

Dear Mr. Fox:

Thank you for your statement made before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting held in Memphis, Tennessee, on August 20, 2001. In your statement you discussed (a) the Wolf River Restoration project; (b) extension of the Nonconnah Creek project; (c) the Phase II Stormwater Management Planning Assistance to States (PAS) study; (d) an additional PAS study request for Geographical Information System (GIS) mapping of non-point source drainage outlets; and (e) a future request for a water supply study.

The Commission fully supports new start construction funding for the Wolf River Restoration project. The President's budget request for Fiscal Year 2002 includes \$205,000 to complete Preconstruction Engineering and Design, which will ready the project for construction. As you recall in my presentation at the public hearing, I referenced this project as an example of sustainable development.

In regard to new start construction funding, the budget request for the Mississippi River and Tributaries work has not been sufficient in recent years to fund all work, to include the starting of new projects. The budget has focused on continuing and completing ongoing projects rather than starting the construction of new projects.

In reference to extension of the flood control and recreational elements of the Nonconnah Creek project, the Memphis District is preparing a Project Management Plan (PMP) which will contain previously negotiated scope and costs of a reevaluation study to determine if these extensions are feasible. The Memphis District expects to have the PMP available for your review by the

first week in October. Upon concurrence in the contents of the PMP and execution of a study cost-sharing agreement, a reevaluation study will be initiated.

The Commission is pleased to hear about the partnership among the Memphis District, Shelby County, and the Chickasaw Basin Authority in a PAS study with emphasis on developing a Best Management Practice Stormwater Management Plan. The Memphis District has completed negotiations with an architect/engineer firm, and the study was initiated on July 26, 2001, with completion scheduled for December 2001.

The Commission is aware that the Memphis District has received your letter requesting PAS work to develop a comprehensive plan to include hydraulic data for a county-wide GIS. Information developed for the comprehensive plan will result from hydrologic and hydraulic analyses and mapping of unmapped drainage basins with specific designations of floodplains and floodways. The District staff will schedule a meeting with your office and the tax assessor's office to discuss the availability of information and the scope of work for the study.

In reference to your future request for the Corps of Engineers' assistance in determining sound engineering solutions to Shelby County's future ground water supply and quality, the Memphis District will be pleased to meet with you to determine the best study approach and scope of work required. Please contact Ms. Carol Jones of Colonel Jack Scherer's office at 901-544-0658 to schedule a meeting to discuss this matter.

Thank you again for your presentation. We appreciate receiving your views and will be pleased to hear from you at our future public meetings.

Sincerely,

Edwin J. Arnold, Jr.  
Brigadier General, U.S. Army

President Designee, Mississippi  
River Commission