

Infrastructure Solutions – Sacramento Flood Protection

“We are in a period of an unprecedented amount of construction, which directly leads to reduction in flood risk for the citizens living in Sacramento. None of this would have been possible without your efforts over the years and we want you to know how grateful we are.”

– Richard Johnson
Executive Director, Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency

CLIENT

The Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) is comprised of elected leaders and appointed officials in the Sacramento region. California’s legislature established SAFCA in 1989 to lead non-federal flood protection activities.

BACKGROUND

Sacramento’s location at the intersection of the Sacramento and American Rivers puts it at severe flooding risk. To address this threat, SAFCA partnered with Congress and the Army Corps of Engineers to develop and fund an extensive flood control plan. Given the massive technical, legislative and funding needs, SAFCA reached out to Dawson & Associates for help. SAFCA tasked Dawson with multiple flood control issues involving Federal funding, project authorizations, and agency policy matters.

RESPONSE

Dawson & Associates assembled a team of engineering and other technical experts that included a former Chief of Engineers and a former Chief Counsel for the Corps of Engineers, as well as a former congressional and senior agency staff.

Working with the Corps of Engineers and officials at the Office of Management & Budget and other federal agencies, SAFCA and the Dawson team developed and pursued a multi-track strategy. SAFCA and Dawson simultaneously worked with Congress to achieve the required funding, authorization and policy objectives.

As a result, SAFCA has secured multiple successes including:

- 6 major flood control projects either constructed or underway,
- Federal funding totalling more than \$4 billion,
- Congressional authorization for a comprehensive study to improve area flood protection and expand environmental enhancements, and
- Congressional delegation support for community project funding/congressionally directed spending requests in appropriations legislation.