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**A. Introduction**

The Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) calls for DWR to work with local flood management agencies to prepare detailed Regional Flood Management Plans (RFMPs) that, at a minimum, identify and articulate the following:

- Describe flood management challenges and deficiencies at the regional level including operations and maintenance practices, levee and channel inspection, and emergency response plans.
- Propose potential solutions/projects identified by local public agencies and interest groups for the region, projects’ costs, and prioritization of the solutions/projects (e.g., enhanced operations and maintenance, emergency response, and floodplain management).
- Propose financial strategies that identify benefits of the projects and sources of the funding for implementation of the projects.

The purpose of the regional planning effort is to build upon the CVFPP by obtaining more region-specific information and local input for long term implementation of a sustainable and integrated flood risk reduction program in the Mid-San Joaquin River Region. The RFMP effort will partner with resource agencies, local governments, levee maintenance agencies, flood emergency responders, stakeholders and property owners with the DWR and Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) to identify and prioritize the Region’s needs and projects related to integrated regional flood management. The result will be an identification of prioritized actions to reduce flood risk in urban and urbanizing areas, small communities, rural-agricultural areas and sensitive resource areas through a combination of

improvements to the flood protection system for implementation over the long term (next 25 years or so).

This Program Charter will describe the scope and deliverables of the Mid-San Joaquin River RFMP; identify the RFMP stakeholders, management team, and consultant support team and their roles; present the anticipated development schedule and process; and describe the RFMP protocols and ground rules.

## **B. Charge and Deliverables**

DWR encourages the formation of regional working groups to prepare the RFMPs. The Mid SJR RFMP will be developed with input from a Regional Working Group comprised of Regional Stakeholders that include representatives of resource agencies, local governments, levee maintenance agencies, flood emergency responders, stakeholders, and property owners that are knowledgeable about the flood risks and potential solutions within their flood region. The charge of the Regional Working Group is to provide input on the RFMP so that it reflects local conditions and the flood management vision of the region.

Ten workshops will be held for the Regional Working Group to discuss and develop the RFMP. Each workshop will discuss at least two sections of the RFMP, starting one and concluding another, where the RFMP sections will be presented once in draft form and another in final form. The final product of the input and discussions that occur during the ten workshops will be the Mid SJR RFMP.

A desirable outcome of the Mid SJR RFMP process is the development of a formal or ad hoc group to continue into the future, collaborating to implement the vision of the RFMP, the projects identified in the RFMP, and guide and support overall flood management of the Mid San Joaquin River region. While not a specific charge of the RFMP, it is an outcome that we expect the RFMP process to inspire and support.

## **C. Membership/Participants**

Preparation of the RFMP will be managed by the Regional Partners, consisting of RD 2092 and Stanislaus County, assisted by DWR staff and the ESA PWA consultant team. The Regional Working Group will consist of all active participants in the development of the Mid SJR RFMP. The Regional Working Group will provide input to develop the RFMP. Sixteen stakeholder groups and organizations have submitted official commitment letters for the development of the RFMP, and these groups have direct and prior involvement in flood planning, including development of the CVFPP and/or through their professional roles in organizations. Regional Stakeholders and all parties interested in the development of the RFMP are invited to join the Regional Working Group. Anticipated Regional Working Group members include:

- Resource agencies such as the US Fish and Wildlife Service, East Stanislaus Regional Water Management Partnership, as well as the Oakdale, West Stanislaus, Del Puerto, Patterson, El Solyo, and Modesto Irrigation Districts;

- Local governments, including Stanislaus County and the Cities of Modesto, Patterson, Newman, and Turlock;
- Levee maintenance agencies, including RD 2092 and RD 2063;
- Flood emergency agencies, including DWR and Stanislaus County Public Works;
- Interested stakeholders such as Tuolumne River Trust and Sierra Club; and
- Interested property owners, such as Mapes Ranch.

## D. Roles and Responsibilities

**DWR:** Provides relevant and updated information and data such as the GIS layers and electronic files for the Regional Atlas.

**Regional Partners** (RD 2092 and Stanislaus County, assisted by ESA PWA consultant team): Works with DWR and Regional Stakeholders to provide relevant information to the Technical Team for the RFMP; provides coordination services throughout the project period to ensure broad stakeholder involvement within the region and the neighboring regions; ensures that all relevant perspectives are articulated in the RFMP; provides document review and guidance to the Technical Team; and responsible for executing the Charter.

**Technical Team** (ESA PWA consultant team): provides technical support to RD 2092 and Stanislaus County in planning, public outreach, and technical services in preparation of the Mid SJR RFMP; and produces the draft and final sections of the Mid SJR RFMP.

**Outreach Team** (led by Kearns & West staff and East Stanislaus County Resource Conservation District staff, assisted by ESA PWA staff and Julie Rentner of RD 2092): Engages a broad range of stakeholders that are interested and/or affected by the development of the Mid SJR RFMP and its implementation.

**Regional Working Group** (listed above under C. Membership/Participants): contributes expertise, data and information to develop the Mid SJR RFMP; reviews and provides comments on the Mid SJR RFMP; and represents various interests in the region and serves as the liaison to communicate information to and from their organizations and constituencies.

**Facilitation Support** (Kearns & West): Provides neutral leadership to the dialogue process and meeting management, which means they will not try to promote a particular outcome for the process; advocates for the process and works to keep the Technical Team and Outreach Team within scope and follow the terms of the Charter; and actively suggests methods to accomplish tasks and oversees preparation of meeting summaries.

## E. Decision-Making within Regional Working Group

This is an advisory rather than a final decision making group. The Regional Working Group and Regional Partners will use a consensus-seeking approach and work diligently to find common ground on issues.

## F. Schedule and Work Plan

The Regional Partners, Technical Team, Outreach Team, and the Regional Working Group will implement the proposed Work Plan and adhere to the 18-month schedule to the best of their ability. However, the project effort may require adjustment as the project process unfolds.

The Regional Working Group will convene at least ten times starting in July 2013 and is expected to continue through July 2014. Attendance at workshops and/or timely provision of comments and information is critical to ensuring the group completes its work on the RFMP according to schedule.

## G. Protocols and Meeting Ground Rules

### Protocols

- All Working Group members agree to act in good faith in all aspects of this process and to communicate their interests.
- Working Group members agree not to make commitments they do not intend to keep.
- Parties will act consistently in other forums where similar topics are being discussed, including sessions with the press.
- Working Group members agree to make a concerted effort to provide requested information or to explain the reason why not.
- Meeting notes will be prepared with a focus on key points, ideas, and action items rather than as transcripts. Unless very specific to understanding the content, references will generally be made to the content rather than the members.

### Meeting Ground Rules

- Use common conversational courtesy. Don't interrupt each other, use appropriate language, and avoid side conversations.
- Humor is welcome but should never be at someone else's expense.
- Stay focused on the charge and deliverables. There are many related issues and topics that could be discussed. Such topics will be noted, but will not be the focus of discussions.
- Focus on the substantive issues, not on formatting, structure, or wordsmithing. The most helpful input will be advice on how to best address the key issues, not how to organize the document.
- All ideas and points have value. The purpose of the Regional Working Group is to share ideas and capture various perspectives. All ideas have value in this setting. If you believe another approach is better, offer it as a constructive alternative. Please avoid ascribing motives to others.
- Members have a right to change their minds as information is discussed and conditions change.
- Turn cell phones or other electronics off or to silent mode. If you do not believe you will be able to participate fully, please discuss your situation with one of the facilitators.
- Honor time. We have ambitious meeting agendas, so please follow the time guidelines provided by the facilitator.