

Draft Public Meeting Notes

Friday, February 4, 2005

Delta Levees Habitat Advisory Committee

Bob Orcutt, Chair

1. Announcements

Workshop for dredge material reuse in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta on February 17th, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM (CVWRCB).

2. Minutes from January 7, 2005

Minutes were approved without revision.

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

US Army Corps of Engineers: Paul Bowers (USACE) announced that on Monday, February 7th, the Federal budget will be released. Eric Nagy will be working on Delta issues on behalf of the Corps.

Tom Zuckerman asked if there is money for maintenance in the Federal budget, and if some funds could be directed to the US Bureau of Reclamation. Paul Bowers responded that he does not know if the USBR has authorization for maintenance. (The Corps is only authorized to do studies, construction, and specific O&M of their projects, but does not have authorization for maintenance.)

Department of Water Resources: David Mraz (DWR) reported that the California Reclamation Board is taking a more active role in the Subventions Program. There will be a Reclamation Board meeting on February 11, which includes a tour of Jones Tract. Dave announced an underwater mapping side-scanning sonar demonstration to be held by the Brannan-Andrus Levee Maintenance District on February 15, 10:00 to 11:30 AM at the Isleton Community Center.

DWR put out a letter of interest (without commitment) to the reclamation districts regarding electromagnetic surveys. Response from reclamation districts could take some time since some boards need to approve action. Deadline is March 1 to Office of Emergency Services.

Dave reported that there was a crack found at Twitchell Island by using TDR technology (cable). This system uses telemetry to send information to a centralized computer. It is capable of detecting general movement of the levees, as well as more precise deformations when adding inclinometers.

Curt Schmutte (DWR) gave a briefing on his presentation of the Levees Program at the Water Management Science Board meeting in January. The North Delta Program is re-evaluating program benefits reuse. He reported progress on Decker Island.

Kent Nelson (DWR), reporting on Decker Island, said that Phase I (which started before CALFED) was finished three years ago, and Phase II (which has had some CALFED) involvement opened 11 acres last summer. He stated that this project could serve as a laboratory for CALFED as a pilot project.

4. Franks Tract

Franks Tract: Katherine Kelly (DWR) presented a briefing on Franks Tract explaining the importance of the Tract for water quality and salinity diffusion in the Delta. She clarified that although the Delta Program in DWR moved to the Division of Flood Management, the Franks Tract and the South Delta Programs stayed in the Delta Planning Office due to their importance to Delta hydrodynamics. Don Kurosaka will be the Program Manager for the Franks Tract Program.

Tom Zuckerman requested that the Frank's Tract Program be included in DWR's Comprehensive Plan Evaluation.

The Flooded Islands Feasibility Study is to evaluate the feasibility and potential impacts of improving water quality in the Central and South Delta, restoring ecosystem, and developing recreational opportunities on Franks Tract, Big Break, and Lower Sherman Island. The plan includes different options using gates and levees.

5. Department of Fish and Game Update on SB 34/AM 360 Program

Bob Orcutt (DFG) reported that the 46 inspections for subventions and three streambed alteration agreements were completed last month, and one routine maintenance agreement is close to completion. They are reviewing emergency work at this time. DFG is trying to keep up with invasive weeds, both on land and in the water.

6. Dredge Reuse in the Delta

Roberta Goulart (Contra Costa County Water Agency) reported the short-term goals for the Delta LTMS Program. She stated that they need support letters for the Corps' \$90 million levee work and for the Delta LTMS Program. Margit Aramburu stated that since this program matches CALFED's goals, the issue should be taken to the Authority to request funding, staffing, as well as a better permitting process.

**California Bay-Delta Advisory Committee
Levees Subcommittee**

Marci Coglianese and Thomas Zuckerman, Co-Chairs

1. BDPAC Levee Subcommittee Co-Chairs Report

Tom Zuckerman opened the meeting stating that coordination of permits needs to be addressed as CALFED gets an increasing number of projects. He informed that at the joint BDPAC-Authority meeting there will be two items of interest from DWR: 1) an overview of DWR's flood control plan white paper, and 2) a presentation of DWR's Comprehensive Plan Evaluation.

Comprehensive Plan Evaluation: Dr. Les Harder (DWR) has received few comments on the outline for the CPE. He would like comments as soon as possible to start the process. Dr. Harder clarified the State's flood control plan (DWR's flood control white paper) and what the plan states about levees.

Tom Zuckerman raised a concern about the CPE competing with the Subvention Program for resources. Marci Coglianese also expressed concerns about the outcome of the plan. Les Harder replied that the funding for the CPE is coming from State operations. Tom indicated that CALFED's Finance Plan includes funding and discussion of potential funding sources for the program.

June Workshop: The workshop will be held on Monday, June 6, 2005, in Stockton. There were concerns from participants about covering only local interest topics, and excluding Suisun Marsh. Tom and Marci assured the attendees that the objective of the workshop is to present a balanced perspective of Delta issues.

2. Bay-Delta Levee Program Update (Authority Report)

Performance Measures: Tom Gohring (CBDA) presented a short briefing of performance measures. There are two main points: 1) the Science Program sees opportunities in performance measures for adaptive management, and 2) the performance measures will connect actions to objectives. The Authority is not interested in measuring progress with dollars. Instead, other measurable actions should be identified. A more detailed presentation will take place at the next subcommittee meeting.

Marci Coglianese expressed concerns that the performance measures draft document does not express the interests of this subcommittee.

Program Plans: Dave Mraz handed out the initial draft of the annual program plan. The plan will be reviewed by Authority staff. A new draft will be presented at the next

meeting. There was discussion about the total cost of Jones Tract breach repair. DWR will present the total estimated cost at the April meeting.

2. Public Comment

Roberta Goulart suggested that work windows be addressed in the proposed LTMS Program.

Action Items

1) Delta Levees and Habitat Advisory Committee Meeting:

- Schedule discussion of Flooded Islands Study (Franks Tract)

2) CALFED BDPAC Levee Program Subcommittee:

- Post meeting notes in the Authority's web page
- Attach agenda to minutes in electronic mailing
- Provide actual cost of Jones Tract repair (April meeting)

Future topics of discussion

- Franks Tract Update
- Update on June Workshop
- Performance Measures
- Costs of Jones Tract Levee Breach (April)
- Update on Comprehensive Plan Evaluation
- Draft Revised Program Plan