

**Meeting of the Central Valley Flood Protection Board
October 9, 2015**

Staff Report

Conservation Strategy Advisory Committee Update

1.0 – REQUESTED ITEM

Discussion on the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan Conservation Strategy Advisory Committee charter scope and timetable.

2.0 – AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD

Water Code Section 9612(f) authorizes the Board to appoint one or more advisory committees to assist in the preparation of the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (“Plan”). Board Resolution 2012-25 Resolved 11(d) states, “The Board will designate an advisory committee or other group to develop specific, measurable, achievable, results oriented and time-bound conservation objectives for consideration by the Board for possible inclusion in the adopted CVFPP and the Conservation Strategy.” At its September 26, 2014 meeting, the Board activated the Resolved 11(d) Advisory Committee to advise the Board on the measurable objectives for conservation being drafted as part of the Conservation Strategy.

3.0 – BACKGROUND

At the August 22, 2014 meeting, the Board heard from stakeholders expressing the desire that the Conservation Strategy and the Plan include metrics for analyzing the Water Code § 9616(a)(9) requirement that the Plan, “Increase and improve the quantity, diversity, and connectivity of riparian, wetland, flood plain, and shaded riverine aquatic habitats, including the agricultural and ecological values of these lands.” The stakeholders requested that the Board activate the Advisory Committee denoted in Resolution 2012-25 Resolved 11(d) to advise the Board on measurable objectives from conservation being drafted as part of the Conservation Strategy.

At the September 26, 2014 meeting, the Board activated the Advisory Committee and appointed Board representatives Vice President Emma Suarez and Clyde Macdonald, with President Bill Edgar and Secretary Jane Dolan as alternates. The

Board motion also included a request that staff and the advisory committee return to the Board at a later date with a focused scope and timetable.

Following that meeting, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) established a committee to create metrics and measurable objectives to insert into the Conservation Strategy. Those metrics and measurable objectives were part of the Draft Conservation Strategy released for public comment at the July 24, 2015 Board Meeting. The official 60-day public comment review period ended on September 14, 2015.

4.0 – OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE

Since September 2014, Board staff has continued its discussions with DWR and other stakeholders interested in the measurable objectives in the Draft Conservation Strategy. Various stakeholders have requested that the Advisory Committee convene as soon as practicable. The purpose would be to provide expertise to the Board on how to review the 2017 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan update and how the Conservation Strategy and its measurable objectives relate. The Advisory Committee's final report would serve as a guiding document for the Board as it considers the 2017 Flood Plan.

5.0 – TIMETABLE

The Committee will have an initial meeting in November 2015 (possible dates include November 6th or November 13th), with additional meetings occurring approximately every 6 weeks. A report to the Board on the progress of the Committee shall occur quarterly. The Committee shall finalize its report no later than the 3rd quarter of 2016.

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