

CENTRAL VALLEY FLOOD PROTECTION BOARD

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

June 24, 2016



Board Administration Update

Ongoing Operations

- Eight Delta Levee Subventions Program Agreements have been signed by EO Gallagher this month, including work at Fay Island, Ryer Island, Staten Island, McCormack-Wm. Tract, Byron Tract, Lisbon, Roberts Island Middle, and Venice Island.
- Four Flood System Repair project agreements were signed, including 500 feet of critical erosion repairs at Horseshoe Bend (RD 341), 8.9 Miles of levee patrol road repair in RD 2103, N.E. of Sacramento and 28 Miles of levee patrol road repair in Yuba County (RD 817), 1 mile of channel bank erosion repair along Mormon Slough (San Joaquin County), and Steamboat Slough levee repairs, including a seepage cutoff wall on Unit 1, and an erosion setback levee between LM 10.78 and LM 11.02.
- On May 25, EO Gallagher, Board Counsel Dua, President Edgar, Vice President Suarez, Secretary Dolan and Board member Macdonald attended the Coordinating Committee meeting in West Sacramento. Topics discussed included a presentation by Dave Wheeldon of the Flood Maintenance Office, DWR, regarding the Flood System Repair Program, and update by Mary Jimenez, Flood Planning Office, DWR regarding the Sacramento Rier Basinwide Feasibility Study comments, an update on the San Joaquin River Basinwide Feasibility Study by Eric, Tsai, and update on the 2016 WRDA by Mike Mierzwa and Darren Suen, and an update on the Conservation Strategy Advisory Committee by Vice President Suarez.
- On June 2, the CVFPB hosted a group of summer interns from the Attorney General's office studying executive agencies. DWR and CVFPB staff took them on a tour of the flood center and out to the Sacramento Weir.
- On June 3 and 17, Board President Edgar, Board Member Macdonald and EO Gallagher attended meetings with DWR Planning Office staff and consultants to discuss the finance plan portion of the CVFPP update. We were informed that the finance plan portion of the update will be included in Chapters 4 and 5.
- The next Coordinating Committee meeting will be held on June 22. Topics to be addressed include: an update by Chris Unkel and Jacob Katz on the Salmon Partnership project and a discussion by Chris Williams and Planning Office staff regarding the Investment Strategy for the SPFC.

Recent Developments

- DWR's Flood Maintenance Office is spearheading a project to address the thousands of pipe penetrations in the SPFC levees which have contributed to multiple segments of levee being removed from the PL84-99 program by the USACE. Board staff is contributing to the development of this new program and will be participating through the

Operations and Environmental branches to ensure any remaining pipes are properly permitted and maintained in perpetuity and to ensure any work performed conforms to all applicable regulations.

- The House passed their version of the WRDA. Both the House and Senate version are waiting floor action, hopefully before the July 4 recess. Attached is an article published in the E&E reporter today, June 21. Also attached is a letter from the Water Commission in support of the WRDA. (attachments) The House version of the WRDA can be found here: <http://transportation.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=400361>
- Working group consisting of Gary Lemon, Ray Barsch and USACE staff continue work on the levee permitting issues. As noted previously, pending applicants have been advised by Board staff that their permits remain with the USACE and that the group is working diligently to identify possible solutions, both in the short and long term, for this issue.

Board News

- The Enforcement Section of the Operations Branch hired a new engineer, Eric Miao. Eric is currently on a temporary assignment with the Regional Water Quality Control Board in Sacramento. His start date with the Board will be July 5, and he will be cross trained in both permit processing and encroachment enforcement duties.
- Board Staff Relocation: Many of the remaining offices in the new suite are scheduled to receive furniture this week, including the tables and chairs for the new large conference/meeting room. All of the support staff have now relocated to the new suite. Phone numbers and contact information remain the same for everyone, but the new mailing address has changed to Suite 170.
- Administrative staff is conducting interviews on Tuesday, June 21, 2016 for the new Executive Assistant analyst.
- The Program support Analyst job announcement went live on Monday, June 20 and will be posted for 10 days.
- The second recruitment for the Chief Engineer continues.
- The official "reorganization plan" continues through the process with an implementation date of July 1.
- EO Gallagher and Board staff are collaborating with the Delta Stewardship Council to schedule details for the August 12 joint agency Delta Levee Investment Strategy workshop.

Other Noteworthy Info

- The State budget was approved on time and will go into effect July 1. The \$100 million for deferred levee maintenance remains in the budget and will be the source of funding for the pipe penetration program noted above.

WATER POLICY:

Senate WRDA bill could cost \$10B

Tiffany Stecker, E&E reporter

Published: Tuesday, June 21, 2016

The Senate's Water Resources Development Act would cost \$10.6 billion over the next decade, the Congressional Budget Office said in a report yesterday.

The legislation to allow the Army Corps of Engineers to build locks, dams, flood control projects and environmental restoration initiatives would cost \$4.8 billion over the next five years.

However, the bill would reduce mandatory spending by \$59 million in the 10-year period. It would reduce federal revenues but also alleviate the deficit by \$6 million between 2016 and 2026.

The release of the **report** is likely to intensify the push for Senate leaders to give the measure floor time in the coming weeks.

Bill backers -- a diverse coalition of waterways operators, municipal water utilities, the oil and gas industry, agriculture groups, and some environmental organizations -- want to see passage before Congress takes a long summer break in mid-July (***E&E Daily***, June 10).

Environment and Public Works Chairman Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.), a champion of the legislation, touted the analysis as a "win for every member of Congress."

He said in a statement that, "With this scoring, Congress can now move forward on its constitutional duty to support our nation's infrastructure and interstate commerce."

Inhofe told *E&E Daily* yesterday evening that he hoped Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) will allow a vote on WRDA in between appropriations bills -- another priority senators would like to wrap up before recess.

An earlier version of the measure authorized \$4.5 billion for the study and construction of new public works and environmental projects and \$4.8 billion to help communities address water quality problems, lead in drinking water and drought. The latest iteration would spend more money.

CBO said cutting \$300 million in subsidies for the Energy Department's Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing (ATVM) program after 2020 would help neutralize the legislation's price tag. That and other savings would help reduce the deficit.

A \$31 million debt repayment, new land management agreements between the Army Corps and nonfederal entities, and a Mississippi land transfer would also help offset WRDA's cost.

But a positive CBO score doesn't make the water legislation a money-saver, said Josh Sewell, a senior policy analyst with the group Taxpayers for Common Sense.

WRDA authorizes money for projects but doesn't actually allocate funds. Congressional appropriators do that in annual spending bills. In addition, the group said, ATVM program cuts won't come for another five years.

"We see these kind of pay-fors in other bills," said Sewell. "They often don't materialize."

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**CALIFORNIA WATER COMMISSION**

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Joseph Byrne
Chair

June 15, 2016

Joe Del Bosque
Vice Chair

The Honorable James M. Inhofe
Chair

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Ranking Member

Carol Baker
Member

Committee on Environment
and Public Works

Committee on Environment
and Public Works

Andrew Ball
Member

United States Senate

United States Senate

Daniel Curtin
Member

410 Dirksen Building
Washington, DC 20510

456 Dirksen Building
Washington, DC 20510

Paula Daniels
Member

Dear Chairman Inhofe and Ranking Member Boxer:

Maria Herrera
Member

The California Water Commission (Commission) thanks you for advancing S.2848, the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2016. We respectfully encourage support and passage of this bill, thereby promoting federal and local partnerships and providing funding for critical water resources projects in California and across the country.

David Orth
Member

Armando Quintero
Member

The California Water Commission has statutory authority to advise the California Department of Water Resources and advocate to Congress for federal funding for reclamation and flood control projects. In the past, we have supported the passage of previous WRDA bills and advocated for federal funding for other critical projects and programs. One of the key goals of the Commission is to develop and support policies that result in sustainable water management and a healthy environment; we believe WRDA 2016 will help California achieve this goal.

Paula J. Landis
Executive Officer

California, like many states, faces major water resources challenges including climate change, drought, diminishing groundwater levels, floods, aging infrastructure, and declining ecosystems. This bill includes many provisions that will help California move towards the objectives of the California Water Action Plan to create more reliable water supplies, restore important species and habitats, and create a more resilient, sustainably managed water resources system. In particular the Commission supports the provisions in WRDA 2016 that streamline permitting processes for water infrastructure projects, facilitate partnerships with local project proponents, improve flood protection, restore precious ecosystems, and provide safe drinking water for disadvantaged communities.

The Commission thanks you for developing legislation that will move us towards our goal of more sustainable water management and a healthy environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph Byrne'.

Joseph Byrne, Chair

The Honorable James M. Inhofe
The Honorable Barbara Boxer
June 15, 2016
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CC: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
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He added, "The real issue is this WRDA is a chance to change priorities. ... [I]t doesn't really do that."

Reporters Colby Bermel and Geof Koss contributed.