

Delta Levees and Habitat Advisory Committee &
California Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee
Delta Levees and Habitat Subcommittee
June 4, 2004
Room 435, Resources Building
Draft Meeting Notes

1. Welcome/Self Introductions/Announcements

Bob Orcutt called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. Those in attendance introduced themselves. The list of attendees is attached.

2. Minutes of May 7, 2004 meeting

The minutes of the May 7, 2004 meeting were accepted as presented by general consent.

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

Bob Orcutt of DFG said that the Decker Island field trip was last week. The earthen plug on Decker Island between Phase I and II was removed and it was televised on the local news. The channels in Phase II have recently filled with water and some catfish were found. Results of opening up the Phase II channels will be compared with Phase I. There is no change in the current funding for DFG.

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

Due to the levee break on Upper Jones Tract the previous day, the majority of the meeting was taken up with a discussion about the levee break and the flooding of Jones Tract.

Curt Schmutte of DWR stated that he was called by Chris Neudeck of KSN at 8:40 a.m. on Thursday, June 3rd notifying him of the levee break on Upper Jones Tract. The State Flood Operations Center, the Director of DWR, and the Governor were briefed. Curt watched the local television coverage on Channel 3 to obtain current information.

All people in the area were safely evacuated. Many crops were underwater. The State Water Project was temporarily shut down and all except one pump were shut down on the Central Valley Project. The Delta Cross Channel gates were closed. Additional water releases were made from Shasta. Water salinity is being monitored. Highway 4 is currently safe but there is a 30% chance of overtopping. There is concern about erosion of the nearby railroad embankment. The waterside of the Trapper Slough levee is being reinforced with rock. Barges arrived Thursday evening to start placing rock on the waterside of the eroded levee banks. The repair of the Upper Jones tract levee cannot begin until early Saturday morning when it is expected that the water levels between Upper and Lower Jones tract will be equalized. First the ends of the levee breach will be capped to prevent further erosion.

DWR is focusing on providing assistance. AB 360 has language that provides for financial assistance from the DWR Levee Program in an emergency such as this levee failure. \$50,000 is allotted per island per event. Therefore, since Upper and Lower Jones Tract are both affected, \$100,000 is available at a 75/25 percent (State/Local) cost share. Caltrans, FEMA, DWR, OES, the Corps of Engineers and others are all involved in providing assistance.

The cost for pumping out the island is estimated at 4 million dollars. The total cost for repairing the levee breach has not yet been determined. The failed levee is a privately owned levee and it is not a part of the official state and federal flood control system.

There are three EBMUD pipelines in the area of the flood on Jones Tract. There are full of water and there is not a concern that they will float.

There was discussion that CALFED should identify a point person to deal with the levee break and how it affects other programs. Sergio Guillen said that he was that point person. He has briefed the Director of the California Bay-Delta Authority and he met with him immediately following this meeting. Several people expressed the need for quick funding in emergencies and that one person needs to push the issue and satisfy contractors that they will get paid.

Dave Mraz indicated that the Corps of Engineers will raise the levee at Trapper Slough, and place rock on that levee. The Corps, however, will not close the breach at Upper Jones tract because it is not in the federal flood control system.

Margit Aramburu of the Delta Protection commission went to the Flood Operations Center on Thursday June 3, 2004 after the levee breach occurred and made some observations. She will talk to Dave Mraz about her observations and her comments on areas needing improvements.

Dave Mraz of DWR distributed a handout summarizing the current status of the Subventions program (see attachment 1).

5. Presentation of Riparian Habitat Joint Venture

Due to the length of time spent talking about the levee breach there was not enough time for this presentation. Ann Chrisney agreed to come back at our next meeting on July 2nd to give her presentation.

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

1. BDPAC Levees and Habitat Subcommittee Co-Chair Report

Tom Zuckerman chaired the meeting. Marci Coglianese, the other co-chair, was not present. Regarding the levee breach issue, Tom mentioned that the crops adjacent to Upper and Lower Jones Tract will be rendered useless due to seepage. He stressed the importance of identifying how the contractors in the Delta ready to repair the levee breach will be paid. There is a concern that the repair time could be delayed if the source of payment is not known.

2. Bay-Delta Program Report

Kate Hansel of CBDA presented the California Bay-Delta Authority Draft Finance Options Report, update on the 10-year Finance Plan, and the Water User Fee. Only the levee portion of the report was distributed at the meeting. (see attachment 2) The entire draft finance options report is on the Authority website.

http://calwater.ca.gov/FinancePlanning/Draft_Finance_Options_Report_5-11-04.pdf
The report will be final in August and used to develop a 10-year plan.

Loren Botoroff discussed the Levee portion of the Finance Plan. He pointed out that due to limitations of available data it was difficult to assign program costs with a high degree of certainty. Therefore, cost ranges were given in the summary tables on page 43. Subcommittee members were encouraged to review the reports and provide comments.

Ron Ott presented the Draft MOU Delta Improvements Package (DIP). (see attachment 3) Appendix A: Proposed Actions and Schedule was added since the DIP workshop on May 27, 2004. Comments from that workshop will be incorporated. Comments received prior to June 9th will be incorporated in the version for the Authority's review at the June 9th meeting. Linkages are important in the Delta Improvements Package because some actions are dependent on other actions happening first.

3. Adjournment

The next meeting will be held Friday, July 2 in the Resources Building, Room 435. The meeting adjourned at approx. 11:15 a.m.