

California Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee  
Delta Levees Habitat Subcommittee  
Friday, April 4, 2003  
Room 435, Resources Building

1. Welcome/self introductions/announcements.

Meeting was called to order at 9 am by Dave Mraz from Department of Water Resources.

See attached list of attendees

2. There were no changes to the March minutes.
3. Update on CALFED Levee Program

Paul Bowers started with the Corp of Engineers. He said they were still working on trying to get money for the program. He said the latest project they are working on is the North Delta Project. The Corp is trying to get a pheasability cost with the state. North Delta includes Dead Horse Island, Staten Island and McCormack-Williamson Tract. They are working with DWR to get a work plan going for 2004-2008.

4. The Subventions Program is completing payments for fiscal year 2001-02. Funding will be:

Maintenance	75%
Fish & Wildlife	75%
HMP Restoration	75%
Bulletin 192-82 Improvement	65%

Proposition 50 will fund the program for 2003-04 and for the next 2 years. Use of proposition 50 funding requires the Levee Maintaining Agencies comply with prevailing wage provisions in their contracts. Consensus among the represented RDs was that they already call for prevailing wage in their contracts and this is not a new requirement.

The funding for the upcoming program has been requested. The plan includes \$7 million for the Subventions Program and is pending authorization of the State legislature.

In April a letter will be sent to all reclamation districts explaining current program deadlines, equipment rate, emergency response needs and other policy items.

There is a desire to capture history of levee incidents for incorporation of anecdotal notes in the GIS System for reference in future floods or during levee incidents. The request for this data will be included in the April mailing. Submission of data will be voluntary.

5. Gilbert Cosio gave the update on Emergency Response of Empire Tract. There has been a piping problem that had been ongoing for about 12 years. Various methods have been attempted to control the leak, including installation of French drains and building berms. These attempts have not slowed the flow.

Earlier this year the Reclamation District requested and received emergency funding under the Subventions Program to help address the problem. The Reclamation District hired a pile-driving contractor to install sheet piling some 30 feet below the crown of the levee. In one spot the sheet piles hit a hard object, and drove through it. Though the seep is still active, the flow volume is significantly reduced. It is believed that peat material had decomposed below the mineral soils of the levee, creating a void. The sheet piling consolidated some of the material in the area, slowed the leakage, and improved overall levee stability.

6. The Special Projects program has met with CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program to better coordinate projects with mutual benefit. Curt spoke about the program being integrated with ERP and DFG. Water quality and subsidence was talked about. He stated that the levee system provided More than just a buffer to hold water back from flooding the land. There is water quality and water supply that the levee system provides. The 1200-acre Dutch Slough Acquisition will close sometime in June. A tour is planned for Decker Island on Monday, April 7. The Title Marsh Restoration Project has made a desirable habitat for native fish in the delta. The New Hope Project, which was started in 1996-97 by SB34, is being made more consistent with the McCormic-Williamson Tract and North Delta Projects. This is all part of the Landside Habitat Mitigation, which is being done in the north Delta. Curt brought up the subject of the junk pile on Fisherman's Cut on Bradford Island. Efforts are still under way to have it removed. It was mentioned that the Federal and State Governments are not taking responsibility in seeing that this gets done so it is left up to the counties. There has already been a lot of the debris cleaned up on Fisherman's Cut.

7. Mark Charleton from the Corp of Engineers gave an update from his visit to Washington DC where he represented the CALFED Program. He spoke with some of Feinstein's staff and they told him they hear that if CALFED does not have a bill by this summer she is putting the CALFED Program low on her priority list. It is hard to get an authorization for CALFED due to the House and The Senate going in different directions on issues. Representatives from California would like to see more storage in the delta, but understand that there is more than just water storage concerning the delta. The delta has an ecosystem.
8. Patricia Fernandez gave the update on the Work Plan for years 4, 5, 6 and 7. The Work Plan is still in draft form. She plans to have it finalized by May 2. She will email the Work Plan to the Levee and Habitat Subcommittee members for review. The Work Plan will be presented at the BDPAC Meeting in June.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM. The next meeting will be held on May 2 in room 435 in the Resources Building.