

# Memorandum

## Agenda Item 6B

Date: March 8, 2013

To: Central Valley Flood Protection  
Board Members

William H. Edgar, CVFPB President  
Jay Punia, Executive Officer

From: Central Valley Flood Protection Board

Subject: Feasibility and Desirability of Moving the Central Valley Flood Protection Board Meetings to the Sacramento City Hall Council Chambers.

### Summary and Recommendation

As a result of external requests to make the activities of the Board more transparent, the Board President and the staff visited Sacramento City Hall in order to determine whether those more modern facilities could accommodate our need for better technology and accommodations for the Board and public. Based upon our visit and follow up meetings and conversations, it is recommended that the Board temporarily move our meetings to Sacramento City Hall for several months in order to determine whether or not a permanent change would be desirable and fulfill the need for better transparency and outreach of Board activities.

### Background

The Governor's Office, State legislature, and the public have expressed a desire for more public access and transparency for Board's activities through, among other things, live streaming of Board meetings. The present Resources Building Auditorium does not provide the technology to accomplish that, resulting in the need for, and exploration of, a facility that can provide that technology, as well as a better sound system and WiFi for those attending our meetings.

Bill Edgar, Jay Punia, and Board staff visited the Sacramento City Hall Council Chambers, to tour the facility and determine the feasibility and desirability of moving the Board meetings to that venue. The facility is being offered to the Board at no charge and will be able to accommodate our needs and meeting dates. And, for a variety of reasons, everyone agreed that we should give it a try.

The benefits of the proposed move are:

1. Better transparency – webcasting (live streaming) of the meetings:

Live streaming of the meetings will be easy to accomplish in this venue because the Auditorium is set up for it and most meetings held here are live-streamed. We can add a link on our website for the public to view the meeting as it is taking place.

2. Technologically:

- a. The screens behind the dais are large and easier for the audience to view without craning their necks or squinting to read smaller print on monitors.
- b. The speaker podium offers the choice of standing or sitting (for those folks who may need accommodation).
- c. The microphone system on the dais is newer and offers better clarity and less interference than the Resources Building Auditorium. Also, each screen provides a microphone on and off button.
- d. There is internet and wireless service available, which is not available in the Resources Building Auditorium.

3. Other benefits:

- a. The audience will not have to leave during a Closed Session because the facility also contains a separate Closed Session Room with projector at the back of the Chambers.
- b. The wider style of the audience seating allows for more seating (230 capacity) and better viewing of the dais and projector screens.
- c. There is a parking garage close by and the fees are \$2 a day less than the parking facility for the Resources Building.
- d. The area offers more choice in eating establishments for the Board and the public.

We have attached a set of slides which should give the Board a better idea of what the Council Chambers look like. We will also be prepared to answer Board questions at Friday's meeting. It is our recommendation that we try out the facilities for a few months and then, after some experience with the new venue, make a decision as to whether or not the change should become permanent.

# City of Sacramento Council Chambers

Possible New Venue for Central Valley  
Flood Protection Board Meetings

# Dais and Front of Auditorium



Seating for 13 – large screens – accommodation for speakers

# Live Streaming & Meeting Controls



Meeting is always staffed, monitored, and controlled by a technician

# Closed Session & Media Rooms



Dais monitors have many options including mic on/off controls

# Numerous Lighting Options



Lights dim for presentations  
and drapes can be drawn