

DRAFT Minutes
Delta Levees and Habitat Advisory Committee
And
CALFED BDPAC Delta Levee Subcommittee
Friday, February 7, 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.

Margit Aramburu made an announcement concerning possible closure of the San Rafael rock quarry in Marin County. There are lawsuits pending from California Attorney General's Office and Marin County Land Owners, which may result in the closure of the quarry. The Delta Protection Commission sent a letter dated January 28 to inform different agencies concerned about the benefits the quarry has in Delta Levee Maintenance. (Copies of letter were distributed.) Tom Zuckerman discussed the cost effectiveness the quarry has on Levee Maintenance due to the fact that it is close to the Delta and the material can be transported by barge. Dave Mraz mentioned the web site (www.dutragroup.com) where people with concerns or comments could email Aimi Dutra.

2. Minutes from the January meeting were accepted without any changes.

3. Update on CALFED Levee Program

Dave Mraz addressed the Delta Levee Maintenance Program. A Program Status handout was distributed. The 2000-01 Program is completely paid off. In the 2001-02 Programs there are still some outstanding items.

There are still work agreements coming in for the 2002-03 Program. Dave plans to get a letter out around April detailing the updates in the program.

The budget is undergoing a mid-year correction. There are Proposition 50 funds available to replace General Funds lost. Lynn O'Leary prepared a handout: a graphic description of Delta Levee Program Funding sources through 2008, showing a baseline of \$12,000,000 per year as cited in the law as legislative intent. It is projected that Proposition 50 funds will keep this program going for the next three years.

Special Projects: The \$5,000,000 Thornton-New Hope Project on the left bank of the Mokolumne River is moving along in the design phase. Habitat is still being decided on.

The 149-Acre acquisition on Bradford Island is complete. The agricultural leases still need to be worked out. Kent Nelson is working on this. Decker Phase 2 involves 35 acres, 18 of which are being developed for habitat. It also includes buttressing levees on Webb Tract, Jersey Island and Bethel Island. Phase 2 will be used to buttress levees on Jersey, Bradford and Van Sickle Islands. An attempt will be made to coordinate with ERP for cost sharing.

In response to a question from George Basye about the \$12 million funding baseline, Dave said that that is the amount that the legislature intended as the funding level through 2006. Proposition 50 funds are not available until the legislature gives the OK. SB 21 from Senator Mike Machado will authorize selling of Proposition 50 Bonds and give some guidance as to how the money will be spent. George Basye raised a concern over whether or not Proposition 50 funds would actually be used for Delta restoration, and that this group needs to be assertive on that issue. Paul Bowers stated that the question of whether bond funds can be used for annual maintenance or if it is limited to capital improvements is still being discussed within CALFED. Margit requested that an action item be included in the agenda for the March meeting to clarify this group's position on the use of Proposition 50 funds.

4. The role of the Corps of Engineers

Paul Bowers clarified the involvement in the maintenance of Delta Levees: the Corps' funds should be used for project design and construction. Operations and maintenance should be the responsibility of State and local agencies. At its December meeting, The Reclamation Board approved an amendment to the Delta Special Study. 3.6 million dollars has been appropriated to do studies on Staten Island, McCormick-Williamson and Deadhorse Island.

5. Update on Prospect Island.

Kent Nelson stated the project has been put on hold. Funds for the project were appropriated in two phases. Phase 1 was \$350,000 for habitat throughout the island; Phase 2 involves \$200,000 for additional habitat monitoring. \$100,000 was paid to continue work on phase one. An additional \$200,000 was needed to continue work on habitat restoration on Prospect Island. Contractors have discontinued work since there had been issues concerning the wildlife refuge.

The issues have not yet been sorted out. Paul Bowers mentioned that the original contractors had been unable to complete the project because of changes to the original plan and a delay in funding appropriation to cover the increased cost. CALFED went for a higher bid but ERP did not come through with additional money. So far \$7,000,000 has been put into the Prospect Island Restoration Project. It would take another 1.5 million dollars to complete. The Bureau of Reclamation is excising the land to avoid potential liability. Tom Zuckerman requested a factual summary of this issue for the next meeting, and that an action item for recommendation is included on the agenda next month.

6. **Overview on the Water Quality Subcommittee**

Sam Harder spoke about issues such as carbon deposits and selenium levels in the Delta. He will participate in this group's meetings because there is a need to connect scientists with all of the other interests in the Delta.

7. **Fish and Game report.**

Bob Orcutt of the DFG staff is reviewing the last of the Subventions Claims for 2001-02. DFG processed 15 claims since the last meeting. He expects to have them all approved by the end of the month. DFG continues to receive Work Agreements for Special Projects, which staff is processing as they arrive from DWR. DFG staff is preparing six site specific Streambed Alteration Agreements and three Routine Maintenance Agreements.

8. **CALFED BDPAC Levees Subcommittee Chairman's Report**

Tom Zuckerman and Marci Coglianese gave an update concerning the meeting between the ERP and Delta Levees Subcommittees. It was determined that the Delta Levees Program has a long-term obligation to demonstrate the ecosystem benefits in the Delta. A discussion followed on the need to improve communication and writes grants to acquire funding among the various agencies and interests involved in Delta Levees issues, and how to facilitate this interface while maintaining an open, transparent process. Eugenie Laychak pointed out that this meeting's announcement and agenda did not appear on the CALFED website. This issue will be addressed before the next meeting.

9. **Patricia Fernandez addressed the Year 3 Work Plan.**

The work plan is final and would be posted on the CALFED Web Site. The time frame for work on the next Multi Year Work Plan is March through May, but staff needs to know how much money will be budgeted. Dave noted that there are still issues to be worked out at the management level.

10. **The next meeting will take place Friday March 7, 2003 from 9 AM to 11 AM in Room 435 in the Resources Building**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 AM.