology office report Kern river, California, January 1979
- ADB344198 • Kern River - California aqueduct intertie, Kern county, California, environmental statement, February 1974
- ADB344213 • Sacramento river Chico Landing to Red Bluff, California, bank protection project, final environmental statement, January 1975
- ADB344265 • Cottonwood Creek, California, Information brochure on selected project plan, June 1982
- ADB344261 • Sacramento river flood control project Colusa Trough Drainage Canal, California, office report, March 1993
- ADB344343 • Detailed project report on Kern River-California aqueduct intertie, Kern County, California, February 1974

- ADB344267 • Sacramento River Flood Control Project, California, Right Bank Yolo Bypass and Left Bank Cache Slough near Junction Yolo Bypass and Cache Slough, Levee construction, General Design, Supplement No. 1 to Design Memorandum #13, May 1986
- ADB344246 • Redbank and Fancher Creeks, California, General Design Memorandum #1, February 1986
- ADB344260 • Cache Creek Basin, California, Feasibility report and environmental statement for water resources development Lake and Yolo counties, California, February 1979
- ADB344199 • Sacramento River Deep Water Ship channel, California, Feasibility report and environmental impact statement for navigation and related purposes, July 1980
- ADB344263 • Sacramento River flood control project, California, Mid-Valley area, phase III, Design Memorandum, Vol. I or II, June 1986
- ADB344262 • Marysville Lake, Yuba River, California, General Design Memorandum Phase I, Plan Formulation, Preliminary Report, Appendixes A-N, Design Memorandum #3, March 1977

The **distribution statement** is A approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

The Sacramento District source code is 410637. Please return any materials that aren't appropriate for the technical reports database.

Please acknowledge receipt of shipment by sending email message to [Frances.J.Sweeney@usace.army.mil](mailto:Frances.J.Sweeney@usace.army.mil).

Thank you,

Frances J. Sweeney  
 Library Manager  
 USACE, Sacramento District Library  
 916-557-6660