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May 12, 2009

Col. Thomas H. Magness, IV
Commander and District Engineer
Los Angeles District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
915 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 980
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Dear Col. Magness:

I am writing to request a status update of an important Army Corps of Engineers project in northern Arizona known as the Rio de Flag Flood Control Project.

As you know, the Rio de Flag project is an effort to mitigate the 100-year Rio de Flag floodplain situated at the heart of the City of Flagstaff. According to the Corps' own assessments, nearly half of the river's floodplain is zoned for residential use and about one quarter of the area is zoned for commercial use. Without the timely completion of this project, Flagstaff could experience a significant flood event that could extensively damage the community's infrastructure, including homes, businesses, recreational facilities, historic buildings, and portions of the Northern Arizona University campus.

The Rio de Flag program was last authorized by Congress under the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-114). I would appreciate knowing the progress that has occurred with the funding provided thus far by Congress. I realize the Corps must balance the needs of all states, which is why I ask that this matter be handled in strict accordance with existing agency rules, regulations and ethical guidelines.

Thank you for your attentiveness to my request. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


John McCain
United States Senator

JM/dnm