

Central Valley Flood Protection Board Meeting
October 24, 2014

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING

Delta Levees Investment Strategy

(Cindy Messer, DSC)

BRIEFING SUMMARY

Background

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is the heart of California's water supply system, and the Delta's levees protect people, property, and vital state infrastructure. The Delta Reform Act of 2009 directed the Delta Stewardship Council to develop a comprehensive strategy for prioritizing the long-term investment of limited State funding for Delta levees. This will be developed over an 18-month period working in consultation with DWR, the Central Valley Flood Protection Board, the Delta Protection Commission, local agencies, and the California Water Commission, local reclamation districts, and with Delta stakeholders. The Strategy will use the best available data, research, and lessons learned from other state and local programs and planning efforts.

Together with its partners, the Council will assess, island by island, the state of levees, the extent and value of assets to be protected, and the cost of long-term defense. The result will be a tiered priorities list for State levee investments that looks beyond the value of assets directly behind a levee and considers the interconnection of these assets not only to the Delta, but also to California's water supply, transportation, electrical and gas transmission systems and the overall health of the environment. The Strategy will also enhance the coordination of levee operations and maintenance to help make funding more certain. Recent estimates of funding required for Delta levee improvements range from \$3.8 billion to \$4.28 billion. The Levee Investment Strategy will build on existing principles for investment and existing risk assessment information.

Current Status

This effort is organized into six phases ranging from project planning, to data compilation, tool development, risk-reduction option development/deliberation, draft report development and lastly, finalizing the project report and environmental documentation (please see Power Point presentation for a description of the six phases). The project is currently in its second phase which runs from October through December 2014. The primary focus at this stage is on data compilation and technical review. The project team has been compiling key technical information to use as inputs to a computer-based decision-making tool and will be enlisting the help of various outside technical experts to review this data to ensure a solid technical foundation for the project. During this second phase the team will also conduct a variety of

stakeholder engagements including; briefings for other public agencies on this effort, meetings with technical experts to discuss data inputs and the first public meeting in mid-December.

Next Steps

The project team will continue to work on a variety of elements related to developing the Delta Levees Strategy including;

- Extensive stakeholder engagement
- Finalizing the data and information to be used in this effort
- Developing the computer-based decision-making tool
- Finalizing membership and the charge for an independent scientific peer-review panel that will review the approach and methodology for this effort