

Flood Management Working Group Meeting #9

MEETING NOTES

April 13, 2017

Location:

Stanislaus County Ag Center
3800 Cornucopia Way
Modesto, CA

10:00am – 12:00pm

1. Welcome and Introductions

- a. This is the second to last meeting; in reflection, because of DWR funding and the leadership of RD 2092 and Stanislaus County, the group was able to create a forum to engage the community in talking and thinking about flood management over the last four years.

2. High-water Events that Occurred in February

- a. ESA Presentation: 2017 hydrograph and peak flows on the San Joaquin and Tuolumne in the context of past major floods; the Don Pedro spillway opened for the first time in 20 years; high-water, canal overtopped in San Joaquin National Wildlife Refuge, flooding the site. Levee was breached deliberately to reduce water levels, maintain Riparian Brush Rabbit habitat and population.
 - b. Working Group Experience/Highlights of Flooding
 - i. Stanislaus County (public works) closed Grayson Road; bridge approaches were flooded, cutting off one side of the County.
 - ii. Stanislaus County (OES) received a call to pull a trailer out of the mud; they utilized lessons learned and strategies from the 1997 flood to support response efforts. Stan County OES has drone footage of flooding that they will make available to the group.
 - iii. In Newman, water approached the levee near the wastewater treatment facility; the City and County coordinated well to ensure timely debris removal, minimize flooding.
 - iv. San Joaquin County evacuated rural areas up to the floodplain experienced in 1997.
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- v. RD 1602 lost 500-600 acres of crops; clay section of levee was fine, but they reinforced the section of sand levee where sloughing occurred.
- vi. Dos Rios was very wet; monitored activity across the river.

3. Update on RFMP Activities and the 2017 CVFPP

- a. The comment period closed on 3/31/17 and Central Valley Flood Protection Board will address late comments, if possible. There were workshops scheduled in April and May in Sacramento/West Sacramento, including one with a focus on multi-benefit projects and the conservation strategy.
- b. On behalf of this working group, ESA submitted comments on four outstanding issues not addressed by the CVFPP: removal of SPFC facilities; sediment investigation on SJR; and role of NGOs in implementing the CVFPP. Also a request for climate change as flood management strategy driver to be included.
- c. Dennett Dam will be removed this year.
- d. Grayson Small Communities Flood Risk Reduction Grant was awarded on March 27 and provides funding for a feasibility study related to multi-benefit flood management. It is expected that the work will begin later this year.
- e. Stanislaus County is developing a Stormwater Regional Plan focused on reuse.
- f. Ran Singh of DWR presented on the new Deferred Maintenance Program, which is focused on inspecting problem pipes in levees and providing funding to fix it. Funding is not yet secured, but it is expected to be 100% covered by the state and the goal is a \$100 million program.

4. Presentation on Forecast Informed Operations: Boone Lek of DWR provided a recap of Don Pedro flood operations and discussed both Forecast-Coordinated and Forecast-Informed Operations initiatives at DWR. The PPT presentation is available on the RFMP website.

5. Flood Operations Grant Program: There may be a third round of funding, around \$5 million. It is possible this may come out later this year.

6. Next Steps

The Final Flood Workgroup meeting will be June 7, and will meet at the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge site to see the levee breach. In the meantime,

participants will consider whether they want to maintain this forum despite no further DWR funding.

