

**Meeting Notes**  
**Delta Levees and Habitat Advisory Committee**  
*and*  
**CALFED BDPAC Delta Levee Subcommittee**  
Friday, July 12, 2002

1. **Welcome/Self Introductions/Announcements/Handouts**  
The meeting was chaired by Bob Orcutt, Department of Fish and Game. See attached list of attendees.
2. **Minutes of Last Meeting.** There were no comments.
3. **Update on Short-Term Funding Plan for Delta Levees.**  
Ms Aramburu said there had been a field trip and the funding plan was presented to the BDPAC. She said there would not be further discussion of budget issues and balance issues until after the November election.
4. **Update on SB 34/AB 360 Program/Other Central District Activities/Reuse of Dredged Materials-Department of Water Resources.**  
Dave Mraz, Department of Water Resources, announced that Curt Schmutte is rejoining the Delta Levees program. Dave also noted a letter had been sent to all Reclamation Districts regarding Special Projects; he is requesting Reclamation Districts return a description of projects for developing estimates of future funding needs. These are to be concept plans only; not specific plans. The budget is still not final; however David estimates there will be two million dollars for local assistance unless Prop 50 passes in the November election. The Delta Levee Program Staff prepared a concept paper requesting 25 million annual spending from Prop 50 which contains 70 million for Delta Levees. Federal legislation was discussed and he noted the legislation contained authorization but not funding.

***Action: Lynn O'Leary will research the authorities in the proposed federal legislation as it applies to the Corps participation in Delta levees programs.***

Mr. Mraz handed out a memo "Delta Levee Maintenance Subvention Program Status, July 2002". He noted that any necessary funds from FY 02-03 will be applied to FY 01-02 claims to assure the programs commitment of \$4.5 million will be met. He reviewed Special projects including: Jersey Island Phase II embankment restoration and a project at Bethel Island where a deep underwater hole exist at the base of the levee at Horseshoe Bend. He noted DWR is attempting to work more closely with the Corps on the direct agreement levees and is continuing to pursue opportunities for beneficial reuse of dredged material. A meeting with the San Francisco and Sacramento Districts is scheduled for July 20.

There was minor discussion about the purchase of 149 acres on Bradford Island for habitat at mitigation and restoration of a dredge spoil area owed to the Reclamation Board.

Chris Neudeck, KSN, said it is extremely difficult to obtain permission to place dredged material upland on Islands and a District must really want and need dredged material to go through the time and expense of permitting a new disposal area.

Mr. Mraz noted there are existing disposal sites on Sherman and Bradford Island however; DWR may pursue a new disposal site on Bradford Island. Mr. Mraz noted the Delta Conservancy Bill may assist with habitat related with levee activities.

Bob Clark, Central California Flood Control Agency, said he would like new State funds to help with applicable portions of the levee program.

Mr. Mraz noted the Bradford Island 149-acre acquisition will be reviewed at the Delta Protection Commission during its July meeting.

Curt Schmutte, Department of Water Resources, has taken over as chief of the Levee and North Delta Branch and he is looking forward to bringing the experience of his work in the Suisun Marsh to the Delta levee program, including work with the Science Board and subsidence research. He feels there should be more ties between the Delta, the Marsh and the Bay.

**6. Update on SB 34/AB 360 Program-Department of Fish and Game**

Bob Orcutt, Department of Fish and Game, reported he has one vacancy out of four positions, and that position may be cut due to budget problems, even though DFG staff is needed to ensure mitigation and net habitat enhancement goals are met prior to release of funds to the RDs. His staff also writes streambed alteration agreements in the Delta. He said DFG is working on the Bradford Island mitigation plan; the Decker Island monitoring plan still needs action by the Crops regulatory office; and more funds were allocated from the program for the Prospect Island project, but the project has not started due to contractor problems.

**7. Update on Implementation of CALFED Levee Program**

Patricia Fernandez, CALFED, said CALFED Levee staff will participate in the meeting with the Corps and DWR. She reviewed problems with budget and administration.

Margit Aramburu, Delta Protection Commission, suggested revisiting the Co-Management MOU implementation.

Lynn O'Leary, CALFED, said the Risk Management project contract needs to be readvertised.

**8. Presentation on Final Report on Delta Dredging and Reuse Strategy  
Prepared by Regional Board and Department of Fish and Game**

Ms Aramburu distributed copies of the report. There were requests for a briefing at the next meeting.

*Action: Ms Aramburu will organize a presentation.*

**9. Public Comment**

The Committee moved to cancel the August meeting; the next meeting will be Friday, September 6, 2002.

**10. Adjourn**