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RESOLUTION UPPER YAZOO PROJECT

Heavy economic losses continue to occur from interior streams and tributary flooding, primarily along the Coldwater, Tallahatchie, Yalobusha, and Yazoo Rivers. In fact, towns, public property, residences, and approximately 500,000 acres of farmland were flooded in February 1991, in Coahoma, Holmes, Leflore Quitman, Tallahatchie, and Tunica Counties. Again, in May 1991, the worst flood in recent history inundated approximately 1.5 million acres of property in the Yazoo River watershed, including thousands of residences and businesses. Of greatest significance, the 1991 event claimed a number of fatalities in the Delta.

Even with the help provided by the four flood control reservoirs, channel capacities of the Yazoo River system are simply not adequate to accommodate the runoff from heavy storms that have occurred over the watersheds of these streams in 1980, 1983, 1989, twice in 1991 --- February and May, and during December and October 2001, 2002, 2011, 2016, 2018, and 2019, respectively. Delta Council has repeatedly endorsed the authorized channel enlargement and levee protection project for the Yazoo, Tallahatchie, and Coldwater River system (Upper Yazoo Projects). Delta Council supports the 2 Levee Boards' policy which offers support for the alternative currently being constructed on the Upper Yazoo Project. Subject to all considerations in accompanying Delta Council policy, we encourage the timely completion of the Upper Yazoo Project and the tributaries projects. This organization is encouraged by recent progress which has been registered on channel work reaching into the upper reaches of the Yazoo headwaters system.

Delta Council supports the Levee Boards' efforts to manage the disposal of dredged material in the manner which is least disruptive to adjacent landowners, including options such as thin-layer disposal when desired.

Reservoir levels should continue to be managed in a manner that will minimize downstream flooding in this project area.

Adopted by: Delta Council Flood Control Committee
August 17, 2023

