

CENTRAL VALLEY FLOOD PROTECTION BOARD

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

May 20, 2016



ENVIRONMENTAL BRANCH

Status Report and Work Activities

- **Yolo Bypass Core BiOp Planning**
 - Staff participated in a Yolo Bypass Planning and Environmental Compliance meeting on May 5th focusing on the progress of Early Implementation Projects related to Wallace Weir, Agricultural Crossings, and the Fremont Weir Adult Fish Passage Improvement Project. Additional coordination with the USACE on NEPA compliance under the 408 permitting process was discussed.

- **Conservation Strategy Advisory Committee**
 - Staff continues to support the Advisory Committee meetings and a draft recommendation is currently being developed by work group representatives based input on the following topics: 1) Flood Projects and Prioritization; 2) Permitting for Projects, and Operations and Maintenance (O&M); and 3) Regional Buy-in and Interest Group Buy-in. The next meeting of the Advisory Committee to review the draft document will be on June 9th.

- **Delta Levees and Habitat Advisory Committee**

Staff participated in the Delta Levees and Habitat Advisory Committee on May 6th.

 - Delta Levees Investment Strategy (DLIS) Update: The Delta Stewardship Council (DSC) will be finalizing the DLIS this summer, sections being completed includes levee habitat, agricultural land use and water supply.

 - Water hyacinth control – The Department of Parks, Division of Boating and Waterways are continuing to remove water hyacinth from the Port of Stockton. Next steps, includes continuing to work with Division of Boating and Waterways on maintenance authorizations for work within the Board's jurisdiction.

 - Delta Emergency Operations – There is an ongoing need to revise the invoicing process for emergency repair supplies such as rock. DWR will work with the maintaining agencies on improving the process.

 - Delta Levees Special Projects Program 2016 Multi-Benefit grant - The grant will fund projects that integrate levee improvement, habitat enhancement, emergency response, seismic resiliency, and export water supply reliability. Twenty three proposals valued at \$185,463,000 were submitted. Full proposals will be due May 27, 2016 for final award. Next steps, includes working with project proponents to submit encroachment permits for projects within the Board's jurisdiction.

- **San Joaquin Basin-Wide Feasibility Study**
 - Staff attended the Mid-San Joaquin River RFMP Briefing on April 12. Participants were presented with the San Joaquin BWFS Tentative Recommended Plan, which includes a portfolio of larger, multi-benefit projects while improving flood risk reduction. Factors increasing future flood events, including flood storage capacity, substandard levees, and insufficient channel capacity, were discussed. Staff will continue to participate in open dialogue between regions and DWR regarding the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) development process.

- **Western Pacific Interceptor Canal Culvert Replacement**
 - A Biological Assessment has been completed and is ready for USFWS review. Staff continues to move forward to obtain funding, which will allow for securing environmental permits, purchasing mitigation credits, and lastly, construction.

PERSONNEL

- On May 2nd, the CVFPB welcomed Senior Environmental Scientist Ruth Darling as a new staff member to the Environmental Branch. Ruth comes to us from the Environmental Support Branch of the Division of Flood Management. Ruth has several years of experience working on flood risk reduction planning and implementation projects, carried-out jointly by the Board, USACE and local partners. Ruth provided CEQA and environmental support for the Lower San Joaquin River Feasibility Study EIS/EIR, South Sacramento Streams Project, Marysville Ring Levee Project, the Folsom Dam Raise Project as well as the Joint Federal Project.