

Delta Levees and Habitat Advisory Committee &
California Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee
Delta Levees and Habitat Subcommittee
August 6, 2004
Room 435, Resources Building
Draft Meeting Notes

1. Welcome/Self Introductions/Announcements

Dave Mraz of the Department of Water Resources (DWR) chaired the meeting. The meeting was called to order at approx. 9:15 a.m. Those in attendance introduced themselves. The list of attendees is attached.

2. Minutes of July 2, 2004 meeting

There were written comments on the July 2, 2004 meeting minutes from Mr. Dante Nomellini in response to the statement "Victoria Island and Bacon Island have no damage and Woodward Island has tules growing on it." The comments were read by Dave Mraz. (See attachment 1) The minutes will be revised to reflect that Victoria Island and Woodward Island suffered boils from the Jones Tract flooding which were moving material. Bacon Island reportedly is experiencing increased seepage flow but no boils. The minutes were accepted with corrections by general consent.

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

Dave Mraz of DWR passed out the Delta Levee Maintenance Subventions - Program Status handout and the Prop. 50 DRAFT Spending Plan. (See attachments 2 and 3)

Dave said the DWR is doing its best to continue a level funding stream for the levee program. \$4.4 million is the yearly cost of running the levee program. \$6 million for '03-'04 is money that is held in a funds reservation. DWR will try to get on the Reclamation Board schedule for their September or October meeting to present the '04-'05 levee program budget.

Dave handed out a project description for New Hope Tract (see attachment 4) Margit Aramburu of the Delta Protection Commission had made a request to talk about this project since it is the first levee Special Project under the CALFED umbrella to be done. An "ability to pay" study was done by DWR and it was determined that the reclamation district on New Hope Tract has no ability to pay. Therefore, the work on the tract is fully funded by DWR. New Hope Tract is one of the items named in the legislation that authorizes the levee program. Environmental damages that occur on the land side of the levee will be fully mitigated. Levee enhancement will result in a levee above HMP standard to PL 84-99 geometry, not factor of safety. Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) was defined as 1 foot above the 100 year floodplain elevation. It is a standard that was established by OES and FEMA after the 1986 flood. It is an agricultural minimum standard with no factor of safety guaranteed. The New Hope Tract project is well coordinated the North Delta Improvements project. Money to fund the project has come

from various years. There has been phased construction due to wait times on permits and funding. Brad Burkholder of DFG mentioned that mitigation on Grizzly Slough and McCormack-Williamson Tract is being worked on but is not complete. There has been a net of 10 or more acres of enhancement completed.

Bill Darcie of KSN asked if given the Jones Tract flood if any thought has been given to putting more funding into maintenance. Dave gave a proposed breakdown of \$8.5 million for Subventions and \$23 million for Special Projects. Based on past work he believes that the locals' ability to cost share more than \$8.5 million/yr doesn't exist. DWR is working on new legislation and working with CALFED. Having secure funds is essential to scheduling work for the reclamation districts. With secure funding some districts may be able to cost share up to \$10-12 million. Bill suggested looking at past work applications as an example of work districts feel could be done. The idea of a workshop with district engineers and their trustees was suggested to find the most equitable way to fund levee maintenance. DWR currently lays out level funding so districts can count on money being there.

Margit mentioned there has been discussion on raising fees paid by non-ag property owners to raise cost share funds available to districts. Some subcommittee members said this was a district issue or a water code issue.

The Delta Protection Commission could work with districts on the funding issue. DWR put in a concept paper last week and is still working on language for legislation.

Senator Machado's hearing on levees was postponed until August 10, 9:30 am – 12 pm in Room 112 at the State Capitol.

The water elevation on Jones Tract is currently 3 feet below its initial level. A professionally prepared video was shown of the Jones Tract levee break.

Bill Burkhard of DWR gave a further update on Jones Tract. The soil in Trapper Slough has elevated constituents that are not as bad as previously reported in the newspaper. The constituents are barium, lead, copper, and zinc. The material has been out of the water a couple of weeks. Leaching could be a problem in the rainy season. The Water Quality Control Board is determining a plan of action, if any, to take to mitigate the problem. The determination should be in the next few weeks. Bill can send anyone interested the details of the water board's findings. His e-mail is burkhard@water.ca.gov.

Marci Coglianese asked who is responsible for ensuring that the fill material is clean before it is placed on a levee. It was generally agreed that it is the buyer's responsibility, but it depends on the contractor. The Water Quality Control Board sets drinking water quality standards and is working on establishing a standard for the Central Valley.

There has been a taste and odor issue in Contra Costa County. Water entering Banks pumping plant has a record high level of constituents that can cause taste and odor. Modeling shows that 5 percent of the water on Jones Tract is taken at the Banks Pumping Plant.

The Metropolitan Water District tested Jones Tract water and found a rare form of algae not normally seen on the west coast. Algae have the ability to produce a great amount of constituents that cause taste and odor. DWR is doing testing and modeling on Jones Tract. It was suggested that they coordinate with the modeling being done for the low dissolved oxygen content at the Stockton Deep Water Ship Channel.

Bill Burkhard gave a breakdown of the contract amounts for the Jones Tract levee repair. The original commitment for the rock quarry contract increased by \$500,000 to \$8.5 million. The other contract amounts are \$400,000 for granite construction, \$1.4 million for slope protection, and \$5.7 million for dewatering. DWR has submitted claims to FEMA for reimbursement. There are still some state inspectors on site and some sampling going on at Jones Tract.

Sergio Guillen of the California Bay Delta Authority (CBDA) passed out forms to be filled out by subcommittee members and submitted to DWR Flood Management for preparation of the Jones Tract after-action report. (See attachment 5)

Dave Mraz mentioned that he and others saw a demonstration of a magnetic anomaly device to explore levees recently. A survey was done on Staten Island which found artifacts, pipe crossings, and seepage areas. DWR is exploring the idea of using this technology with a small contract. Dave will see a demonstration of a temperature survey in the next few weeks and he will let us know the results at our next meeting.

Bob Clark of CCVFCA passed out a meeting notice from The County of Sacramento Emergency Operations Office for a disaster mitigation meeting scheduled for August 18, 2004 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Jean Harvie Center in Walnut Grove. The meeting notice is addressed to all reclamation districts. (See attachment 6)

Gil Cosio mentioned that three islands in Suisun Marsh have recently overtopped. On Van Sickle Island there was a big berm blowout and MBK Engineers are trying new

technologies to get something in place of the berm. As a result there may be some small Special Projects requests to do surveys.

Marci mentioned that a case of the West Nile Virus was found in Dixon last Tuesday which may have some effect on how the Suisun Marsh is operated.

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

Mark Philipp of DFG said that they are receiving Subventions applications for '04-'05. DFG is working with DWR on CEQA and CESA compliance for the New Hope and McCormack projects. They are also assisting DWR on the planting plan for Decker Island Phase II. The ongoing bathymetric survey and fish monitoring will continue on Decker Island Phase II. An encouraging aspect of the planting project is that they can scale back on what they planned to do. Decker Island flooded on June 2, 2004, the day before the Jones Tract levee break, and there is natural plant recruitment going on. Black willow and cottonwood trees are coming back naturally. A field trip could be planned to see Decker Island. There is access to a state parks boat at Brannan Andrus Island State Park.

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 was not present. Marci said that Tom prepared the letter he mentioned at the last meeting and delivered it to BDPAC. The letter essentially asked for more time for completion of the Levee Program Plan in light of the Jones Tract levee failure. Marci has been asked to appear on August 11, 2004 at the next BDPAC meeting to explain the levee subcommittee position. It appears the changes that Tom requested to the program plan have been made and Tom has endorsed the revised program plan.

Margit had heard that the Authority was developing an Emergency Response Plan. This may be something being initiated by Senator Machado because Authority staff has not heard of this yet. Margit mentioned that a follow-up memo on lessons learned would be helpful to this subcommittee. If a report comes out of DWR Flood Management on lessons learned after Jones Tract it would be helpful to the Risk Assessment Study.

There has been a contract extension approval for the Risk Assessment Study. A work plan has been submitted on Phase II which is currently being reviewed by DWR and Authority staff. No report has yet been submitted on Phase I. Sergio mentioned that one

positive aspect of the Jones Tract levee break is that since the break interest by state water contractors in funding the risk assessment study has substantially increased.

Mike Myatt of the Authority was present to discuss the 10-Year Finance Plan. The stakeholders have talked through the processes. A bottom-up approach is being taken. Trying to frame the issues is the first step. The driving force for the plan is the Governor's budget January 10TH. Proposals need to be in by mid-November. In the next month the Authority will meet with key people in the levee program to discuss key issues. The three key issues regarding funding are: boaters, water users (exporters), and the role of the federal government.

Margit had some ideas for additional resources in the Delta. The State Lands Commission sells leases for sand extraction, and gas royalties that go to the state could be recycled in the Delta for the good of the Delta. Payment in lieu of taxes was another idea. Some lands in the Delta are owned by entities that don't have to pay local taxes. In lieu of taxes they potentially could offer some resources to the Delta.

Mike handed out the 10-Year Finance Plan proposed Schedule, Process and Work Products (See attachment 7) Kate Hansel of the Authority will lead the finance meetings. Mike will give our levee subcommittee an update at our next meeting on September 3rd. The next Authority meeting will be in October. A staff proposal on the finance plan will be needed as a placeholder in the Governor's budget. One big issue to be resolved is how the levee program should be organized. Marci will notify those interested of the next Finance Plan meeting.

The Delta Improvements Package (DIP) was revised to add a section on levees. It also states the levee program will be implemented in conformance with the program plan. The DIP will be discussed on the second day at the next Authority meeting.

2. Bay-Delta Program Update

See items discussed under Item 1.

3. Adjournment

The next meeting will be held Friday, September 3rd at 9:00 a.m. in the Resources Building, Room 435. The meeting adjourned at approx. 11:00 a.m.