

DRAFT Minutes
Delta Levees and Habitat Advisory Committee
And
CALFED BDPAC Delta Levee Subcommittee
Friday, January 3, 2003
Room 435, Resources Building

1. Welcome/Self introductions/Announcements
Called to order at 9:05 am by Bob Orcutt, Department of Fish and Game.
See attached list of attendees

Marina Brand of Fish and Game announced that the "Draft Land Use Designations and Ownership" subsection of the Delta Regional Ecosystem Restoration Implementation Plan is available and could be found on the CALFED Website. Public comments on that section will be accepted until March 1, 2003.(see handout number 1)

2. Minutes of the November meeting were accepted without changes.
3. Update on CALFED Levee Program.
Curt Schmutte gave the updates on the various subprograms of the CALFED Delta Levee Program.

A meeting was held for Flood Emergency Response concerning the coordination between counties: Sacramento, San Joaquin, Yolo, Contra Costa and Solano Counties, with the goal of fostering mutual assistance across county lines in an emergency. The Emergency Response Program has resources and money from AB360. A few emergencies have already occurred: Van Sickle Island, Empire Tract and Twitchell Island. Bob Orcutt inquired about contact made to DFG after the emergency incident. Curt stated that part of AB360 was to contact the appropriate agencies after an emergency occurs. Additional funding has been added to the Subventions Program, which includes Suisun Marsh, Staten Island, Dutch Slough, Twitchell Island, Decker Island, McCormack-Williamson; Etc. Funds would be appropriated from ERP into specific projects in the Delta. If ERP money were used to subsidize specific projects it would still be considered ERP money. CALFED met with KSN and MBK to find out what the needs were locally in that area. The Dutch Slough Acquisition is moving along as planned. The acquisition is almost ready to close. \$23,000,000 coming from CALFED and 5,000,000 coming from the Coastal Conservancy. There have been positive results from the Water Quality Control Project in the Delta. Curt explained how the process of water quality control works. How CALFED money was to be distributed during tighter budget times was discussed. It was mentioned that Proposition 50 money was to be for improvements rather than levee maintenance. Tom Zuckerman inquired about Prop. 50 money being distributed among the Reclamation Districts for Special

Projects at CALFED's discretion. Curt stated that it had to be approved by the Governor first. It was mentioned that some islands in the delta were entitled to more money than other islands due to those islands having more public access such as public roads for example. Who has legal authority in these kinds of situations was discussed, via the Water Commission or Reclamation Board. Emphasis was placed on the process being an open, transparent process. Curt talked about marshland being included under the new Delta Levee Charter to be funded under the Delta Levee Program.

Handout #2, "The Delta Levee Maintenance Subventions-Program Status, January 2003" was distributed, with brief discussion.

Handout #3, "The DRAFT Delta Levees Program Special Projects Selection Process" was distributed, followed by much discussion of the selection and decision making process in the funding of Special Projects, with emphasis on making this an open, transparent, but efficient process. Curt pointed out that the main selection criteria is need plus benefit. Pete Rabbon requested that at the next meeting, the group could examine in more depth how the projects are selected. He brought up the idea of having the Water Commission provide a public forum on this issue. The group is interested in learning more about the details of the projects and the selection process.

Curt noted that there has been a request from SRCD to provide assistance in the Suisun Marsh, and new legislation may be drafted.

Tom Zuckerman announced that Senator Machado has initiated meetings to give legislative direction to the portions of Proposition 50 that need direction.

4. Department of Fish and Game-Update on SB 34/AB 360 Program
Bob reported that Fish and Game has sent 23 approval letters to DWR for 2001-2002 claims, and has signed off on 22 Special Projects Work Agreements. 21 Streambed Alteration agreements have been signed. F & G is working with DWR on Bradford Island conservation easements, which are about to close escrow. They are still waiting to get final approval to do fish monitoring on Decker Island.

5. CALFED BDPAC Levee Subcommittee Chairman's Report:
Tom Zuckerman reported that this subcommittee is being represented aggressively., and that the request was made that the Delta Levees be given security funding consideration.

6. Year 3 Work Plan

Margit Arambau (check spelling) and Patricia Fernandez presented the Levee System Integrity Program Assessment and Work plan. There are no major differences from what has been presented in the past. Patricia explained the introductory note at the beginning; the group agreed to accept the plan as written, with the deletion of "Please note" in the introduction.

7. Adjournment

The next meeting will include an update on Prospect Island, and continued discussion of the Special Projects funding issue. Bob suggested periodic updates, and Tom suggested making it a standing agenda item.

The next meeting will take place on February 7, 2003, 9:00 am –11:00 am in Room 435 of the Resources Building.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 am.