

Request: The County of Merced is in serious need of flood protection along the Black Rascal Creek Watershed, and is requesting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to include \$100,000 into the Fiscal Year 2017 Work Plan to initiate a compliance memo and Federal Cost Share Agreement (FCSA).

Description: Local area flooding has been a chronic problem in Merced County going back as long as historical data has been documented on storm events. Flooding occurs on a routine basis, causing major damage to residential structures, personal property, infrastructure (bridges and roads), sanitary systems, domestic water delivery systems, and valuable agricultural land/crops.

One major element of the Merced Streams Project that is yet to be completed is a flood control system on the Black Rascal Watershed. For several years, the County of Merced has been working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to jumpstart a flood control project along Black Rascal Creek that would include the construction of a floodwater detention basin 2.5 miles east of the City of Merced near the intersection of East Yosemite Avenue and North Arboleda Drive.

The Corps is required to complete a compliance memo in order to put together a Federal Cost Share Agreement (FCSA), a mechanism for the Corps to receive funds. The Corps estimates approximately \$100,000 is needed in order for staff to complete the memo and FCSA. These funds must be provided by the Corps and cannot be provided by the local partners.



Necessity: This project is a priority for the County of Merced and its local government partners. The County suffered \$20 million in unrecoverable losses in the last El Nino year of 2006, with a vast majority of this damage occurring in disadvantaged communities. More flooding will occur until the Black Rascal Creek Flood Control Project comes to fruition, adding several degrees of urgency to this matter.

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