

Delta Levees and Habitat Advisory Committee &  
California Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee  
Delta Levees and Habitat Subcommittee  
Friday, October 3, 2003  
Room 435, Resources Building  
Draft Meeting Notes

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

Bob Orcutt of the Department of Fish and Game called the meeting to order at 9:03 am. The list of attendees is attached. Margit reminded attendees to vote on Tuesday.

**2. Minutes from last meeting**

Bob will send the recorder a clarification of the salt marsh harvest mouse issue, for the record.

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

Dave Mraz of the Department of Water Resources gave the monthly Subventions report. For fiscal year 2001-02 subventions there are outstanding payments to 13 Reclamation Districts, covering 63% of eligible costs. The districts are Byron Tract, Fay Island, Jersey Island, Lower Jones, Little Mandeville, Woodward, McDonald, Medford, Quimby, Upper Roberts, Sergeant Barnhart and Sherman Island. For fiscal year 2002-03, final claims have been received from 26 R.D.'s with total costs of \$5.2 million. The program should be able to fully fund (at 75%) all of the claims. The Reclamation Board approved the fiscal year 2003-04 plan at its September meeting.

Dave presented a handout (#1) showing adjustments to the standard work agreement form that is used by the subventions program. It includes clarifications necessary due to changes in the California Water Code. These adjustments result in no change in procedures.

Proposition 50 funds have been released; staff is working to get payments through to the R.D.'s.

In response to a request made at the last meeting, Dave Mraz and Dave Lawson of DWR gave a briefing on funding procedures and how priorities are set. (Handout #2). All eligible R.D.'s have equal priority for receiving funds. DWR staff separates out maintenance and rehabilitation costs. Maintenance gets top priority, followed by rehabilitation. The law requires that \$1,000 per levee mile be subtracted from the requested amount. The Reclamation Board has the right to set priorities, but so far has not done so. Wildlife habitat work takes third priority, followed by hazard mitigation, and then rehabilitation work in excess of Bulletin 192-82. Preliminary procedures are accessible on the website in greater detail. Discussion followed, focusing on the most frequently used procedures and calculations and reimbursement rates. Margit Aramburu from The Delta Protection Commission noted that there is an allowance

under rehabilitation work for recreation funding. Shore fishing access is one of the issues that will continue to come up. This is an Item for future discussion. The remainder of the handout reflects the report that is presented to the Reclamation Board, followed by actual reimbursement amounts. There was discussion of the tendency of initial application amounts to be over inflated. One of the reasons for this over-inflation is the anticipation of future flood events. The difference between the amount on the application and final claim payment is significant. Discussion followed on how the funding decisions are made: chief considerations are the ability to pay and the current land use. The Reclamation Board may need an additional briefing on this process leading up to next year.

At 9:55, Bob Orcutt requested and received consent from the group to extend the DLHAC portion of the meeting, since the BDPAC co-chairs were not present.

Bill Burkhard of DWR gave a presentation on the emergency response program. Flood Fight Boxes are being distributed around various locations throughout the Delta. These are 22 by 8 by 8 containers that are designed to be transported by waste haulers. The Boxes contain supplies for flood fighting, and will be positioned at fire stations and garbage-haulers' corporation yards for quick deployment during emergencies. Some are mobile and some are semi-mobile. They can also be carried by Chinook helicopters. The keys will be at the fire stations or yards, and the key holders will be responsible for contents. The number to the 24-hour response line is (916) 651-9830. Dave Mraz' emergency cell phone number is (916) 834-4697, and Curt Schmutte's emergency cell phone number is (916) 761-9859.

On November 25, an emergency management training demo will take place at the DWR Training Center at 13<sup>th</sup> & R Streets. Actors are needed. Contact Bill Burkhard at (916) 651-7010 for more information.

In response to a question from Dave Breninger about a vulnerability assessment for the Delta, Curt Schmutte noted that a seismic risk study is being updated by the Bay-Delta Authority, and a Delta Area Command is being formed among the 6 counties in the Delta.

Special projects report: work on the "Triple Decker" project involving Bradford, Jersey, and Van Sickle Islands is underway.

Curt reported that the Dutch Slough land deal will close in 2 weeks. Two consulting firms, EDAW, Inc. and Phil Williams and Associates have been selected for this restoration project.

The DWR Levees and North Delta website is being updated to make it more useful. The Flooded Island contract package is in the approval process. Franks Tract is getting a lot of attention due to the salt mixing that is taking place as a result of its flooding. Good progress is being made on the North Delta Program, which involves degradation of an eastside levee and water detention on Staten Island. DWR staff has discussed the program with the Chief Deputy Director.

Curt described an economic risk plan that is being developed within his Branch to examine the potential economic effects of seismic activity, floods, tides, winds, and geotechnical issues in order to achieve economic risk reduction. They are trying to use GIS capability to address progress in a risk-based manner, with the goal of reducing the error band in risk reduction. The GIS system should be ready in three months.

#### **4. Update on Department of Fish and Game AB 360 Activities**

Bob Orcutt and Mark Philipp helped train DWR employees about the AB 360 Program, and made presentations to the Reclamation Board and to the Delta Protection Commission. DFG has received 26 final subvention claims, and has received a Notification of Streambed Alteration for the Decker Island Phase II Project. DFG will be working with other fisheries biologists to monitor the effects of different channel velocities on water hyacinth and egeria. On land, DFG will be looking at the difference between the success of selective planting techniques and relying on natural colonization.

DFG may lose one of its three staff on this program due to layoff.

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

#### **1. CALFED BDPAC levee Subcommittee Co-Chair Report**

Since the co-chairs were not present, the report was given by Patricia Fernandez and Eugenia Laychak. The CALFED programs are being asked to write a one-page report on re-working the ROD (Record of Decision) goals. A finance-related Framework & Issues Report is in the meeting packet for the BDPAC meeting next week; it's also available on web. A draft report on long-term finance options will be out in 2004.

Meetings are planned for October 22 to focus on seismic risk. Two groups are meeting: a working group and a steering committee group.

The co-chairs are working on a policy framework plan similar to the one the Drinking Water Subcommittee has produced. The California Bay-Delta Authority will adopt the Drinking Water Policy Framework and will ask the other subcommittees to consider it. Staff is recommending adoption of this resolution.

Ron Ott announced that regional profiles will be included in next year's program plan. This is part of the State Water Plan Update (Bulletin 160). The draft is out for comments, and can be found on the Water Plan Update portion of the DWR website. CBDA is meeting next Thursday.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. The next meeting will be held on November 7, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., in Room 435 in the Resources Building.