UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

November 19, 2010

Ms. Elizabeth Holland
Environmental Resources Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Sacramento District
1325 J Street, 10th Floor
Sacramento, California 95814-2922

Subject: Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Natomas Levee Improvement Program Phase 4b Landside Improvements Project (CEQ# 20100149)

We appreciate the opportunity to review the subject document pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and our NEPA review authority under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. EPA previously rated the Draft Environmental Impact Statement EC-2, "Environmental Concerns - Insufficient Information," in our August 16, 2010 letter, due to our concerns about air quality and growth inducing impacts.

We commend the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for reducing Phase 4a and 4b emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) by 37 tons from 2011 to 2016. The Corps' mitigation measures (collectively 4.11-a) double the NOx reduction target from the Draft Environmental Impact Statement from 20% to 40% (below the most recent California Air Resources Board fleet average at the time of construction). This allows the project to remain below the de minimis threshold for EPA's Conformity rule. We remind the Corps to incorporate mitigation measure 4.11-a into the Record of Decision (ROD) for both Phase 4a and 4b.

We ask that you send one copy of the ROD to the address above (mail code: CED-2) when it is available. If you have any questions, please contact me at 415-972-3521 or contact Tom Kelly, the lead reviewer for this project. Tom can be reached at 415-972-3856 or kelly.thomasp@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Goforth, Manager
Environmental Review Office

cc: Karen Huss, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District