

Flood Management Working Group Meeting #8

MEETING NOTES

January 26, 2017

Location:

Stanislaus County Ag Center
3800 Cornucopia Way
Modesto, CA

10:00am – 12:00pm

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Update on RFMP Activities

- a. Dennett Dam Removal secured a grant that will be sufficient to remove the dam. This project was highest priority on the RFMP list.
 - b. River Partners received a grant for planning permitting for the Stokman property, just downstream of Grayson, which was recently purchased. This property is 280 acres in size and it abuts the Grayson project. River Partners plans to reach out to the Grayson community for feedback, and they anticipate that the project can be completed within the next 5-10 years.
 - c. ESA and Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services (OES) have been discussing the grant funding of some Emergency Response initiatives, but has yet gotten underway.
 - d. The levee project for Reclamation District (RD) 2091 just got approval for \$7 million to repair five sites where boils appeared. This \$7 million amount is based on Department of Water Resources (DWR) funding with a local match, and it is under the Flood System Repair Program (FSRP).
 - e. DWR is expected to make funding decisions on the Small Communities Flood Risk Reduction Program, to which Stanislaus County submitted an application to do a feasibility study for the Grayson Project, towards the end of February and early March.
 - f. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) just received approval to extend the National Wildlife boundary from the San Joaquin River to the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge. It would allow for more management possibilities for parcels located within a mile of this boundary.
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3. Draft 2017 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) Update

a. DWR Presentation

i. DWR gave us an overview of the steps that have led to the CVFPP Update, which is a strategic, long-range planning document focused on flood management in the Central Valley. The Flood Act of 2008 acknowledged the fact that California and the Central Valley are at a risk of catastrophic flood system failure, and this legislation originally directed DWR to create the CVFPP. It was first adopted in 2012. Now, as with every five years, the CVFPP requires an update.

1. Key concerns include urban growth and development, habitat preservation, and achieving multiple goals. The primary goal is still to improve flood management, but there are supporting goals as well.
2. The 2017 CVFPP Update refines the State system-wide investment approach and lays out the plan for the next 30 years. It contains a wide array of updated descriptions for actions.
3. This update involved collaboration with local, State, and federal partners. This was a stakeholder driven process. DWR has worked hard to change the more “top-down” perception. This meeting and the RFMPs are examples of a bottom-up approach: working with agencies, NGOs, property owners, the relationships that DWR has built.
4. There is a coordinating committee comprised of RFMP groups, SJAFCA, federal/State/local studies, Yolo Bypass Partnership that meets monthly. This engagement is spearheaded by the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB).

ii. Key Assessments

1. Conservation Strategy

- a. This is a key supporting document, and it is embedded into all four chapters of the CVFPP Update.
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2. Regional Flood Management Plans (RFMP)

- a. Originally nine regions, but the list has been refined to six. Each region tells DWR what its specific challenges are through its RFMP, and this effort has been critical for the CVFPP Update. More than 500 projects totaling approximately \$14 billion in improvements have been identified in this process.
- b. Not all management actions identified in the RFMPs are consistent with the goals and policies of the CVFPP, but DWR considered all collected RFMP information when developing the plan update.

iii. Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basinwide Feasibility Studies (BWFS)

1. The BWFS made for these two regions greatly informed the CVFPP Update. These documents offer the potential to bolster system resiliency and complement smaller-scale actions.

iv. OMRR&R Workgroup Technical Memo

1. After the 2012 CVFPP, DWR needed to review the cost of the maintaining system.
2. State and local agencies are spending \$30 million annually on maintenance. If you look at the full cost of what needs to be spent to adequately do OMRR&R, it's nearly \$130 million.

v. Investment Strategy

1. A financial plan is currently being prepared that accounts for the proposed investments in the Draft 2017 CVFPP Update, as well as explaining the need for actions, historical funding, fed funding, state partnering for funding, and bond funding (such as Prop 1E and 84).
 2. The central challenge in developing the financial plan is that many potential challenges may exist. Thus, multiple scenarios were developed.
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3. In 2012, implementation of the CVFPP (total capital and ongoing investments was estimated at \$14-17 million. With the 2017 CVFPP Update, it is estimated at \$17.43 to 21.3 million for total capital and ongoing investments. Potential State Funding Mechanisms
 - a. Existing State funds: General Fund, General Obligation Bonds, Sacramento/San Joaquin Drainage district (state program but local revenue source administered by state) – drainage district boundaries are already well defined in Water Code, but it hasn't been used since the 1930s. We would need to change the Water Code to use it.
4. Potential Federal and Local Funding Mechanisms
 - a. US Army Corps of Engineers: Water Resource Development Act
 - b. Federal Emergency Management Authority (FEMA): the State receives about \$5 million a year.
 - c. Ecosystem programs: the Federal government has said that they want multipurpose projects. CVIFMS San Joaquin is in budget to kick off. Benefit: look at ecosystem, water system, tell flood story from a San Joaquin River perspective.
5. Comment period for CVFPP Update will end on Friday, March 31, 2017.

b. Mid San Joaquin Region Highlights

Betty discussed how the RFMP factors into the 2017 CVFPP Update. The CVFPP update is looking at systemwide changes, and thus local projects are not called out. However, Mid San Joaquin River projects that have systemwide implications include increasing objective release capacity at Don Pedro Reservoir to assist the reoperation of the Tuolumne River system, the Dos Rios project, and the Three Amigos project. The CVFPP Update also includes support for emergency management actions and operations and maintenance.

4. Next Steps

We anticipate that the next Flood Workgroup meeting will be in late April. Save-the-date message will be sent out soon.