

CENTRAL VALLEY FLOOD PROTECTION BOARD

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

June 24, 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 June 2nd focusing on the progress of Early Implementation Projects related to Wallace Weir, Agricultural Crossings, and the Fremont Weir Adult Fish Passage Improvement Project. An encroachment permit for the Wallace Weir Fish Passage Project is expected to be presented for Board approval in July 2016.
- **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 on 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 July 7th.
- **2017 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan Update – Supplemental PEIR**
 - Staff began review of the stakeholder and agency comments on the Notice of Preparation. Environmental staff will provide updates to the Board in the future on activities surrounding the Supplemental PEIR.
- **Lower Elkhorn Basin Levee Setback Project**
 - Staff met on June 9th with DWR and USACE for a CEQA and Environmental Permitting Subgroup kick-off meeting to discuss a path forward for the upcoming compliance documents. Staff will continue to meet with DWR every two weeks to address issues related to environmental permitting and organization of the upcoming CEQA document.
- **Western Pacific Interceptor Canal Culvert Replacement**
 - A Biological Assessment was submitted to USACE on May 10, 2016 and Section 7 consultation with USFWS was initiated on May 23, 2016. Staff continues to move forward to obtain funding, which will allow for securing environmental permits, purchasing mitigation credits, and lastly, construction.

- **Programmatic Section 408 / SWIF Section 7 Consultation**

- Staff continues to work with the USACE and USFWS on Programmatic Consultation for Section 7 Endangered Species Act coverage to be applied to certain projects under review pursuant to Section 408, and for levee systems covered by an approved Letter of Intent and pursuing a System-wide Improvement Framework (SWIF). Next steps include finalizing the project descriptions and development of the Biological Assessment. Staff anticipates presenting progress milestones of this interagency effort at a future Board meeting.