

Public Meeting Notes

Friday, July 1, 2005

Delta Levees Habitat Advisory Committee

Bob Orcutt, Chair

California Bay-Delta Advisory Committee

Levees Subcommittee

Marci Coglianese and Thomas Zuckerman, Co-Chairs

1. Announcements

This is a joint BDPAC/DLHAC meeting. Margit Aramburu was presented a plaque by DWR's Dave Mraz in recognition of her numerous years devoted to the Delta.

2. Minutes from June 3, 2005

There were no changes to the minutes from the last meeting.

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

California Department of Water Resources

Dave Mraz from DWR reported that to date DWR has received 32 applications. They will continue accepting applications until applications are presented to the State Reclamation Board in the near future.

There were \$12.1 million in 58 claims for fiscal year 2003 – 04, with about \$2,000 left to disperse.

For future claims, DWR will set new standards to apply for grant extensions. Also, there should be an improved procedure to demonstrate the amounts of levee miles that achieve the minimum PL84-99 standard. At this time it is a requirement to keep track of this information, but it is not being reinforced.

The LiDAR (laser-based topographic technology) surveys to map the Delta by DWR scheduled to take place this summer has been postponed for at least a year.

Regarding legislation, the second amendment of SB-264 took out the 2010 extension of the Levees Program (a \$5 million program). DWR's Director, Lester Snow, has made the commitment to look for funding for the program. In a previous meeting, Joe Grindstaff also made the commitment to Marci Coglianese and Tom Zuckerman to ensure that the Levees Program is placed as priority in the CALFED Program.

California Department of Fish and Game: Bob Orcutt reported that his department completed the routine maintenance agreement for Winter Island. With this agreement in place, work can be performed within the framework of the agreement without consulting with the Department of Fish and Game, though we are always happy to coordinate.

4. BDPAC Levee Subcommittee Co-Chairs Report

Marci Coglianesse provide a briefing on the June 6 Levees Workshop held in Stockton. The workshop attendance was impressive, with all seats sold out. Tom Zuckerman reported that there have been informal conversations about having more workshops of this kind. One topic of interest would be a 100-year vision for the Delta.

Marci and Tom reported on the Authority meeting. The Levees Subcommittee of the Independent Science Board presented their work at the meeting. There is a request to look for a new Lead Scientist. Due to the re-shaping of the CALFED program, the Authority Board and Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee meetings will be held monthly. Some of these meeting will be combined.

Steve Chappelle and Victor Pacheco provided a presentation on behalf of the Suisun Resource Conservation District. The presentation provided a background/history of the marsh and development of the long-term plan for the marsh that is included in the Delta Program. The presentation focused in the integration with CALFED programs including ecosystem restoration, water quality and levees. This integration was demonstrated by the timeline that not only identified actions in the marsh, but also inclusion of Suisun Marsh levees in previous CALFED documents such as the Record of Decision and the PEIR/EIS. Victor Pacheco covered the timeline of actions related to Suisun Marsh.

5. Program Plan Update

The draft Program Plan presented by Dave Mraz reflects minor changes from the previous version. However, it was acknowledged that the finance tables need additional work. The group reiterated that they oppose the use of Subvention Program funds to fund the Delta Risk Management Strategy that DWR is preparing. The funding table should be presented with a footnote stating this fact.

6. Implementing Agencies Report

Department of Water Resources

The Delta Risk Management Strategy team has not held any meetings. DWR is continuing to work on the contracts to provide support for the study. The group requested a more detailed report on the DRMS study progress for next meeting.

US Army Corps of Engineers

The budget process reflects \$900,000 more for the Delta Islands Study. However, the budget does not include funds for attending meetings. There are some questions regarding the funding for the Delta Long-Term Management Strategy, but the study is going ahead.

California Bay-Delta Authority

The report on the timeline of work for Suisun Marsh from Sergio Guillen was not necessary since Victor Pacheco presented it in more detail under Item 4.

Bay-Delta Science Consortium Briefing

Ladd Lougee of the Bay-Delta Consortium provided a briefing on their work. There was discussion about convening a scientific workshop on key levees issues. The consensus of the committee was that it is worth exploring this idea, and the discussion will continued at the August meeting. Tom Zuckerman suggested that this kind of workshop could be in combination with the Levees Workshop to take place in June 2006.

7. Public Comment

There was a request to provide more details for tracking the cubic yards per year of soil used for maintenance. This tracking should include figures for regular maintenance and emergency response.

Action Items

- 1) Delta Levees and Habitat Advisory Committee Meeting:
None
- 2) CALFED BDPAC Levee Program Subcommittee:
 - Delta Risk Management Strategy Briefing
 - Bring more detail on tracking projects
 - Discussion of Delta Levees workshop and science
 - The subcommittee co-chairs are to communicate to BDPAC the Subcommittee's dissatisfaction with the lack of on-going funding for the Subventions Program, and diversion of funds to other studies.