

Delta Levees and Habitat Advisory Committee
And
CALFED BDPAC Delta Levee Subcommittee
Friday, March 7, 2003
Room 435, Resources Building

1. Welcome/self introductions/announcements.
Meeting was called to order at by Bob Orcutt, Department of Fish and Game.
See attached list of attendees
2. Changes were made to the minutes from the February meeting.
3. Update: CALFED Levee Program, Curt Schmutte
It was estimated that 1000 jobs will be created over the next three years through use of Proposition 50 funding in the Delta Levee Program.

The CALFED Levees and Habitat Subcommittee has been coordinating with the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Subcommittee to develop opportunities for working together on projects that contain elements of mutual interest. Kent Nelson is taking the lead in developing proposals to take before the ERP Subcommittee for cooperative projects. Tom Zuckerman indicated that his interest in seeing the coordination happen is to obtain ERP funding that would be used within the Delta Levees Program to provide habitat enhancements in excess of what has been accomplished to date. The Delta Levees Program has an excellent working relationship with the Reclamation Districts and is very effective in completing projects efficiently. Both the Levees Program and Ecosystem Restoration Program would benefit from this cooperative effort. Tom requested regular updates on coordination efforts and their results.

Curt reaffirmed the commitment to keep the DLHA Committee well informed of the Delta Levees Program efforts and of progress made.

Dave Mraz distributed and reviewed the status of the Subventions Program (handout #1).

Curt Schmutte gave the Special Projects update. A debris pile been placed on Bradford Island, adjacent to Fisherman's Cut by transient personnel living in boats. The accumulated debris and confrontations with its owner threaten the island, water quality, and habitat because it limits the RD's ability to maintain the levee over the affected reach. Efforts to clean this up are under way with the cooperation of Webb Tract and Bradford Island, DWR, Corps of Engineers, Coast Guard, Contra Costa Sheriff, the Department of Fish and Game, and Supervisor (District 5) Glover. They are developing an ordinance to address this issue.

The Decker Island Phase II Project will provide levee stability benefits to Jersey Island, Bradford Island, and Van Sickle Island in addition to building net habitat enhancement on a portion of Decker Island. This project would benefit from cooperation between CALFED Levees and CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program by providing significant new habitat at reasonable cost while providing construction material for stabilizing levees.

The Dutch Slough acquisition, which is jointly funded by CALFED and the Coastal Conservancy, and is being managed through the CALFED Levee System Integrity Program, is expected to close in June

The Flooded Island Project involves modeling ecosystem and water quality issues benefits of modifying Big Break, Lower Sherman Lake, and Frank's Tract, is in the contracting process and is being managed through CALFED Levee System Integrity Program staff. One objective is to use modeling to study the potential benefit of modifying the remnant levee configuration on these flooded islands to improve water quality.

The New Hope Project, to restore a portion of the levee along the left bank of the Mokeulumne River, is now in its second phase. This project will address levee problems that lead to flooding in recent historic events.

The Sherman- Island Demonstration Project (Gallager Island) for habitat improvement has been killed. This project was targeted to provide critical habitat while stabilizing in channel islands and was rejected by the Fish and Wildlife Service despite many attempts to revise the project to gain their approval. This rejection results in loss of planned habitat and removes \$500,000 in grant funds from the development of future Delta habitat.

Dave Mraz gave the update on Emergency Response System. There is a proposal to build ten flood boxes currently being advertised through the Department of Water Resources. The flood boxes would be distributed throughout the Delta to place critical flood fighting supplies in close proximity to their point of use. The bid period has been extended and the concept is moving forward. Each box will be stocked with supplies to be used in flood emergencies. About 60,000 sand bags have been acquired so far; another 30,000 are to be delivered under the current contract. The bags on hand are currently stored in the Department of Water Resources' warehouse on Twitchell Island and at a number of firehouses in the Delta. The bags remain the property of the Delta Flood Protection Program but are available to Delta Reclamation Districts and communities where needed on a "replace what you use" basis.

The Delta Levees Program has been coordinating with the Office of Emergency Services to develop a Delta Hydrologic Basin-wide Distribution Plan. The plan should streamline the logistics of future Delta flood fights. We are working with all

six counties in the Delta to develop, coordinate, and implement the plan. Each county is consulting with their respective boards to determine how they will implement this flood emergency plan. The State OES Office is reviewing it and working to obtain approval.

The Delta Levees Program is moving toward providing material and technical assistance to the various islands where needed. There is now a telephone number for the AB 360 Program -CALFED Levee System Integrity Flood Assistance. The new number will automatically forward your call to the "on call" person in the Delta Levees Program that can coordinate flood fight assistance from the Department. The number is (916) 651-9830. A letter will go out to Reclamation Districts sometime in April explaining in more detail the type of help available through this line. The Department of Water Resources' Flood Center phone number (800-952-5530) remains in effect.

DWR Flood Management has come to a mutual agreement with CDF to facilitate staff sharing, when needed, for SEMS training and flood emergencies.

Current emergency operations include a growing boil on Empire tract that has been increasing in volume. The Reclamation District has declared an emergency and has received assistance through the Subventions Program. Gil Cosio gave a brief history and update of the problem.

Curt distributed a Coast Guard Security Update (handout #2) and discussed potential terrorist threats to the Bay-Delta.

Curt announced the creation of GIS Library. Photos taken of the Delta between 1930 and 1950 are now in digital format and registered to the same grid. Joel Dudas has done the work and will be the contact person. A procedure to request access to the library must be developed.. A presentation on the GIS Library was requested for the next meeting.

The effects of boat wake impact on Delta levees and habitat are being examined. Studies have been done by the Boating and Waterways Commission and presentations have been made at the Science Conference. The subject was brought up by Diana Jacobs at the CALFED Management Meeting.

The North Delta Program is working to improve flood control while providing ecosystem benefits. A new Senior Engineer, Dan Fua, has been hired to work on the Through-Delta Program, and staff member Chris Kimball is leaving DWR.

Dave Mraz gave an update on the budget situation with Subventions and Special Projects. The current budget from the Governor's Office has about 2 million dollars in General Fund money for the program, however a budget change proposal has been submitted.

4. Kent Nelson provided an overview of a draft update on Prospect Island (handout # 3). A discussion followed. This project fits into ERP goals and objectives per the CALFED ROD. Kent emphasized that time is of the essence in acting on this matter, since the Bureau is preparing to dispose of the property. Tom Zuckerman pointed out that this is the only instance of a federal contribution to a levees maintenance program, and that the outcome could affect the possibility of future federal funding for Delta levees maintenance.

It was noted that the Prospect Island informational handout should be considered a draft document. Working Landscapes representative expressed an interest in working with Prospect Island to move the project along.

5. Update on Water Quality Program

Sam Harader reported that the State Board's Water Quality RP should be out. Around \$31.5 million will be for Drinking Water Quality; total RP statewide is \$138 million. A proposal process is underway for non point-source pollution control and watershed grants.

6. Department of Fish and Game update

No report provided.

7. Marci Coglianese announced that a status report by the CALFED BDPAC chair and subcommittee co-chairs is scheduled for the Senate Agriculture and Water Resources Subcommittee on March 18. A separate BDPAC meeting is scheduled for March 26 in Chico, and will be followed by a tour on March 27. Tom and Marci will participate.

Some have expressed a desire to separate the Delta Levees and Habitat Advisory Committee from the CALFED BDPAC Delta Levees and Habitat Subcommittee. Benefits include shorter meetings to attract members of other CALFED Subcommittees and the ability to target the agenda to items of broad CALFED interest. The concept will be presented at the next meeting of the Delta Levees and Habitat Advisory Committee.

8. Patricia Fernandez reported that the Year 3 work plan will be posted on the web later this month. She will present a preliminary draft of the multi-year work plan at the April meeting. In May the subcommittee must vote on the work plan so it can be presented at the CALFED Management Group; in June.
9. Fred Lee announced that a draft report of the low dissolved oxygen problem in the Deep Water Ship Channel is on his website, along with recommendations.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 am. The next meeting will be on April 4, 2003, 9:00 am to 11:00 am, in Room 435 of the Resources Building.