

Central Valley Flood Protection Board Meeting
May 20, 2016

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING

Yolo Bypass Flood System Improvements *(Jeremy Arrich, DWR)*

BRIEFING SUMMARY

Background

The 2012 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan prescribed development of two basin-wide feasibility studies; one for the Sacramento River Basin and another for the San Joaquin River Basin. The draft Sacramento BWFS recommends a suite of management actions (projects) for the Yolo Bypass that contribute to broad public values, including: 1) flood protection; 2) supporting a vibrant agricultural industry; 3) providing vital habitat to migrating fish and water fowl, and many other terrestrial and aquatic species; and 4) providing recreational opportunities. The vision for the Yolo Bypass is to deliver broad public values through a sustainable and resilient flood management system that improves flood protection, enhances the floodplain ecosystem, supports local economies, and serves as a model for public agency cooperation and achievement. The Yolo Bypass is a key feature of the Sacramento River Flood Control Project. It conveys 80 percent of the flood flows of the Sacramento Valley watershed during major floods and, in so doing, provides direct flood relief for the cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento, regional transportation infrastructure, small communities, agricultural lands, and other important assets.

Implementation of the Yolo Bypass system improvements will increase the ability of the flood management system to adapt to changing conditions. A phased approach is needed to accommodate for agencies' implementation capacities, financial constraints, physical system limitations, agency priorities, stakeholder interests, and coordination needed with State Water Project and Central Valley Project Delta Operations regarding implementation of Biological Opinion actions. Implementation will be a collaborative process among State, federal, and local agencies. The Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will play an important role in implementation of the Yolo Bypass improvements, including permitting and approval of all activities in the Yolo Bypass.

An overview of near-term implementation in the Yolo Bypass including phasing, projects, features, locations, partners, milestone schedules and coordination efforts will be covered in this briefing.

Current Status

- During the summer and fall of 2016, geotechnical, biological, and cultural data is being gathered.
- Local agencies and stakeholders continue to be engaged to discuss the project purpose, range of potential footprints, constraints, benefits, impacts, and the implementation process including schedule.
- The Department of Water Resources (DWR) continues to engage the CVFPB and the USACE in the planning and preliminary permitting processes.

Next Steps

- The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Notice of Preparation is estimated to be issued in June/July 2016.
- DWR will continue to gather information in the field to inform CEQA documentation and project permitting requirements.
- DWR will engage USACE and CVFPB to begin scoping the technical work required to obtain a 33 USC Section 408 system alteration permit.