

**Meeting of the Central Valley Flood Protection Board
April 24, 2015**

Informational Briefing Summary

Nonstructural Alternative at the Three Amigos Project Site
(Julie Rentner, River Partners; and Paige Caldwell, USACE)

1.0 – BACKGROUND

In October 2014, River Partners and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) presented to the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Board) on the background and next steps to complete the Three Amigos Non-Structural Alternative Project at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge. At that meeting, a timeline for project completion was presented to the Board. Since October 2014, the USACE, Board staff, and the USFWS have been working on various components of the project. The purpose of this briefing is to report project status to the Board.

According to the multi-agency agreements signed in 1998, the Board's responsibilities include:

- A. Ensure CEQA compliance for the Three Amigos project;
- B. Negotiate a modification to the USACE Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Manual for Reclamation Districts (RDs) 2099, 2100, and 2102;
- C. Revise or terminate agreements with RDs 2099, 2100, and 2102; and
- D. Dispose of (or choose to retain) their property rights which comprise Sacramento and San Joaquin Drainage District (SSJDD) easements underlying the levees.

2.0 – CURRENT STATUS

- The levees remain unrepaired, and the lands behind the levees remain subject to flooding.
- A hydraulic model was completed by consulting engineers to illustrate the current flooding conditions on site as well as possible future conditions post project completion. Animations from this analysis are included in this presentation.
- A planning meeting was hosted in April 2015 amongst River Partners, the Department of Water Resources (DWR), USFWS, USACE and Board staff to discuss status and timeline for completion. Meeting notes were reviewed by Board staff and are attached to this item.

- The USACE reviewed and re-affirmed the applicability of the hydraulic analysis that was initially completed in 1997. The USACE has confirmed that the lands adjacent to the Three Amigos project that require flowage easements are unchanged since 1997. The hydraulic analysis has been provided to Board staff.
- The USACE has made contact with landowners of adjacent properties that will require flowage easements. The USACE expects to complete appraisals and make flowage easement offers to these landowners in May 2015.
- In the 1998 preliminary agreements, the USACE committed to construct a ring levee around several structures, now used as USFWS offices, within the boundaries of the former RD 2099. The USFWS has declined the offer to construct the ring levee, and is working with the USACE to document completion/declination of this commitment.
- The USACE and USFWS are working to draft a management agreement for the affected lands within the former RD 2099, 2100 and 2102.
- Board and DWR staffs have completed a preliminary real estate analysis regarding the extent and location of SSJDD easements. All easements are located within USFWS federal ownership, and USFWS is willing to accept quitclaim to these properties.
- DWR will serve as the CEQA lead agency and the Board will be serve as a “Responsible Agency”. The project description and initial study will be drafted for review in the coming month and include analysis of proposed levee breaches.

3.0 – NEXT STEPS

- DWR will complete CEQA for the project.
- The USACE expects to provide a modified O&M manual for Board acceptance pending completion of the acquisition of flowage easements, documentation of completion of the ring levee commitment, and execution of a management agreement with the USFWS.
- A Board Resolution will be drafted and presented in a Requested Action for the Board to consider:
 1. accepting the updated O&M manual from the USACE,
 2. dissolving the maintenance agreements between the Board and the former RDs 2099, 2100 and 2102, and
 3. conveying property interests (SSJDD easements underlying the levees) to the USFWS, or choose to retain the property rights instead.

- Upon completion of the actions described above, the USFWS will develop plans and specifications and submit an application to the Board to install a drainage structure through the former project levee at the Three Amigos site, if necessary. This structure may require a Board encroachment permit pursuant to the Board's authority over the San Joaquin River as a regulated stream and designated floodway.