

Delta Levees and Habitat Advisory Committee
Friday, August 8, 2003
Room 435, Resources Building
Draft Meeting Notes

1. Welcome/Self Introductions/ Announcements

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. Those in attendance introduced themselves. The list of attendees is attached.

2. Minutes from last meeting

The minutes of the July 11, 2003 meeting were accepted as presented.

3. Update on CALFED Levee SB 34/AB 360 Program

The State budget was signed, however, Proposition 50 funding was contentious during the negotiations and DWR is uncertain of the level of funding until the change book comes out. We anticipate funds requested in the last Budget Change Proposal were granted and would provide \$8.4 Million for the Subventions Program. This will allow implementation of the extended funding plan discussed and approved at the July meeting. Approval for the FY 2003-04 Subventions Program will be requested at the Reclamation Board's September 19 meeting in Lathrop.

The Subventions Program report was deleted as nothing has changed since last month.

The claim for work on Little Mandeville Island remains still outstanding and is noted here for benefit of the Reclamation District.

Tracking for the CBDA Levee System Integrity Program requires updated levees cross section and profile data on a regular basis. New language is being developed for the Subventions Work Agreements to assure the data is submitted electronically. DWR will work with Delta Engineers and other representatives of the RDs to be certain this new requirement does not become excessive.

The California Bay Delta Authority will be officially installed at a meeting at the Capitol on August 14. The Levees Program will present its Program Plan for approval.

The Dutch Slough purchase agreement is moving closer to completion. Work is being done on clarifying the mineral rights of the property, and general cleanup.

3. Update on Department of Fish and Game AB 360 Activities

Mark Philipp of the Department of Fish and Game reported that the Decker Island Phase 2 negative declaration has been released for public comments, which are due August 14. Work is being done on some 1601 Agreements and some Mitigation Assessments have been done. There is some Special Projects work still being done. Mitigation work is currently being performed on Sherman and Bradford Islands.

Todd Gardner of DFG reported that work on the Bethel Island mitigation site is moving forward. Little mitigation will be required for the work that is being done on the land side of the levees.

Tom Zuckerman commented that: the Central Delta Water Agency had been concerned that routine annual maintenance agreements would be voided, but existing legislation now moving through the Assembly (Senate Bill 418) would ensure that they won't. Todd Gardner commented that existing perpetual maintenance agreements are working well from a DFG standpoint.

Dave Mraz asked for feedback on a proposed program to set up a "mitigation bank" to allow work on levees projects to proceed while the need for mitigation is determined. This would not relieve districts of any mitigation requirement; rather, it would work as a placeholder using land already planned for enhancement. This would allow funding to be released to the districts so work can advance. If mitigation is needed, it can be taken out of the bank and then reimbursed by the Districts. Dave will work on developing this concept further and will bring it back to the group.

4. Report from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Paul Bowers reported that he has worked with CBDA staff on revisions to the multi-year work program, based on the comments received.

The study of proposed work on Staten, Deadhorse, and McCormick-Williamson Islands will be presented at the September Reclamation Board meeting. Also underway is a review of the five CALFED bills now in Congress. Paul will represent the Corps at the CBDA meeting at the Capitol next Thursday.

Bob Clark of the California Central Valley Flood Control Association reported that legislation (AB 1208) which exempts small districts from certain conflict of interest procedures has passed and is awaiting the governor's signature. This should be beneficial for the Levees Program.

**CALFED Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee
Levees and Habitat Subcommittee
August 8, 2003**

1. CALFED BDPAC Levees and Habitat Subcommittee Co-Chair Report

Marci Coglianese convened this portion of the meeting at 9:50 a.m. Tom Zuckerman opened discussion of what is anticipated at the CBDA meeting next Thursday, August 14. There will be a presentation on each of the CALFED Program Goals: Water Quality, Ecosystem Restoration, Levees, Water Supply Reliability, Watersheds, & Science. Paul Bowers will give the presentation on the Levees Program, including an overview of the program plan, accomplishments, activities, and issues. This will be followed by Marci and Tom presenting how the Levees Program helps the entire plan. They plan to use the opportunity to ask for guidance on outreach efforts to the other subcommittees. Marci asked the group for suggestions for topics for future Levees meetings that would attract other subcommittee members. Tom commented that the subcommittees need to work together on an issue-by-issue basis. Dave Mraz pointed out that levees projects support Ecosystem Restoration Program goals. Tom suggested that flood capacity, water conveyance and ecosystem restoration are good issues to start with. Paul Bowers suggested that the Hamilton City project is a good example of a project that covers all of these issues. Other issues that may present an opportunity for future cooperation are seismic safety and the proposed user fee.

Eugenia Laychak reminded the group of the September 11 BDPAC meeting, which will take place in the Sacramento-Bay-Delta Room at 650 Capitol Mall. It starts at 9:00 a.m. and is expected to last all day. Expected agenda items are a review of the August 14 CBDA meeting, balanced implementation, a discussion of the California Water Plan Update, Water 2025, updates on Proposition 50 funding, and federal appropriations.

2. CALFED Multi-Year Work Plan Report

(No presentation was made at this time.)

3. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:3 a.m. The next meeting will be held on September 12, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., in Room 435 in the Resources Building.