

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE CENTRAL VALLEY FLOOD PROTECTION BOARD
February 24, 2017

NOTE: THE BOARD WILL CONSIDER TIMED ITEMS AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE TO THE LISTED TIME, BUT NOT BEFORE THE TIME SPECIFIED. UNTIMED ITEMS MAY BE HEARD IN ANY ORDER. THESE MINUTES ARE PRESENTED IN AGENDA ORDER, BUT ITEMS WERE NOT NECESSARILY HEARD IN THAT ORDER.

A regular meeting of the Central Valley Flood Protection Board was held on February 24, 2017, beginning at 9:06 a.m. in The Sacramento City Hall First Floor Council Chambers, 915 I Street, Sacramento, California.

Board Members present:

Mr. William H. (Bill) Edgar, President
Ms. Emma Suarez, Vice President
Ms. Jane Dolan, Secretary
Mr. Joe Countryman
Mr. Clyde Macdonald
Mr. Tim Ramirez
Mr. Mike Villines

Board staff present:

Ms. Leslie Gallagher, Executive Officer
Ms. Kathryn Baines, Board Analyst
Ms. Andrea Buckley, Chief, Environmental Services and Land Management Branch
Mr. Kanwarjit (Jit) Dua, General Counsel
Ms. Mitra Emami, Supervising Engineer
Mr. Deb Biswas, Staff Engineer

Department of Water Resources (DWR) staff present:

Mr. Jeremy Arrich, Division of Flood Management (DFM), Manager, Flood System Implementation
Mr. Scott Deal, DFM, Flood Maintenance Office, Maintenance Environmental Support Branch
Mr. Anthony Deus, DFM, Engineer, Central Valley Flood Planning Branch
Ms. Mary Jimenez, DFM, Chief, Central Valley Flood Planning Branch
Mr. Mark List, DFM, Acting Chief, Flood Maintenance Office
Mr. Ray McDowell, DFM, Program Manager II, Floodway Ecosystem Sustainability Office

Also Present:

Mr. Justin Fredrickson, California Farm Bureau
Mr. Pete Ghelfi, Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency
Mr. Ron Stork, Friends of the River
Mr. Robert Thomas, Conaway Ranch
Mr. Carl Wilcox, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Bill Edgar, Board President, welcomed the participants.

Ms. Leslie Gallagher, Board Executive Officer, announced that Mr. Michael Wright had been selected as the new Branch Chief for the DWR Plan Implementation Branch. Also, he and several other Board and DWR staff members were not present today, as they were assisting DWR Flood Operations Center personnel with the response to the recent high water events.

2. ROLL CALL/ESTABLISH A QUORUM (Water Code § 8560)

Ms. Kathryn Baines, Board Analyst, called the roll and a quorum was achieved.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 16, 2016 Board Meeting

Upon motion by Secretary Dolan, seconded by Board Member Macdonald, the Board unanimously approved the December 16, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes.

4. REVIEW OF AGENDA

Executive Officer Gallagher announced that, as necessary Board staff were not present today (see Item 1 above), Item 7A was postponed to the March Board Meeting.

5. CONSENT ITEMS (Action Items)

- A. Transmittal for Maintenance Area (MA) 13 Unit 1 - Cherokee Canal right bank; MA 13 Unit 2 north - Cherokee Canal left bank; and MA 13 Unit 2 south - Cherokee Canal left bank: Letter of Intent to Submit a System-Wide Improvement Framework Plan to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

Consider authorizing the Executive Officer to transmit a Letter of Intent to develop and implement a System-Wide Improvement Framework to the U.S.

Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), prepared by the Department of Water Resources Flood Maintenance Office, for the MA 13 Unit 1 - Cherokee Canal right bank; MA 13 Unit 2 north - Cherokee Canal left bank; and MA 13 Unit 2 south – Cherokee Canal left bank levee systems, as defined by the USACE's Periodic Inspection Report dated May 8, 2013. (Butte County)

- B. Transmittal for Wadsworth Canal Right Bank - Sutter Bypass East Levee System: Letter of Intent to Submit a System-Wide Improvement Framework Plan to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

Consider authorizing the Executive Officer to transmit a Letter of Intent to develop and implement a System-Wide Improvement Framework to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), prepared by the Department of Water Resources Flood Maintenance Office, for the Wadsworth Canal Right Bank – Sutter Bypass East levee system as defined by the USACE's Periodic Inspection Report dated October 18, 2013. (Sutter County)

- C. Permit No. 19149, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)**

Consider approval of Permit No. 19149 to widen the existing Highway 201 Bridge over Sand Creek (Bridge No. 46-0137) to meet current highway standards. (Tulare County)

- D. Permit No. 19150, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)**

Consider approval of Permit No. 19150 to widen the existing Highway 216 Bridge over the Kaweah River (Bridge No. 46-0091) to meet current highway standards. (Tulare County)

- E. Deferred Maintenance Project (DMP)**

Consider approval of Resolution No. 2017- 4 to approve the form of the DMP Operations and Maintenance Agreement template and delegate authority to the Executive Officer to sign operation and maintenance agreements funded under DMP.

Ms. Mitra Emami, Board Acting Chief Engineer, answered Board Member questions.

(After questioning) *Upon motion by Vice President Suarez, seconded by Secretary Dolan, the Board unanimously approved Item E.*

- F. Sacramento River General Reevaluation Report (GRR)**

Consider approval of Resolution No. 2017-3 to amend the Feasibility Cost Share Agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to increase the total project cost to \$5.8M, and extend the study schedule by 14 months.

Upon motion by Board Member Countryman, seconded by Secretary Dolan, the Board unanimously approved Items A, B, C, D and F.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS - NONE

**7. U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS ITEMS (Information) –
Postponed to March**

A. Natomas Basin Levee Improvement Contract Award

The USACE will present the status of the construction contract, the on-going design efforts for other portions of the Natomas Basin, and provide an update of the American River Common Features Natomas program schedule.

8. DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES ITEMS (Information)

A. Monthly Report of the Department of Water Resources (DWR)

DWR Project Updates and Recent Events

Mr. Jeremy Arrich, DWR Flood System Implementation Manager, gave the report. He noted that the Flood Operation Center had been activated since February 7, and the State Operations Center since February 8.

The heavy rains, combined with reservoir releases, put a lot of stress on the system. It is expected that continuous high water and river levels, especially in the San Joaquin Valley, will continue throughout the snowmelt runoff season. Average rainfall each month was more than double the usual amount. Also, there will likely be about double the average snowpack by the end of the season.

Overall, the Central Valley Flood Management System has performed as expected, including in the urban areas.

B. 2017 Update to the 2012 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP)

A summary of key components of the CVFPP Investment Strategy, including near- and long-term funding considerations.

Ms. Mary Jimenez, DWR Flood Planning Branch Chief, provided the update and answered Board Member questions.

9. PUBLIC HEARING, 2017 UPDATE CENTRAL VALLEY FLOOD PROTECTION PLAN AND DRAFT OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAM IMPACT REPORT

A. Flood Management in the Central Valley

President Edgar called the meeting and public hearing to order. He provided a brief history of the levee construction and overall flood control challenges that led the California legislature in 2006-07 to direct DWR to prepare a flood plan by 2012, with updates every five years. He noted that the current Board adopted the plan in 2012 and the subject of this hearing was the first required five-year update.

Further, he remarked that it is the Board's intention--after holding public hearings, receiving public input and making modifications deemed necessary by the Board--to amend and approve the update by the end of June 2017.

B. Draft 2017 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) Update Overview

Presentation of content included in the Draft 2017 CVFPP Update. The CVFPP is a strategic and long-range plan for improving flood risk management in the Central Valley. The 2017 Update to the CVFPP refines overall near-term and long-term investment needs and includes recommendations on policies and financing that aim to support comprehensive flood risk management actions locally, regionally, and system-wide.

Ms. Mary Jimenez, DWR Flood Planning Branch Chief, gave the update. She remarked that the CVFPP maintains the same primary goal of improving flood risk management in the Valley, as well as the same four supporting goals of improving operations and maintenance, promoting ecosystem functions, improving institutional support, and promoting multi-benefit projects.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT (on Draft 2017 CVFPP Update)

Mr. Justin Frederickson, California Farm Bureau; Mr. Ronald Stork, Friends Of The River; and Mr. Robert Thomas, representing both Reclamation District 2035 and Conaway Ranch, commented on various parts of the plan.

D. DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (PEIR) OVERVIEW

Presentation of content included in the Draft Supplemental PEIR for the 2017 CVFPP Update. The Draft Supplemental PEIR focuses its analysis (per California Environmental Quality Act [CEQA] Guidelines Sections 15162

and 15163) on how the 2017 CVFPP Update could result in new significant impacts, or a substantial increase in the severity of a significant impact, if there is substantially important new information relating to the CVFPP or its environmental effects, or if there are substantial changes with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken. Pursuant to a Lead Agency Agreement (per CEQA Guidelines Section 15051(d)), DWR is the lead agency, as defined in CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines, and the Board is a responsible agency.

Mr. Anthony Deus, DWR Staff Engineer, provided the overview.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT (ON DRAFT SPEIR) - *None*

F. ADJOURN PUBLIC HEARING

10. CLOSED SESSION (Action Item)

A. To discuss litigation (Central Valley Flood Protection Board v. Lino Catabran, Sacramento Superior Court Case No. 34-2013-142003) pursuant to Govt. Code section 11126(e)(1) (Kanwarjit (Jit) Dua, Board Counsel).

B. Pursuant to the authority of Government Code section 11126, subdivisions (e)(1), (e)(2)(B)(i), and (e)(2)(C)(i), the Board will meet in Closed Session to consider potential litigation involving the Board (Kanwarjit (Jit) Dua, Board Counsel).

C. Public Employee Performance Evaluation, pursuant to Govt. Code section 26(a)(1); Title: Board Counsel (Board Members).

11. CLOSED SESSION REPORT (Action Item)

President Edgar stated that there was no report on the Closed Session.

12. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS (Information)

A. Environmental Permitting for Operations and Maintenance (EPOM) Project Environmental Impact Report for the California Environmental Quality Act.

DWR staff will brief the Board on the EPOM project which seeks to obtain environmental permits for statutory flood management maintenance activities conducted by the Department of Water Resources on the Sacramento River Flood Control Project and Middle Creek Project in Lake County.

Mr. Scott Deal, DWR Flood Maintenance Office, briefed the Board. He, along with Mr. Mark List, DWR Flood Maintenance Office Acting Chief and Mr. Ray McDowell, DWR Environmental Scientist, answered Board Member questions.

B. Informational Briefing regarding the California EcoRestore Program

Presentation and discussion of current landscape-scale ecosystem restoration efforts, including status update on EcoRestore progress.

Mr. Carl Wilcox, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, provided the briefing and answered Board Member questions.

13. BOARD ITEMS

A. Informational briefing regarding the North Sacramento Streams Levee Improvement Project

Board staff and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) will provide an informational briefing on the North Sacramento Streams Levee Improvement Project that will be considered for approval at the March 24, 2017 Board meeting.

Mr. Deb Biswas, Board Staff Engineer, and Mr. Pete Ghelfi, SAFCA Director of Engineering, gave the briefing and answered questions.

**14. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
(Documents Submitted for Board Member Review)**

A. Update on Board Administration

B. Update on the activities of the Operations Branch

C. Update on the activities of the Plan Implementation and Compliance Branch

D. Update on the activities of the Environmental Services and Land Management Branch

(There were no questions on the report or the updates.)

15. BOARD COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

Board Member Macdonald commented that he and President Edgar attended the Financial Committee Meeting with DWR and CH2MHill, DWR's consultants.

He and Board Member Countryman met with Jeremy Arrich, Alicia Kirchner and others on the GRR.

Secretary Dolan, who lives in Butte County, commented on some of her experiences during the Oroville Dam evacuation.

16. UPCOMING MEETINGS AND TOPICS FOR THE BOARD

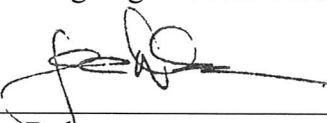
- A. March 9, 2017 CVFPP Plan Hearing, Woodland CA
- B. March 17, 2017 CVFPP Plan Hearing, Stockton, CA
- C. March 24, 2017 CVFPB Board Meeting, Sacramento, CA

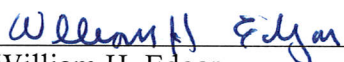
17. ADJOURNMENT

The Board unanimously adjourned the Open Session at 3:06 p.m.

Dated: 4/28/17

The foregoing Minutes were approved:

 4/28/17
Jane Dolan
Secretary

 7/28/2017
William H. Edgar
President