

Delta Levees and Habitat Advisory Committee &  
California Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee  
Delta Levees and Habitat Subcommittee  
April 2, 2004  
Room 435, Resources Building  
Draft Meeting Notes

**1. Welcome/Self Introductions/Announcements**

Bob Orcutt called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Those in attendance introduced themselves. The list of attendees is attached. Curt Schmutte handed out a reprint from Coast & Ocean magazine, Autumn 2003 titled "The Fragile Delta" by Susan Davis. (See attachment 1).

**2. Minutes of March 4, 2004 meeting**

One minor change was made to the minutes on page 2, paragraph 1 to clarify that the \$1.9 million for the Levee Program was in the Governor's 2004-2005 draft budget.

**3. Update on Department of Fish and Game AB 360 Program**

Bob Orcutt of DFG said that a couple of trees were removed from Sargent-Barnhart Tract, but only minor mitigation will compensate for this loss. One district has not submitted the AB 360 form. Once DFG gets the form they will go out on inspection. 52 approval letters were sent to DWR.

**4. Update on Bay-Delta Levee Program SB 34/AB 360 Program**

Dave Mraz of DWR distributed a handout summarizing the current status of the Subventions program (see attachment 2). For FY 2003-04, DWR has received 52 signed work agreements out of 65 work agreements. For FY 2002-03, DWR has received 57 claims for \$9.6 million. DWR has begun the levee inspection process and completed 56 out of 57 districts. DWR has received 50 out of 57 claims.

Dave mentioned as a reminder that DWR can only sign work agreements through fiscal year 2004 which ends June 30, 2004. Work agreements should be submitted by June 15, 2004 to allow enough time for review and signature.

There was a discussion about if urban levees should be a part of the program. Margit Aramburu mentioned that Dave previously said that DWR was going to do a legal review about including urban levees. Dave said if an urban levee in the Delta protects an island then it would qualify for the program. Marci Coglianese questioned if the land entitlement process would be a way to get more money for levee protection and long-term maintenance. Marci asked if the levee program should be taking on more obligations when it can't afford the current obligations.

Chris Neudeck mentioned that of the 18 miles of levee in Discovery Bay, only 9 are in the levee program. The local reclamation districts have the right to accept or reject a levee.

Curt gave a presentation on Seismic studies in the Delta. He and Dave gave this same presentation on March 18<sup>th</sup> to the State water contractors. They had previously given this same presentation in Alameda County. The purpose of the presentation to the water contractors was to inform and help advance policy on acceptable risk. The policy could be used on a statewide basis and enhance emergency response capability.

The presentation showed recent hydrodynamics. When you have a levee breach salt particles enter in and disperse over a wide range. Ten levee breaches occur simultaneously in the model. The breach locations were chosen as the most likely places to fail if there were a failure due to a seismic event.

Computer modeling of levee breaches performed for the seismic risk study allows prioritization of islands. To minimize risk you go after the weak links. Sherman Island was focused on for levee breach simulations since it is potentially the largest “Mixmaster” of salt in the Delta.

Curt referred to a quote by Phil Pace, Chairman of the Board of the Metropolitan Water District in reference to the Diamond Valley Reservoir, “The price tag of not having water supply reliability is one they could not afford to lose”. He said this pertains to the Delta because under certain circumstances, California’s water supply dependence upon the Delta is so important that cost to protect key features is not an object.

Marci mentioned that there is a Delta task force for modelers that cut across police and fire department jurisdictions. She will provide contact information for Dave. She also mentioned that funding for homeland security could possibly be provided for protection of levees.

Since the risk assessment contract ended on February 29, 2004 Dave is trying to extend the contract another year by using the Program Science funds from Prop. 50. The contract extension is making its way through the approval process and is currently with General Services for review.

Curt said that DWR has one site license for the risk assessment model. He will look into either training for others to use the model or possibly an annual contract for maintenance of the model.

The Corps 404 Section 10 permitting issue on Decker Island that was discussed at the meeting last month has been resolved and the earthen plug can be removed.

The North Delta team had a successful meeting recently looking at alternatives for the flood and ecosystem project on McCormack-Williamson Tract and Staten Island. Curt will give a presentation on alternatives in the future.

Dave gave a presentation on the Delta Levees Program FY 2004-08 program plan. A copy of the presentation was handed out. (See attachment 3). The major topics discussed from the plan were funding, pursuit of CALFED goals, accomplishments, base level protection, levee Delta subsidence control, emergency management and response plan, delta risk assessment, cost share and beneficial reuse. The program plan is being routed up through DWR for approval. It will be finalized in early June and be presented to the Authority.

Dave attached a list of Subventions Program projects to the program plan as an addendum. The only thing the list is missing is contracts such as the Flooded Islands and Risk Assessment contracts which he will subsequently add.

Margit suggested adding a graphic showing how many miles of levee were at PL 84-99 at the start of CALFED and how many miles are at PL 84-99 now.

Marci discussed homeland security as an important issue to the levees. She would like to indicate in the program plan that this issue is being examined. Others expressed a concern with stating how many levee failures could occur as a result of a seismic event. The focus should be on the issue of levee failures, not the number of failures.

Prop. 50 is expected to fund Years 5 and 6 at \$23M each year. Funding from Prop. 50 runs out after Year 6. Funding for Years 6 and 7 is \$105M each year per the ROD. It should be clarified that this funding is state funding, not federal or local matching share.

Margit stated that the State and local cost share stated in the program plan mixes the ongoing DWR program with what is shown in the CALFED ROD. The current cost share for maintenance is 75/25 (State/local). It was generally agreed that levee improvements above maintenance should be cost shared at 90/10 (State/local) per the ROD. It should be stated in the program plan that the 10% local cost share is for levee upgrades, not maintenance costs.

**Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee  
Levees and Habitat Subcommittee**

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

Marci Coglianese chaired the meeting. Tom Zuckerman, the other co-chair was not present. She stated that neither she nor Tom Zuckerman attended the March 11 BDPAC meeting. Therefore, Tom's letter that was discussed previously was not presented. Sergio discussed the March 11 BDPAC meeting. It focused mainly on Water Management and budget issues of all Authority programs.

Marci would like to coordinate with other BDPAC Subcommittees and present the levee program to other programs. She asked everyone to think of ideas on coordinating with the other programs and their subcommittees. The next BDPAC meeting is May 13, 2004.

Margit asked for ideas to present a universal comment to all programs on their program plans. She will work with Patricia, Tom, and Marci. Dave noted that he would like to see the levee program noted in the coordination section of other program plans. To assist toward the coordination effort, Tom had previously asked the Ecosystem Restoration Program for a list of levee projects. Patricia will follow-up on obtaining that list.

Revising ROD targets was one of the comments that came out of the previous BDPAC subcommittee meetings. Reevaluating miles of levee to attain the PL 84-99 standard within Stage 1 was mentioned. Timelines for meeting ROD targets will need to be revised for those targets that will not be met in Stage 1.

The next Authority meeting is April 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. The Authority will make their final approval of all the Program Plans in early June.

**2. Bay-Delta Program Report**

Sergio made a brief presentation on the levee program elements at the joint Working Landscapes/EJ meeting on April 1, 2004. A couple of comments regarding the levee program made at that meeting were that climate change and sea level rise should be included in the program plan and the Levee program should coordinate with Working Landscapes regarding maintenance since levees protect agriculture.

Ulrich made the comment that Levee System Integrity, which is one the four CALFED goals was omitted from discussion at the last Authority meeting. He previously made this comment to the Authority.

Delta Levees and Habitat Advisory Committee/  
BDPAC Levees and Habitat Subcommittee  
Draft Meeting Notes  
April 2, 2004  
Page 5

To bring the levee program more attention Sergio suggested he make the seismic presentation that was made in today's DLHAC meeting to the All-Hands meeting at the Authority.

Curt stated that he, along with Dave of DWR and Alicia Kirchner of the Corps, met with Bob Twiss and Jeff Mount of the CALFED Science Panel a couple of weeks ago. The objective of the science panel is to seek out overarching, interdisciplinary issues such as seismic, subsidence, salt, sediment, carbon, mercury, exotics, and vector control. The science issues for the levee program will need to evolve over time.

The BDPAC subcommittee meeting adjourned at approx. 10:20 a.m. and turned back to Dave to discuss the Levee Multiyear Program Plan (Years 5-8).

### **3. Adjournment**

The next meeting will be held Friday, May 7 in the Resources Building, Room 435.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.