Meeting of the Central Valley Flood Protection Board
March 23, 2012

Staff Report – Levee Vegetation Committee

Board Comment Letter to
USACE Levee Vegetation Variance Policy

1.0 – ITEM

Consider approval of a Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) comment letter to the United States Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters (USACE - HQ) concerning its Policy Guidance Letter for obtaining variances to allow vegetation on levees.

2.0 – COMMITTEE

Board Secretary Teri Rie
Board Member Tim Ramirez
Executive Officer Jay Punia
Chief Engineer Len Marino
Supervising Engineer Curt Taras

3.0 – DEADLINE

Public comments to the policy are due April 17, 2012

4.0 – DESCRIPTION

The United States Army Corps of Engineers recently published additional filings to its proposed *Policy Guidance Letter (PGL) – Process for requesting a variance from vegetation standards for levees and floodwalls* in the Federal Register. This is the second review comment period for this policy. The Board previously submitted comments to the original policy in 2010 (attachment). Staff has also attached documents related to this policy for Board review.

5.0 – STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Board Staff is Recommending the Board:

- Delegate the authority to Committee Members Teri Rie and Tim Ramirez to work with staff to finalize the levee vegetation variance comment letter and incorporate any comments made by the Board on today's March 23rd meeting record.
- Direct staff to submit the Committee approved comment letter to USACE -HQ prior to the April 17th 2012 comment deadline.

6.0 – LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

A. Federal Register 2/17/2012 – Variance process to Vegetation Standards
B. USACE Response to Public Comments, December 2011
C. Original CVFPB Comments on the Policy Guidance Letter, April 21, 2010
D. Original DWR & Dept of Fish and Game Joint Comment Letter, April 15, 2010

7.0 – LIST OF DOCUMENTS AWAITING DISTRIBUTION

E. Draft CVFPB Comments on the Policy Guidance Letter, March 23, 2012

Document Preparation: Curt Taras