

**Meeting of the Central Valley Flood Protection Board  
January 22, 2016**

**BRIEFING SUMMARY**

**Conservation Strategy Advisory Committee**

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**1.0 – BACKGROUND**

At its August 22, 2014 meeting the (Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Board) heard testimony from stakeholders expressing their desire that the Conservation Strategy and 2017 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (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 (Committee) described in Board Resolution 2012-25 Resolved 11(d) to advise the Board on measurable objectives for conservation being included in the Conservation Strategy.

At its September 26, 2014 meeting the Board activated the Committee and appointed Board Vice President Emma Suarez and member Clyde Macdonald as Committee representatives, with President Bill Edgar and Secretary Jane Dolan appointed as alternates. The Committee will provide expertise to the Board on how to review the 2017 Plan update, and how the Conservation Strategy and its measurable objectives relate to the Plan. The Committee’s final report will serve as a guiding document for the Board as it considers the 2017 Plan. To date the Committee has held meetings on November 13 and December 4, 2015.

**2.0 – JANUARY 6, 2016 MEETING SUMMARY**

Attendees included representatives from flood control agencies; environmental related non-governmental agencies; State and Federal permitting agencies; agricultural associations; and engineering and environmental experts and consultants.

The Committee is tasked with developing a consensus on outcomes for the Board to consider when considering adoption of the 2017 Plan update.

Two workgroups were formed by randomly selecting an equal number of attendees. The combined input from each group will include the following:

## Outcomes for the Board to Consider:

1. A framework needs to be developed to address environmental permit streamlining for multi-benefit projects and early implementation flood system alteration projects funded by bond funds). The framework should include both short-term and long-term timeframes.

Develop necessary institutional capacity. There is a need to develop the infrastructure within permitting agencies to achieve objectives for mitigation and permitting support.

2. Responsible permitting agencies should facilitate permitting for maintenance and levee repair.
3. Responsible permitting agencies, project proponents, local maintaining agencies and interested non-governmental agencies should develop an understanding of Regional Flood Management Plans (RFMP) and contributions to the Conservation Strategy.
  - The Department of Water Resources should incorporate RFMPs into basin-wide planning efforts.
  - The Board should consider adopting the Conservation Strategy and track projects system-wide, including related environmental improvements/benefits.
4. Determine how to increase future funding for flood risk reduction projects. Funding for future projects should be prioritized based objectives in the floodway and categorized based on flood protection and habitat/vegetation.
5. Obtain input from stakeholder groups through direct means i.e. door to door.
6. Flood system performance should be measured against Conservation Strategy and water supply objectives.
7. Incentives should be developed including additional funding for permitting necessary to implement projects and to obtain objectives of the Conservation Strategy and flood risk reduction. There should be less of a burden to landowners through Safe Harbor Agreements that provides habitat while allowing land management/maintenance.

### **3.0 – NEXT STEPS**

The Committee will continue to meet monthly with the next meeting scheduled for February 25, 2016 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. Effective March 10 meetings are tentatively scheduled for the second Thursday of the month.

Proposed Topics for the February 25, 2016 meeting include:

- Update from DWR FloodSAFE Environmental Stewardship and Statewide Resources Office (FESSRO) on public comments received on the Draft Conservation Strategy, and a summary of FESSRO responses to the comments.
- Increase the Committees' understanding of RFMP objectives in relation to the Conservation Strategy.
- Obtain Committee alignment on the Conservation Strategy.

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