

MEETING  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY  
CENTRAL VALLEY FLOOD PROTECTION BOARD

SACRAMENTO CITY HALL BUILDING  
1ST FLOOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
915 I STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2019  
9:02 A.M.

JAMES F. PETERS, CSR  
CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER  
LICENSE NUMBER 10063

A P P E A R A N C E S

BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Bill Edgar, President  
Ms. Emma Suarez, Vice President  
Ms. Jane Dolan, Secretary  
Mr. Joe Countryman  
Mr. Tim Ramirez  
Mr. Mike Villines

STAFF:

Ms. Leslie Gallagher, Executive Officer  
Mr. Kanwarjit Dua, General Counsel  
Ms. Kathryn Baines, Board Analyst  
Mr. Greg Harvey, Acting Chief, Plan Implementation and Compliance Branch  
Mr. Gary Lemon, Chief, Permitting Section  
Mr. Michael Wright, Acting Chief Engineer

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES:

Ms. Saskia Donovan, Staff Engineer  
Mr. Jon Ericson, Chief, Division of Flood Management  
Ms. Jeanine Jones, Interstate Resources Manager  
Mr. Curtis Lee, Senior Engineer  
Mr. Patrick Luzuriaga, Senior Engineer  
Ms. Sandy Maxwell, Senior Engineer

A P P E A R A N C E S C O N T I N U E D

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES:

Mr. Don Rasmussen, Chief, Flood Project Integrity and Inspection Branch

Mr. Michael Sabbaghian, Chief, Flood Maintenance Office

Mr. Jeff Van Gilder, Senior Engineering Geologist

Mr. Wade Wylie, Chief, Inspection Section

Mr. Ryan Young, Staff Engineer

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. Greg Fabun, City of West Sacramento

Mr. Dominick Gulli, Multiple Reclamation Districts, Save Dad's Point

Mr. Rick Johnson, Sacrament Area Flood Control Agency

Mr. Ryan Larson, United States Army Corps of Engineers

Mr. Chris Neudeck, Kjeldsen, Sinnock and Neudeck

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B. Permit No. 19134 City of Sacramento Railyards Stormwater Drainage System and Outfall Project (Humberto Negrete, Operations Branch, Board Staff)  Consider approval of Permit No. 19134 to construct a storm water discharge system on the left (east) bank levee of the Sacramento River in preparation for future development of the Downtown Railyards area. The project is located at the intersection of Railyards Boulevard and Jibboom Street. (Sacramento County)	
C. Permit No. 19217 County of Merced (Justin Logan, Operations Branch, Board Staff)  Consider approval of Permit No. 19217 to remove and replace the Burchell Avenue Bridge over Mariposa Creek. (Merced County)	
D. Permit No. 19218 Caltrans (Mauricio Meza, Operations Branch, Board Staff)  Consider approval of Permit No. 19218 to remove the existing State Route 20 (SR 20)	

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- Bridge (No. 18-0003) over Wadsworth Canal and construct a new bridge just upstream and north of the existing bridge. The project is located approximately 6.8 miles west of Yuba City and 1.3 miles east of the town of Sutter. (Sutter County)
- E. Permit No. 19298 Caltrans (Greg Harvey, Plan Implementation and Compliance Branch, Acting Branch Chief)
- Consider approval of permit No. 19298 to replace the Simmerly Slough Bridge (No.16-0019) along State Route 70 approximately 0.75 miles north of Binney Junction in the City of Marysville. (Yuba County)
- F. Folsom Dam Modification Project, Water Control Manual Update Supplemental EA/EIR (Itzia Rivera, Acting Environmental Services Branch Chief, Lori Price, Flood Projects Office, Department of Water Resources)
- Consider approval of Resolution No. 2019-02 to certify the Folsom Dam Modification Project, Water Control Manual Update Supplemental Environmental Assessment / Environmental Impact Report (SEA/EIR); adopt the Statement of Findings, the Statement of Overriding Considerations, and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan.
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Acting Branch Chief, Daniel Bremerman,  
Flood Project Office, Department of Water  
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- I. California Department of Transportation,  
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10

Consider Board approval of Resolution No. 2019-03 to execute both a Project Partnership Agreement between the Department of the Army, the Central Valley Flood Protection Board, and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, and a Local Project Partnership Agreement between the Central Valley Flood Protection Board and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, for the American River Common Features 2016 Flood Risk Management Project.

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B. Pursuant to the authority of Government Code section 11126(e)(i). To discuss litigation: Encore Liberty, LLC v. Sacramento San Joaquin Drainage District, Solano Superior Court Case No. FCS052133. (Kanwarjit (Jit) Dua, Board Counsel).	
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## 1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Okay. We'd like to start this  
3 meeting. Good morning, everyone. I'm going to try to  
4 call this meeting to order, ask people -- members to take  
5 their seats and people to settle in.

6 For the record, my name is Bill Edgar. I'm the  
7 President of the Central Valley Flood Protection Board.  
8 And on behalf of the Board, I'd like to welcome everyone  
9 to our meeting this morning. Glad to see you and thanks  
10 for taking the time out of your busy schedules to be with  
11 us today.

12 This is the Board's first regular business  
13 meeting for 2019, January 25th, 2019, and we're glad  
14 you're here. We're meeting in our normal venue here in  
15 Sacramento, at Sacramento City Hall. Thanks to the  
16 generosity of the Mayor and the City Council -- Mayor  
17 Steinberg and the City Council, as well as the City Clerk  
18 and the City Clerk's great staff who help us with the  
19 logistics every time we're meeting here, and we certainly  
20 appreciate that very much.

21 The facilities here are -- have WiFi available  
22 for those who have electronic devices. But for those who  
23 have the electronic devices, please put those cell phones,  
24 laptops, and tablets to silent mode in deference to our  
25 proceedings, please.

1           For those of you who want to speak to the Board,  
2 please fill out a speaker's form, which are located in the  
3 table in the lobby in the entrance area to the chambers.  
4 Please fill out the form and give it to one of our staff  
5 people and they will get it to us. Please write the  
6 number of the agenda item that you want to address, so  
7 that we can call on you when your item comes up for  
8 discussion at the Board.

9           If you're anticipating speaking to the board,  
10 I'd suggest that you read the notes on the printed agenda  
11 for the meetings, so that you may be properly prepared in  
12 making your presentation.

13           Members, we have a busy agenda today, so I'm  
14 anticipating having a lunch break around noon and  
15 conducting a closed session. And for your information, I  
16 do have another meeting that I must attend, and I'll be  
17 leaving at 11:00. Emma Suarez, our Vice President, will  
18 be taking the helm at that point. And, as always, she'll  
19 be -- do better than I always do, so that will be fine.

20           (Laughter.)

21           BOARD MEMBER COUNTRYMAN: That's true.

22           PRESIDENT EDGAR: We may want to shift some of  
23 the agenda items this morning, in deference to a couple of  
24 the Board members who have to -- have transportation  
25 issues this afternoon. But looking at the agenda items,

1 Secretary Dolan will be presenting the minutes of the  
2 November 16th regular Board meeting for your approval this  
3 morning. We have our usual consent calendar, which has  
4 nine items on the agenda this morning. As you're aware,  
5 these are nine items that will be taken with one vote,  
6 unless someone in the public or a member wants it, you  
7 know, set forth for a discussion. This is will be one  
8 action item for the Board this morning.

9 Incidentally, all of these consent items I think  
10 is a manifestation of a lot of great work by the staff and  
11 the people who do business with the Board to keep the  
12 trains running, and to look for ways to improve the  
13 process and the systems. And we appreciate that very  
14 much. That -- that's a whole lot of work represented by  
15 those nine items.

16 We have one informational item from the Corps of  
17 Engineers this morning, which is a continuation of our  
18 discussion with the Corps regarding the simplification of  
19 the Section 408 processing issue. Ryan Larson, the Corps'  
20 Chief of Flood Protection and Navigation section will  
21 brief the Board, as he has done in the past, and give us a  
22 little update on that.

23 And then we have Jon Ericson, Chief of the  
24 Division of Flood Management within the Department of  
25 Water Resources, will be presenting his usual monthly

1 report to the Board. And John also has arranged to have a  
2 Projects Office brief the Board regarding a new program  
3 called the Central Valley Tributaries Grant Program for  
4 which there were questions last month about this program.  
5 And so we're going to have a little presentation.

6 Also, Mike Sabbaghian will brief the Board  
7 regarding the current status of the Flood Maintenance  
8 Assistance Program that we've been talking about for  
9 several months. And finally, the flood staff will present  
10 a report on the annual inspections report to the Board,  
11 which we're always interested in, and which the Board is  
12 considered for 2019 the operation and maintenance of the  
13 levee system as a major priority.

14 Then under the category of Board items, we have  
15 one information and one scheduled item for this morning --  
16 for action this morning. The first one is Item 9A is a  
17 Sacramento -- informational item regarding the Corps West  
18 Sacramento proposed project design agreement, as well as  
19 the local design agreement for pre-construction  
20 engineering and design for work to be done in West  
21 Sacramento.

22 And then we also have -- the second report is the  
23 action on Resolution 2019-03 to execute both a project  
24 partners agree -- partnership agreement between the Corps  
25 and SAFCA, and a local project agreement between the Board

1 and SAFCA. And this is a big deal, so we want to take  
2 this one out of order, I think, and maybe bring this item,  
3 Leslie, up for the consent calendar so we can get that out  
4 of the way. And half the audience will leave at that  
5 point and enjoy the rest of their day, I think.

6 (Laughter.)

7 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Then we have the usual  
8 Executive Officer's report regarding the informational  
9 reports that the Board staff prepares and we have a closed  
10 session today. Legal Counsel Jit Dua has a number of  
11 items today, and we have also the -- you have annual  
12 evaluations of our Executive Officer and our Legal Counsel  
13 that we're going to start today. We usually have a couple  
14 of sessions about that, discussion, our priorities for the  
15 next year.

16 So we have interesting things on the agenda this  
17 morning. And I think that summarizes where we are. But  
18 I -- Leslie, I would think the order of the agenda will be  
19 we'll get through as much as we can possibly through all  
20 the items on DWR's report, that's Item 8, I think, and  
21 then adjourn -- or recess for lunch, have our closed  
22 session at lunch time, and then after lunch finish up the  
23 agenda. But before the consent calendar I think, I'd like  
24 to take up that one item on the American Rivers project  
25 before, so Tim can vote on that.

1 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: I'm sorry.

2 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Oh, yes.

3 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: Before the consent  
4 calendar?

5 PRESIDENT EDGAR: I think so, because we've got a  
6 couple of --

7 EXECUTIVE OFFICER GALLAGHER: I'm not sure  
8 they're here yet. Let me just make sure they're here for  
9 the presentation.

10 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Yeah, I think they are. Yeah.  
11 Okay. Leslie, you want to take Item 1 please and proceed  
12 with the introduction and announcements?

13 EXECUTIVE OFFICER GALLAGHER: Yes. Thank you,  
14 Mr. President and good morning, everyone. I do have a  
15 couple of announcements.

16 First of all, congratulations out to Andrea and  
17 Ryan and Everett, who welcomed a new baby brother. We're  
18 very happy to have you join. We also have two new Board  
19 staff members in the audience today, Jennifer Stewart, who  
20 is a Senior Environmental Scientist. Going to wave to the  
21 Board members. She joined us after 12 years in the  
22 private sector and worked on a lot of CEQA environmental  
23 documents for public agencies. She has a Master of  
24 Science and Natural Resources Planning from one of my  
25 favorite colleges, Humboldt up in the Redwoods, and

1 Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Studies from the  
2 University of Oregon.

3 So welcome, Jennifer.

4 Our second new staff member actually needs no  
5 introduction. You know her already. She used to work for  
6 the Board Angeles Caliso has joined -- re-joined the Board  
7 our Enforcement Permitting Section Chief. And she's in  
8 the back. And after a few years with the State Water  
9 Resources Control Board, she's rejoined the Board this  
10 month. So she will be taking over and backfilling for  
11 what used to be Kelly Soule position.

12 Those are my announcements, Mr. President.

13 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Okay. Anything else? Did  
14 you -- are you okay with the rearranging of the agenda as  
15 I outlined?

16 EXECUTIVE OFFICER GALLAGHER: Sure.

17 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Yeah. Okay.

18 All right. Item 2 is the roll call. Kathryn,  
19 could you please call the roll to make sure we have a  
20 quorum.

21 BOARD ANALYST BAINES: Yes. Thank you, Mr.  
22 President.

23 So today Board Member Macdonald is absent. Okay.  
24 We'll wait.

25 Board Member Countryman?



1 BOARD MEMBER COUNTRYMAN: Present.

2 BOARD ANALYST BAINES: Board member Ramirez?

3 BOARD MEMBER RAMIREZ: Here.

4 BOARD ANALYST BAINES: Vice President Suarez?

5 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: Present.

6 BOARD ANALYST BAINES: Secretary Dolan?

7 SECRETARY DOLAN: Present.

8 BOARD ANALYST BAINES: And President Ed -- excuse  
9 me. President Edgar?

10 PRESIDENT EDGAR: I'm here.

11 BOARD ANALYST BAINES: I see that. Okay.

12 Mike -- Board Member Villines is he --

13 EXECUTIVE OFFICER GALLAGHER: He's going to be a  
14 little late.

15 BOARD ANALYST BAINES: Okay, but he should be  
16 here.

17 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Okay. Great.

18 Thank you.

19 Let's proceed with Item 3. It's approval of the  
20 minutes. These are the minutes for November, what is it,  
21 16th?

22 SECRETARY DOLAN: 16th.

23 PRESIDENT EDGAR: 16th Of last year.

24 SECRETARY DOLAN: Last year.

25 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Jane, the floor is yours.

1           SECRETARY DOLAN: I believe these minutes are in  
2 order. So you know that I pause just to see if any of you  
3 have missed a spelling or clarification you wish to make.

4           Then I would move approval of the minutes of  
5 November 16th, 2018.

6           PRESIDENT EDGAR: Okay. Does anybody from the  
7 public have any comments on the minutes?

8           Bring it back to the Board.

9           EXECUTIVE OFFICER GALLAGHER: Could I just  
10 mention for the record, Mr. President, that we do have a  
11 quorum present. Thank you.

12          PRESIDENT EDGAR: Okay. Thank -- thank you,  
13 Leslie.

14          SECRETARY DOLAN: My seconder is absent, so  
15 someone step up.

16          VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: Second. Second.

17          PRESIDENT EDGAR: Moved and seconded. Moved by  
18 Dolan, seconded by suarez.

19          All in favor?

20          (Ayes.)

21          PRESIDENT EDGAR: Oppsed?

22          Okay. The minutes are approved.

23          Leslie, on Item 4, could, you, please review the  
24 agenda for today's meeting and we'll proceed from there?

25          EXECUTIVE OFFICER GALLAGHER: Yes. Thank you,

1 Mr. President.

2 We have a couple of notes on the consent items.  
3 Item number B, which is 19134, and Item D, which is permit  
4 number 19218, we have received Corps letters for those.  
5 Your staff reports referenced that we had not yet received  
6 those, but you should have copies at your -- at your  
7 station. And I want to note that we do have those.

8 Also, with the moving of the agenda, as you  
9 described, Mr. President.

10 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Okay. Okay. Let's -- before  
11 we take Item 5, I'd like to take Item 9B at this point,  
12 which is -- I think that's the one.

13 EXECUTIVE OFFICER GALLAGHER: American River  
14 Common Features.

15 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Yeah.

16 EXECUTIVE OFFICER GALLAGHER: Yes.

17 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Approval of our resolution  
18 approving the agreements for the American River Features  
19 Project. And I think Greg has this report.

20 Good morning, sir.

21 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLIANCE BRANCH ACTING  
22 CHIEF HARVEY: Okay. Good morning. My name is Greg  
23 Harvey -- okay. Let me start over.

24 Good morning, President Edgar, members of the  
25 Board. My name is Greg Harvey. I'm the Acting Plan

1 Implementation Compliance Branch Chief.

2           This morning, I'm going to give a brief  
3 introduction about the American River Common Features  
4 Project. It was authorized by WRDA 2016. Mr. Ryan Young,  
5 the project manager for DWR, will give a more in-depth  
6 informational briefing about this project. And request  
7 that the Board consider approval of the third resolution  
8 this year, Resolution 2019-03, to execute the Program  
9 Partnership Agreement between the Army Corps of Engineers,  
10 Central Valley Flood Protection Board, and the Sacramento  
11 Area Flood Control Agency, and the Local Program  
12 Partnership Agreement between the Central Valley Flood  
13 Protection Board and the Sacramento Area Flood Control  
14 Agency.

15           This will secure \$1.565 billion in emergency  
16 supplemental funding. The project area is located in  
17 Sacramento and West Sacramento along the Sacramento and  
18 American Rivers. The project has been divided into three  
19 main areas of focus. Seepage and stability -- seepage and  
20 stability. Work will occur along the Sacramento River and  
21 north area streams. Erosion work will occur along the  
22 Sacramento River and American River. And the third  
23 component of the project is the widening of the Sacramento  
24 Weir and Bypass.

25           Also, next month, Ryan and Miles Claret, the

1 environmental lead for the project will give an  
2 informational briefing and ask to certify the Draft  
3 Supplemental Initial Study, Mitigated Negative Declaration  
4 for the Front Street stability berm. This is the --  
5 anticipated to be the first construction contract to be  
6 awarded in May.

7           And so, at this time, I would like to invite Ryan  
8 up to the podium and give a more in-depth informational  
9 briefing on this project.

10           PRESIDENT EDGAR: Thank you, Greg.

11           DWR STAFF ENGINEER YOUNG: Thanks, Greg.

12           GENERAL COUNSEL DUA: Excuse me, Ryan. Before  
13 you get started, I'd just like to note for the record,  
14 President Edgar, that Board Member Villines has arrived  
15 and is present for the roll.

16           Thank you.

17           SECRETARY DOLAN: Yea.

18           PRESIDENT EDGAR: Good morning, Mike.

19           (Thereupon an overhead presentation was  
20 presented as follows.)

21           DWR STAFF ENGINEER YOUNG: Good morning.

22           PRESIDENT EDGAR: Good morning.

23           DWR STAFF ENGINEER YOUNG: I'm just waiting for  
24 the PowerPoint to push up top.

25           There we go.

1           Good morning, President Edgar and members of the  
2 Board. I'm Ryan Young, serving as Project Manager from  
3 the Flood Projects Office working on behalf of the Central  
4 Valley Flood Protection Board for the American River  
5 Common Features Project, as authorized by the Water  
6 Resources Development Act of 2016.

7           I'm here today to give you an update on the  
8 project and bring the Project Partnership Agreement, and  
9 Local Project Partnership Agreement as an action for Board  
10 approval in order to utilize the emergency supplemental  
11 funding.

12           Also here with me are Miles Claret, the  
13 environmental lead for the project, Carmeron Sessions, the  
14 program manager from the Army Corps of Engineers, and Rick  
15 Johnson from the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency.

16           Additionally, I would like to thank the Board  
17 staff and their help reacting quickly and decisively to  
18 meet the Army Corps rigorous deadlines.

19                           --o0o--

20           DWR STAFF ENGINEER YOUNG: DWR gave an informal  
21 presentation on this project in September of last year.  
22 In October, the Army Corps requested the PPA be removed  
23 from Board approval for further vetting regarding the use  
24 of the emergency supplemental funding. Just recently, the  
25 Army Corps approved the use of the model PPA for use with

1 this project.

2 In this presentation, I will give you an overview  
3 of the project, the project sponsors, the project funding  
4 basis, the description of the PPA and LPPA and the path  
5 forward.

6 --o0o--

7 DWR STAFF ENGINEER YOUNG: This project is a  
8 collaboration between the Army Corps of Engineers, the  
9 Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, and the Central  
10 Valley Flood Protection Board in coordination with the  
11 Department of Water Resources. Under this administration  
12 and the congressional funding, we aware that the Army  
13 Corps is under an urgent schedule to deliver this flood  
14 risk management project. We are all partners on this  
15 project, and trying to work as efficiently as possible.

16 --o0o--

17 DWR STAFF ENGINEER YOUNG: This map shows the  
18 limits of the project as defined in the General  
19 Reevaluation Report, along the American River, and the  
20 Sacramento River down to Freeport, including work in the  
21 north area streams and the widening of the Sacramento Weir  
22 and Bypass. Within these boundaries, the project is  
23 separated into three subprojects in order to meet the  
24 accelerated schedule: seepage and stability, erosion, and  
25 the widening of the Sacramento Weir and Bypass.





1 results. If a PPA is not in place, then the funding may  
2 be reallocated to other districts or earth projects.

3 Also, the funding has a mandatory completion date  
4 of January of 2024, five years from today, which puts this  
5 project on a very accelerated schedule.

6 --o0o--

7 DWR STAFF ENGINEER YOUNG: To meet this  
8 accelerated deadline, the staff recommends the Board  
9 approving the three-party model agreement between the Army  
10 Corps of Engineers, the Sacramento Area Flood Control  
11 Agency and the State at this time. The project will  
12 follow a typical cost split of 65 percent federal, 35  
13 percent non-federal sponsors, with the exception of the  
14 widening of the Sacramento Bypass and Weir, which will be  
15 fully funded by the non-federal sponsors.

16 --o0o--

17 DWR STAFF ENGINEER YOUNG: Additionally, the  
18 staff recommend approving the LPPA with SAFCA at this  
19 time. The LPPA will separate the non-federal cost share,  
20 70 percent State and 30 percent SAFCA. SAFCA will handle  
21 the hazardous materials, while the State is the  
22 environmental lead.

23 Both the non-federal sponsors will assist with  
24 the lands, easements, right of ways, relocations, and  
25 disposal sites, or LERRDs.

1                   --o0o--

2                   DWR STAFF ENGINEER YOUNG:  Therefore, in order to  
3 proceed with this project and meet the schedule to utilize  
4 the supplemental funding and reduce Sacramento flood risk,  
5 the staff are requesting the next steps are to approve the  
6 PPA and LPP, at this time, to ensure that the first  
7 contract can be awarded in May of this year, and the  
8 projected will be completed in January of 2024.

9                   DWR on behalf of the Board is also currently  
10 performing project level CEQA documentation, which will be  
11 complete prior to issuing the first contract in May of  
12 2019.  The draft document is currently in public review.

13                   --o0o--

14                   DWR STAFF ENGINEER YOUNG:  At this time, I'd like  
15 to open it up to any questions.

16                   PRESIDENT EDGAR:  Any questions from the Board on  
17 this project?  This is something we've been talking about  
18 for some time and, but -- Tim.

19                   BOARD MEMBER RAMIREZ:  Just real quick on the  
20 schedule.  Thank you.  I thought somebody said it was  
21 going to be next month we're going to see the Final EIR.  
22 What's roughly the time frame before it comes back between  
23 now and May, do we know?

24                   DWR STAFF ENGINEER YOUNG:  Till what comes back?

25                   BOARD MEMBER RAMIREZ:  The CEQA document.

1 DWR STAFF ENGINEER YOUNG: The CEQA document is  
2 in public review --

3 BOARD MEMBER RAMIREZ: Right.

4 DWR STAFF ENGINEER YOUNG: -- and so we'll  
5 perform an informational next month, and also for approval  
6 at the end of the month so that we can start the tree  
7 trimming process, which will essentially get the contract  
8 awarded in May.

9 BOARD MEMBER RAMIREZ: Okay. So we expect to see  
10 it in February at our second -- at our regular meeting.

11 DWR STAFF ENGINEER YOUNG: Yes.

12 BOARD MEMBER RAMIREZ: Okay. Thank you.

13 And it sounds like this is just encumbering the  
14 funds and marching along the way to actually let the  
15 contract go in May?

16 DWR STAFF ENGINEER YOUNG: Exactly.

17 BOARD MEMBER RAMIREZ: Thanks

18 BOARD MEMBER COUNTRYMAN: I have a question.

19 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Sure. Joe.

20 BOARD MEMBER COUNTRYMAN: You said the Sacramento  
21 Weir is all non-federal sponsor. There's no federal money  
22 in that?

23 DWR STAFF ENGINEER YOUNG: There is a share of  
24 the federal -- I mean, it's the non-federal sponsor's plan  
25 to proceed with that portion. And then there's a cost

1 sharing portion for like \$62 million. Apparently, that's  
2 from work along the levee that the work will --  
3 essentially, the -- like lowering of the American River  
4 will reduce the flood risk, and therefore there's a cost  
5 share with that about.

6 BOARD MEMBER COUNTRYMAN: Okay. Thank you.

7 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Any other members of the Board?  
8 Emma.

9 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: Thank you, Mr. President.  
10 This is actually for our staff. Is the CEQA  
11 document coming to us as a hearing or in consent?

12 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLIANCE BRANCH ACTING  
13 CHIEF HARVEY: It's planned for an informational action  
14 item next month.

15 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: Those are two different  
16 things.

17 GENERAL COUNSEL DUA: So Maybe I can clarify,  
18 Vice President Suarez.

19 So it will be a hearing. It will be with an  
20 informational briefing with a request for action at the  
21 end of the informational. So you will be briefed besides  
22 just documents.

23 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: Thank you.

24 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Any -- anybody from the public  
25 that wans to speak on this item, Item 9b?

1 Good morning, Rick.

2 MR. JOHNSON: Good morning. Rick Johnson with  
3 SAFCA. I -- as I was sitting there, I thought I -- I put  
4 a little bit -- I wanted to put a little perspective on  
5 how important this is with the supplemental funding.  
6 Since the '86 flood event, for the Sacramento area, we've  
7 put about \$2 billion into improvements into the flood  
8 system. So with this supplemental funding we got just  
9 under 1.6 billion for the -- this work, and then a couple  
10 hundred million for the raise. So we've got about 1.8  
11 billion in one year to finish in five years. So we got  
12 about the same amount that we've put into the ground in  
13 the last 32 years in this one bill.

14 So it gives us a chance to get ahead of that next  
15 big flood event and really reduce the flood risk for a  
16 half million citizens here. So I just -- just wanted to  
17 put a little perspective on that. Thanks.

18 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Well, thanks, Rick. I think a  
19 lot of people have put a lot of work into this project in  
20 the last couple of weeks to make sure that it's set aside  
21 for this project and doesn't go back to the pot, so to  
22 speak. So we're very -- very pleased about that.

23 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

24 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Anybody else from the public  
25 want to speak on this item?

1           Okay. Seeing none. Bring it back to the Board.  
2           What's the preference of the Board?

3           VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: I move to adopt the staff  
4 recommendation.

5           PRESIDENT EDGAR: Okay.

6           BOARD MEMBER RAMIREZ: Second.

7           PRESIDENT EDGAR: Okay. Moved by Suarez,  
8 seconded by I think that was -- oh, Mr. Ramirez, to adopt  
9 the resolution, which adopts the staff recommendation.

10           All in favor?

11           (Ayes.)

12           PRESIDENT EDGAR: Opposed?

13           Motion passes.

14           Thank you very much, everybody.

15           DWR STAFF ENGINEER YOUNG: Thank you.

16           PRESIDENT EDGAR: Okay. Now, we'll proceed back  
17 to the consent calendar. And you have the consent  
18 calendar Item 5. Joe, you wanted to recuse yourself on  
19 Item?

20           BOARD MEMBER COUNTRYMAN: 5F, I believe.

21           PRESIDENT EDGAR: 5F. Okay. The minutes will  
22 show that Joe Countryman -- Member Countryman recuses  
23 himself on Item 5F.

24           We have a speaker's slip from Dominick Gulli who  
25 wants to speak on Consent Items 5G, and 8C.

1 SECRETARY DOLAN: Than it's removed.

2 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Yes, we'll have to -- if the  
3 Board chooses, we'll remove Item -- or, I guess -- I guess  
4 we don't -- I guess we have no choice.

5 Let's -- could I have a motion on Items A, B C --  
6 or not C, I'm sorry.

7 EXECUTIVE OFFICER GALLAGHER: No, C.

8 PRESIDENT EDGAR: No, 8C. Yeah, 5G, I guess it  
9 is. Okay. Every item, except 5G.

10 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: So moved, Mr. President.

11 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Moved by Suarez. Seconded  
12 by --

13 SECRETARY DOLAN: Dolan.

14 PRESIDENT EDGAR: -- Dolan that all items except  
15 5G be removed -- be approved.

16 All in favor?

17 (Ayes.)

18 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Opposed?

19 Okay.

20 Now, let's take up item 5G, at this point.

21 Let's see, who -- do we have a staff person on  
22 this?

23 This is San --

24 EXECUTIVE OFFICER GALLAGHER: It's Sandy Maxwell  
25 is here.

1           PRESIDENT EDGAR: Is Sandy?

2           Sandy, would you mind just coming up and giving a  
3 30-second briefing of this project -- or of this item to  
4 the Board so we know what context we're looking at this?

5           DWR SENIOR ENGINEER MAXWELL: Hi. I'm Sandy  
6 Maxwell. I'm with the Delta Levees Subventions Program.  
7 And the Subventions Program needs an additional \$2.5  
8 million to provide funding for reclamation districts from  
9 maintenance that they perform during the 2017 winter  
10 storms.

11           As you recall, back in 2017, January and  
12 February, there were some heavy storms, heavy rains, and  
13 high waters, and lots of flow. And so the reclamation  
14 districts had unanticipated maintenance and unanticipated  
15 maintenance costs. So this -- so we received 71 final  
16 claims for a total of 20 -- a little over \$20 million.

17           And when we subtract our cost share and our per  
18 levee mile deductible, it comes to about 14.5 million.  
19 And you guys authorized, or the Board authorized, \$12  
20 million back in January or -- let's see, June of 2017, so  
21 that makes this about \$2.5 million short to fund all the  
22 work that the reclamation districts did in 2000 -- fiscal  
23 year 2017-18.

24           So that's why we're here. We're asking for the  
25 extra 2.5 million, so that we could fund all the work that



1 they did for maintenance activities to make sure that the  
2 levees are in good shape and stable for any future act --  
3 future rain or storms in general.

4 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Was this mainly the 2014 --

5 EXECUTIVE OFFICER GALLAGHER: '17.

6 PRESIDENT EDGAR: -- '17, storm damage claims?

7 DWR SENIOR ENGINEER MAXWELL: Yes.

8 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Yeah. Okay.

9 DWR SENIOR ENGINEER MAXWELL: Yeah, they had to  
10 do additional riprap and deal with sloughing, and -- I'm  
11 trying to think -- debris removal, lots of erosion. So  
12 just some general maintenance that they hadn't  
13 anticipated.

14 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Okay. Any questions from the  
15 Board at this point?

16 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: Just real quick.

17 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Okay.

18 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: Hi, Sandy. And I imagine  
19 that we have the budget to --

20 DWR SENIOR ENGINEER MAXWELL: We do. We have --  
21 we have the funding. We're going to be using Proposition  
22 1 funding.

23 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: Okay. Thank you.

24 Thank you, Mr. President.

25 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Okay. Mr. Gulli.

1 MR. GULLI: Yes, I'd like to thank you. I  
2 represent various reclamation districts in the Delta. And  
3 the Subventions Program is our life blood. In addition to  
4 the flood work that we have, we also did some  
5 rehabilitation projects. Primarily on Palm and Orwood  
6 Tract, we spent \$900,000 on dirt and rocks on Palm and  
7 Orwood Tract. So this is our lifeblood. It's such a good  
8 system for us. You know, we'll spend \$100,000 one year,  
9 and then we'll get back 60,000. And then that 60,000  
10 we'll invest. So after two years with \$100,000  
11 investment, we'll have \$90,000 worth of dirt and rock.  
12 It's a very good program. The districts are always  
13 willing to spend money so long as they're getting  
14 reimbursed.

15 So I thank you on behalf of all my districts for  
16 approving that additional funding.

17 Thank you.

18 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Oh. Okay.

19 All right. Could I have a -- we have the consent  
20 calendar approved, except for that item. Could I have a  
21 motion on Item 5G, please.

22 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: So moved.

23 SECRETARY DOLAN: Second.

24 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Moved by Suarez, seconded by  
25 Dolan.

1 All in favor?

2 (Ayes.)

3 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Okay. Motion passes.

4 Okay. Public comment.

5 This is the item on the agenda for people to  
6 speak to the Board, talk to the Board about items not on  
7 the agenda - items not on the agenda. And we have one  
8 speaker. Mr. Gulli, you wanted to pique on that item too.

9 MR. GULLI: Yeah. I would like to request at a  
10 future meeting that I could be able to make a presentation  
11 for alternate methods of flood control for the Central  
12 Stockton area. The reason I'd like to do that is I'd like  
13 to present a couple physics experiments for you relative  
14 to water flow.

15 The first one is if you were to have two 5-gallon  
16 buckets, and one of them had a half inch whole in it, and  
17 the other one had a two-inch hole in it, and you filled  
18 them up with water, obvious that the two-inch hole is  
19 going to flow more water to me.

20 Speed, velocity of water, the difference between  
21 0.2 feet per second and 2.38 feet per second relative to  
22 boating. I'd like just to demonstrate the difference in  
23 speed. 0.2 feet per second, in ten seconds you'll go two  
24 feet, one thousand one, two, three, four, five, six,  
25 seven, eight, nine, then, two feet.

1 Ten seconds at 2.38 feet per second, you'll go  
2 23.8 feet. Okay. It's a lot faster. So kayak going up  
3 at 2 point -- against the tide at 2.38 feet per second  
4 compared to a jet ski going down at 2.38 feet per second  
5 is quite a dangerous situation. And when you're doing it  
6 through a 50-foot opening, it becomes even more dangerous.

7 The same is true, a simple experiment. We used  
8 to put bricks in our toilets to make the water rise up.  
9 The same thing happens when you put a large structure in  
10 the floodplain.

11 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Mr. Gulli --

12 MR. GULLI: So I'd like to make a presentation in  
13 the future as to alternate flood control for that. And if  
14 someone could get back to me on how to get on the agenda,  
15 I think I made a request, so that's -- that would be my  
16 request.

17 Thank you.

18 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Okay. Thank you.

19 We'll refer that request to the Executive Officer  
20 and go from there.

21 Anybody else from the public want to speak to the  
22 Board?

23 Okay. We're on to Item 7. And this is the Corps  
24 of Engineers report regarding category -- categorical  
25 permissions that Ryan Larson has been working on for some

1 time.

2 Good morning, Ryan.

3 MR. LARSON: Good morning. Good morning,  
4 President Edgar and members of the Board.

5 (Thereupon an overhead presentation was  
6 presented as follows.)

7 MR. LARSON: My name is Ryan Larson. I am the  
8 Acting Chief of the Levees and Channels Branch at the  
9 Corps of Engineers, and also the District Section 408  
10 Coordinator.

11 And I'm pleased to come before you today and talk  
12 to you about categorical permissions. Give a second for  
13 the slides.

14 Okay. All right.

15 --o0o--

16 MR. LARSON: So Section 408 is -- we all know is  
17 what the Corps of Engineers uses to review alterations to  
18 authorized civil works projects. There was a new EC put  
19 out September 10th of this -- of this past year, EC  
20 1165-2-220.

21 Within that EC, it talks about the three  
22 different ways that you can -- you can review a Section  
23 408 alteration. One of those being categorical  
24 permissions, which is the subject of this presentation,  
25 and what I'm going to talk to you a little bit more about.

1           Single phase review. We're very familiar with  
2 that. It's what we've been doing with all of our  
3 alterations as they come in the door and we get back to  
4 you. There's also the multi-phase review. I'm not going  
5 to talk about that during this presentation, but -- so  
6 back to categorical permissions.

7           That is term specific to the Section 408 program.  
8 It is not to be confused with categorical exclusions from  
9 NEPA. Okay. So just being careful with language. But  
10 this is something that's -- that it's specific to the  
11 cate -- to the Section 408 program, something that we  
12 developed here in the Sacramento District for the Section  
13 408 program.

14                               --oOo--

15           MR. LARSON: Okay. And it -- its use is to  
16 expedite and streamline the review and decision of Section  
17 408 requests that similar in nature and have similar  
18 impacts to the Corps of Engineers project and environment.

19           So, you know, we started this back in 2017 --  
20 June of 2017, it was a time that folks like to forget  
21 about, because that was the time when the Section 408  
22 program ran out of funds, and we couldn't review  
23 alterations.

24           So we said, well, what can we do? We could work  
25 programmatically on actions. So we took this Section 408

1 program and got it going, and said we need to invest our  
2 resources and get this -- get this thing moving so that we  
3 can get ahead of the game.

4           You know, everybody wants to get things done  
5 faster, get things done more efficiently. President Edgar  
6 made comments to, hey, we need to get -- we need to get a  
7 walk-up permit. Well, this is as close as we're going to  
8 get to a walk-up permit. You know, we have terms and  
9 conditions laid out in this categorical permission, where  
10 folks can get their -- can get their alteration request  
11 approved quickly.

12           And the new policy also laid out -- the September  
13 10th policy laid out timelines for the Corps of Engineers  
14 to get their reviews done. This -- this will be a tool  
15 that we'll be able to use to get those things done faster.

16           The 80/20 part on there, we think that, you know,  
17 roughly 80 percent of alterations that come in the door  
18 should be able to fit within this categorical permissions.  
19 There will be some that won't fit. That's that extra 20  
20 percent. You know, there might be unique circumstances in  
21 that little area that require additional review. And  
22 those are the ones that we want to dig into and really,  
23 you know, understand why they can't fit the categorical  
24 permissions.

25           You know, so it's -- you know, this isn't -- this

1 isn't going to solve all the problems. You know, it's not  
2 going to be for absolutely everybody. But we do think  
3 that 80 percent roughly of alterations that come in the  
4 door ought to be able to fit within this categorical  
5 permissions.

6 So, you know, also taking that 80/20, we want to  
7 use 80 percent of our time to dig into those 20 percent  
8 that don't fit, and really find out why they don't -- why  
9 they don't fit, and review those.

10 So basically, you know, maximizing our --  
11 maximizing our time for the ones that -- that don't fit  
12 the categorical permissions. Okay. And then that  
13 validation stamp on there, that serves two purposes. You  
14 know, when we layout the requirements within this  
15 categorical permissions, the best practices within this  
16 categorical permissions and folks, you know, design their  
17 projects in accordance with those, we think the reviews  
18 should go faster, because we ought to be able to see, oh,  
19 yes, this requester, you know, is following the  
20 categorical permissions. We can follow their -- you know,  
21 what they're doing. We can see what their -- what their  
22 -- how they designed it and the measures that they put  
23 into it.

24 So we think that the reviews should go faster.  
25 But then it's also a statement that this doesn't -- this



1 categorical permission doesn't give folks a chance to go  
2 out and do things on their own without coming to the Board  
3 and the Corps. The Corps of Engineers and the Central  
4 Valley Flood Protection Board still have to review alt --  
5 individ -- the individual alteration requests. So this  
6 isn't just a ticket to go and do things.

7 But in the end we do think -- we do think the  
8 reviews will go faster. Again, it's that -- it's that  
9 tool to review individual alteration requests.

10 --o0o--

11 MR. LARSON: Okay. So this was developed for the  
12 Sacramento District. It's for all of the Sacramento  
13 District projects, even projects that aren't sponsored by  
14 the Central Valley Flood Protection Board. It's for  
15 alterations that will -- can be approved at the District  
16 level. And we have a five-year scope on it. So it's  
17 available through use January 14th of 2024, excuse me.

18 --o0o--

19 MR. LARSON: There was public involvement with  
20 this categorical permissions. It did go out for two  
21 30-day public notices -- public notice periods. Once  
22 initially to -- do we have enough alterations in there?  
23 Do we have the right suite of alterations?

24 And then that second time, it was following the  
25 release of the September 10th, 2018 policy. That policy

1 stated that the categorical -- the draft version of the  
2 categorical permissions must go out for public review.

3 So we had great feedback. Over 20 different  
4 agencies responded to those public notices. And so we --  
5 we took that feedback and incorporated it into the  
6 categorical permissions. And we think we've got a better  
7 product because of it. So I appreciate Central Valley  
8 Flood Protection Board, California Central Valley Flood  
9 Control Association, PG&E, High Speed Rail, RD 17, the  
10 water forum, all those groups for participating in that  
11 and ultimately giving us a better product.

12 --o0o--

13 MR. LARSON: So into the alter -- the specific  
14 alteration request -- descriptions. There are 25  
15 different alteration descriptions within this categorical  
16 permissions. Back to that, we think 80 percent of the  
17 things that come in the door ought to be able to fit. You  
18 know, I challenge you to find something where you couldn't  
19 find an alteration description to fit it, with one caveat.  
20 There -- we don't have homes, additions, human habitation  
21 is not part of the categorical permissions. And we're not  
22 in the -- as a flood risk management agency, we're not in  
23 the business of streamlining and making that more  
24 efficient. And so you won't find homes or human  
25 habitation within this categorical permissions, but we can

1 still review those alterations on an individual basis.

2           So I'm going to get into a little bit of the  
3 specifics here picking stairs and handrails. This is --  
4 this is the definition of the project description for  
5 stairs and handrails. That's all of it. It has very  
6 objective criteria. You can see a mention to 12 inches  
7 down there at the bottom. It has directions for what to  
8 do on the landside versus the waterside. You know, using  
9 inorganic materials.

10           You can't use wood or wood-based products. I  
11 think this is very consistent with your current Title 23  
12 regulations, and -- but you can see that it's objective  
13 and with specific criteria. Okay. I'm going to show you  
14 one more that's bigger and longer.

15                           --o0o--

16           MR. LARSON: This is the pressurized pipes. This  
17 is just to show you that -- you know, this is on the other  
18 side of the scale. There's a lot of words there. Okay.  
19 But we need folks to look at those and read those as  
20 they're designing their projects to make sure that they're  
21 meeting those intent -- meeting those requirements within  
22 that alteration description.

23           There are -- there are best management practices  
24 in there for designing pressurized pipe crossing of a  
25 levee. And so it can be wordy. There's a lot of things

1 in there. We acknowledge that. And so we're trying to,  
2 in our implementation of this -- of this product, and this  
3 tool, we have developed checklists. These checklists  
4 distill down the must haves, where folks can look at  
5 their -- at their project, their proposed alteration. And  
6 they can look at this checklist, and they ought to be able  
7 to go top to bottom, yep, nope, yep, yep.

8 --o0o--

9 MR. LARSON: And as reviewers, we need to see  
10 evidence of those items on the checklist within their --  
11 within their packages, so that we can make verification  
12 calls that a proposed alteration meets the categorical  
13 permissions. So we're trying to make this as  
14 user-friendly, and objective, helpful to everyone.

15 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Ryan, Emma has a question.

16 MR. LARSON: Okay.

17 PRESIDENT EDGAR: And then Tim Ramirez.

18 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: No. It's showing up as  
19 Tim, but it's me.

20 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Oh, that's you.

21 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: I'm going to be Tim  
22 today. I'm sorry to interrupt, but I'm more interested  
23 real quick on these checklists for example and maybe a  
24 member of our staff can help answer the question.

25 So let's say we have this checklist, and somebody

1 goes through it and they're cool and okay with your stuff.  
2 My question to our staff perhaps is under our authorities,  
3 do we have even more stringent requirements that would  
4 apply -- that would show up in some of these checklists  
5 and how do we then deal with the fact that the Corps has a  
6 checklist out there that people feel comfortable with, yet  
7 we have additional regulatory standards that need to be  
8 met? And perhaps there's no case. Maybe our regulatory  
9 standards meet exactly this checklist, but -- and if --

10           PRESIDENT EDGAR: That would be the goal  
11 obviously.

12           MR. LARSON: I don't -- I don't think staff has  
13 reviewed these checklists. Staff has looked at the  
14 alteration descriptions. You know, the alteration  
15 descriptions were written to be complementary to Title 23.  
16 So I -- someone -- someone or some agency could have more  
17 stringent requirements than our Title 23 -- or, I'm sorry,  
18 than our categorical permissions. And that would  
19 certainly be fine. These are -- these are the minimum  
20 standards to -- for a certain project to fit within the  
21 categorical permissions.

22           VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: Does anybody know or  
23 that -- whether there's an instance where our standards  
24 are more stringent than the checklists that the Corps has  
25 put together? Mr. Countryman is suggesting it probably

1 wouldn't even get forwarded to the Corps and that might be  
2 the answer.

3 Oh, Mr. Lemon.

4 PERMITTING SECTION CHIEF LEMON: Gary Lemon,  
5 Board Staff.

6 Like Ryan said, I've looked at the categories in  
7 general. It's -- it really sets just parameters as far as  
8 areas of impact. It doesn't really go into the details of  
9 the -- you know, the technical construction issues.

10 So I don't know of anything or I haven't seen  
11 anything that would be a conflict with Title 23.

12 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: Thank you.

13 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Yeah, I think that's a good  
14 point though. What we want to do, and what the theory was  
15 in the beginning, is to make it simple as possible for  
16 those that are in this category, so that if there are  
17 other agencies that have conditions that may have to come  
18 in here, we need to flesh that out in the beginning so  
19 that people aren't, you know, acting like a ping pong ball  
20 going from one to the other agency, and -- the idea is to  
21 streamline the process here. We don't want to create  
22 another morass here, so --

23 PERMITTING SECTION CHIEF LEMON: I'm sure Ryan  
24 will add to that, because they -- through this process  
25 they've coordinated with other federal agencies.

1           PRESIDENT EDGAR: Yeah, right.

2           PERMITTING SECTION CHIEF LEMON: And I think  
3 that's where the time savings will come in.

4           PRESIDENT EDGAR: Yeah. Well -- yeah.

5           VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: And I think at one time,  
6 we had the discussion -- the concern that people would hit  
7 the checklist and they think they're good to go. And how  
8 do we make sure that people understand that hitting the  
9 checklist is really great, but there's still a need to  
10 ensure that the Board has done its final oversight and  
11 this Board has had its final authorizing of the work.

12           MR. LARSON: Absolutely. Absolutely. So  
13 these -- so this is a tool for folks. They still have to  
14 come to the Board. They still have to work through Board  
15 staff. Board staff will still send their applications  
16 over to us. And so there will be those -- those  
17 conversations with the individual -- individual 408  
18 requester/applicant to make sure that the projects meet  
19 the different standards that are necessary for everyone to  
20 make the permit decisions.

21           Certainly not -- you know, we believe that the  
22 alteration descriptions and the checklists are  
23 complementary. They won't be contradictory. They won't  
24 cause more problems with the intent to streamline our  
25 processes.

1           PRESIDENT EDGAR: Is that the -- would that be  
2 the case too - I'm just trying to think through here -  
3 with other State agencies? I mean, if we have a  
4 checklist, Ryan's done his best in terms to make sure  
5 that these categories kind of streamline the federal  
6 agencies. But have we looked at how this relates to the  
7 State agencies, Cal Fish and Wildlife, and so on?

8           MR. LARSON: This is focused on -- this is  
9 focused on flood risk management and building  
10 alterations --

11          PRESIDENT EDGAR: Um-hmm.

12          MR. LARSON: -- in concert with best management  
13 practices for existing flood risk management  
14 infrastructure and making sure that those -- that our  
15 levees -- you know, levees and channels continue to  
16 function as intended. So I think it's really, you know,  
17 making sure that, you know, Title 23 and these -- and  
18 these alteration descriptions can live in harmony.

19          PRESIDENT EDGAR: Yeah. Okay. Well, I guess the  
20 bottom line is we need to try this out, because that --

21          MR. LARSON: Yep.

22          PRESIDENT EDGAR: -- this -- try it out. We'll  
23 have problems. We'll have to fix them, I'm sure. But  
24 this is -- this is something we've been working on for  
25 five years --



1 MR. LARSON: Yep.

2 PRESIDENT EDGAR: -- you know, to streamline the  
3 process. I think Ryan has done a great job in trying to  
4 do a category -- if he can do 80 percent of the  
5 applications fit this category, I think that's a giant  
6 step forward for mankind. Yeah, right. That will be --  
7 that will be terrific. If we can do that and nobody else  
8 comes in at the 7th -- you know, the 7th hour and kind  
9 of -- yeah, but I think it's going to take a little  
10 experimentation.

11 MR. LARSON: Absolutely

12 PRESIDENT EDGAR: And we'll probably have some  
13 things we'll have to fix. But congratulations. I think  
14 this is terrific. Yeah.

15 MR. LARSON: You know, on that note, you know, as  
16 we were coming to the final stages, we said, hey, we need  
17 to try some of cheese checklists out. Let's grab an  
18 application and go. And we learned things. You know,  
19 ooh, we need to make that -- that description a little bit  
20 tighter, or we need to, you know, improve that language.  
21 And so we will. We will learn things. Absolutely.

22 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Yeah.

23 MR. LARSON: But we've got to get out there and  
24 we've got to try. So excited about it.

25 --o0o--

1           PRESIDENT EDGAR: That's great.

2           MR. LARSON: I note on environmental compliance,  
3 there is a programmatic environmental assessment that goes  
4 along with these categorical permissions. That will  
5 satisfy NEPA. And when we make our validation  
6 determinations, we will use that environmental assessment  
7 and tie it -- and tie our action to that Environmental  
8 Assessment. We do not have -- this doesn't satisfy  
9 Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.  
10 This doesn't satisfy Section 7 of the Endangered Species  
11 Act and all the other federal laws that we need to comply  
12 with.

13           We're working on programmatic efforts there.  
14 We're in consultation with the SHPO on a programmatic  
15 agreement for Section 106 consultation. We're working  
16 with Fish and Wildlife Service on programmatic actions for  
17 formal and informal consultation, so -- and it will be  
18 based upon the alteration descriptions that are in this  
19 categorical permission trying to build -- build the suite  
20 of products, you know, that make -- that make this thing  
21 go.

22           So --

23           PRESIDENT EDGAR: Yeah, if you can --

24           MR. LARSON: -- that's the next step.

25           PRESIDENT EDGAR: Right. If you can make that

1 work, I think that solves the problem I was talking about.

2 MR. LARSON: Yep, and we're working it -- working  
3 hard.

4 --o0o--

5 MR. LARSON: So how do we use this thing?

6 We talked a little bit about the checklists.  
7 They could be filled out by the Section 408 requester.  
8 They could be filled out by Board staff. They could be  
9 filled out by Corps staff. And I think as we get started,  
10 it's going to be a combination of all those, until we  
11 get -- until we get this really figured out.

12 We have taken our -- our inventory of alteration  
13 descriptions and looked back at them and said, hey,  
14 what -- what fits? You know, what can we -- what can we  
15 put within this categorical permissions to make our  
16 permanent decisions on stuff that we currently have in our  
17 queue?

18 And, you know, I feel confident in that -- that  
19 80 percent number, even with folks doing nothing right  
20 now. I mean, with the alterations that we have in front  
21 of us, we can -- I feel confident in the 80 percent  
22 number. You know, so I think as these alteration  
23 descriptions get out, and folks see what we're looking  
24 for, and make our requirements clear, they can incorporate  
25 those items into their alteration descript -- into their

1 alterations. And that number will just get better.

2 We will -- we will be validating -- validating  
3 that specific alteration request meets that categorical  
4 permissions. And then I think what's important for you --  
5 fo you guys for the Board and Board Staff is that the end  
6 product won't look any different. You'll still get a  
7 Letter of Permission. You'll still have a project  
8 description, a permit number, and conditions that go along  
9 with it.

10 It's just this is a tool that we will use to  
11 streamline our review and get you -- and get the public,  
12 you know, the product they're looking for in a more  
13 streamlined and efficient manner.

14 --o0o--

15 MR. LARSON: Where can we find this thing?

16 This is our -- the link at the top of the page is  
17 where our categorical permissions document is at. It is  
18 our Section 408 website. It's being -- we pushed it out  
19 there for the purpose of getting the word on the  
20 categorical permissions out. And right now, it's in there  
21 as a single PDF file under categorical permissions.

22 The site is in development. We will make it  
23 better. We will eventually get these alteration  
24 descriptions and the associated checklists out there as  
25 individual links that people can -- can grab and pull up.

1           You know, we think that -- you know, we encourage  
2 requesters to use it. We encourage -- if it's not there  
3 and staff thinks it fits, you know, staff to fill it out  
4 and put it in there, or, you know, to check those boxes.

5           It's real the trigger. It's the -- the thing  
6 that is going to get reviewers to go, oh, I should be  
7 thinking about the categorical permissions here, and I  
8 should be looking for, you know, these items on this  
9 checklist in this package, so I can make my validation  
10 decision.

11           And then we will also on that website break out,  
12 you know, items of interest. You know, if the  
13 environmental assessment is something that folks want to  
14 look at, we'll get a -- we'll get a link for that. We'll  
15 get a link for the standard conditions, so that folks can  
16 find stuff more easily.

17           We understand right now it is in one giant PDF  
18 file. Apologize, but we're trying to get the word out as  
19 quickly as possible, and we'll make it better over time.

20           On this website, we'll also have things like our  
21 template files for environmental assessments, and  
22 biological assessments, information on cultural resources,  
23 so that folks can get as complete a package together as  
24 possible.

25           So we hope that -- yes, we've been waiting a long

1 time for this. I'm excited about it. I -- we need to try  
2 it. I think we're getting to that -- you know, this is --  
3 we're getting to that walk-up permit idea. I encourage --  
4 I encourage requesters to use this. I encourage staff to,  
5 you know, coach requesters, hey, if you just change this  
6 one little thing, you know, you could fit within that  
7 categorical permissions.

8 We think the checklists will be a great tool. It  
9 won't be a mystery what we're looking for. It's going to  
10 be on that -- it's going to be on that -- you know, within  
11 that document, it's going to be on that checklist. And  
12 it's going to be objective. You know, folks -- you know,  
13 if they fill it out, they should be able to -- they should  
14 be able to see what we're looking for.

15 Categorical permissions isn't something that  
16 rolls off the tongue. You know, so we'll see what the --  
17 what the -- what the language vernacular folks choose to  
18 use for it. You know, it could be CP. It could cat perm.

19 (Laughter.)

20 MR. LARSON: You know, but categorical  
21 permissions is -- that's a specific term to Section 408.  
22 There's not many of these out there right now. You know,  
23 looking around and speaking with colleagues, I could -- I  
24 could find four other districts in the country out of --  
25 out of over 40 -- 40 Corps of Engineers Districts that

1 have this. So I'm excited that we've got something like  
2 this to use.

3 And a big shot out -- shout-out to staff who put  
4 up with me, you know, pushing for this. And they're back  
5 in the back of the room Kaleigh Maze, Brian Luke, Kim  
6 Leonard, Bob Murakami, Glen Johnson, Kate Dadey, Erik  
7 James, Saba Siddiqui. So I appreciate that -- the  
8 staff's effort and what they did to put this thing  
9 together. So with that, any questions for me?

10 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Thanks very much, Ryan. That's  
11 really a giant step forward. Tim.

12 EXECUTIVE OFFICER GALLAGHER: Emma.

13 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Oh, that's Emma.

14 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: No, acutaly that is Tim.  
15 (Laughter.)

16 PRESIDENT EDGAR: On, that is Tim.

17 BOARD MEMBER RAMIREZ: I think we're one behind  
18 the queue somehow. I push a button that goes to the  
19 person that just talked.

20 It will all be fine.

21 (Laughter.)

22 BOARD MEMBER RAMIREZ: Thank you. I'm going to  
23 vote for cat per. I think CP has been taken. CP3, but  
24 it'sclose enough, so...

25 I just wanted to partially address Bill's

1 comment. I think you guys have cleared the decks on your  
2 end, which is what we asked you to do, which is really  
3 great. And I think it deserves recognition. It's not  
4 inconsequential. It takes a lot of time. And hopefully  
5 things are going to be a lot smoother now. So really  
6 appreciate all the hard work you guys did.

7 I think on the State side, things were moving  
8 quickly and then they sort of got stuck at this point,  
9 right? So I don't think there's a programmatic State  
10 something. I think they fall into different boxes, CEQA,  
11 Fish and Wildlife. It's worth looking at just to make  
12 sure. But I think we're probably fine. But I think our  
13 trusty staff can look at this and make sure that they know  
14 what boxes those things fit in. I don't think it's the  
15 same exercise for the State.

16 Nonetheless, I think it's worth double checking  
17 just to make sure that we're not going to miss something  
18 and otherwise get in the way. But guys have already done  
19 all the federal stuff, right, or you're talking to the  
20 agencies about the next thing that they would have to do,  
21 which is really great.

22 So thank you.

23 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Any other questions?

24 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: Mr. President, just real  
25 quickly. I'm looking at our website, and I don't see any



1 quick reference to these materials. And I was wondering  
2 whether we could -- without confusing the public, somehow  
3 create a link and do a little write-up, so as we're -- as  
4 you're testing, we facilitate communication between our  
5 stakeholders and clients.

6 MR. LARSON: And as this thing comes out, if  
7 folks are -- if staff is curious how to use it, you know,  
8 and what we need to do, if it's not clear, we can -- we  
9 can meet with you, help -- help lay it out and what we're  
10 looking for. And then -- you know, and get the word out  
11 to requesters as well.

12 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Yeah, that would be a good to  
13 have a link on that, Mike, if we could.

14 ACTING CHIEF ENGINEER WRIGHT: (Nods head.)

15 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Ms. Dolan.

16 I think I'm right on that.

17 (Laughter.)

18 SECRETARY DOLAN: It looks like it. Thank you.  
19 New term there. We now have a "requester", not  
20 an "applicant".

21 MR. LARSON: You can have applicants in your  
22 program. In the Section 408 program, it's requesters.

23 SECRETARY DOLAN: And who actually completes and  
24 validates the checklist? Is it completed by the requester  
25 and the Corps validates the answers?

1           MR. LARSON: It can be. It could be filled out  
2 by the requester. It could be filled out by Board staff.  
3 It will be validated by Corps staff. It could be  
4 completed and validated by Corps staff as well. Some of  
5 these ones that we have in-house right now and we say,  
6 hey, we could use this categorical permissions to complete  
7 this permit action, we'll have -- we'll have staff put the  
8 checklist down and make those validation calls.

9           SECRETARY DOLAN: All right. So there's some  
10 review of what's in the pipeline now?

11          MR. LARSON: Yep.

12          SECRETARY DOLAN: From this point on, the  
13 requester specifically says I am submitting for a a  
14 categorical permission?

15          MR. LARSON: They would say here's my permit  
16 application, please review it, and I think it fits the  
17 categorical permissions. And the way to show that would  
18 be they've got their categorical permissions checklist in  
19 there. And so that would be -- you know, hopefully they  
20 verified themselves. Board staff can coach them through  
21 that. And then we -- and then we would be using that same  
22 checklist to say, yeah, we agree.

23          SECRETARY DOLAN: Okay. Compared to the  
24 nationwide permit?

25          MR. LARSON: Absolutely. It was -- it's a

1 parallel to the nationwide permit or the regional general  
2 permit in the regulatory program.

3 SECRETARY DOLAN: Thank you.

4 MR. LARSON: And we used our regulatory staff in  
5 the district to help us generate this with that intent.

6 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Okay. Anything else?

7 Any member of the public want to comment on this?

8 Yes.

9 MR. GULLI: Yeah, I have a simple question. For  
10 pipes going through the levee --

11 GENERAL COUNSEL DUA: Excuse me. Gulli, could you  
12 state your name for the record please?

13 MR. GULLI: Oh, yeah. Sorry. Dominick Gulli,  
14 various reclamation districts in the Delta.

15 It seems to me like the Title 22 allows for high  
16 density polyethylene pipe so long as they can show that it  
17 won't crush and show that it will be protected by  
18 ultraviolet light. And that's a question if somebody  
19 could answer that.

20 And then the issue would be if it meets your  
21 requirements for going through a levee, then I'm wondering  
22 if there's a procedure, say for example, it does meet  
23 Title 22, but it doesn't meet his checklist, will there be  
24 some way for an applicant or a requester to request the  
25 variance if it doesn't -- if it fits DWR's box and it

1 doesn't fit the Corps' box, what do you do?

2 MR. LARSON: Yeah. So if there --

3 MR. GULLI: And the question is HDPE pipe, high  
4 density pipe, does 408 allow it and then does the Title 22  
5 allow it? It's a fusion welded pipe.

6 MR. LARSON: So if there's a product -- a project  
7 out there and the Board decides that it meets Title 23,  
8 and they send it over and the project does not fit the  
9 categorical permissions, we will review it in a single --  
10 a single review like we do now.

11 MR. GULLI: Different process?

12 MR. LARSON: Different process. Different tool.  
13 And we'll review it individually. And so it won't get the  
14 benefits of the streamlining that's within the categorical  
15 permissions.

16 MR. GULLI: And then can someone from the Board  
17 ask is HDPE allowed in --

18 THE COURT REPORTER: Get closer to the mic

19 MR. GULLI: Oh, sorry. Is HDPE pipe allowed in a  
20 project levee?

21 Offline?

22 Okay. Thank you.

23 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Michael, can you answer that  
24 question offline for him?

25 ACTING CHIEF ENGINEER WRIGHT: Yes.

1           PRESIDENT EDGAR: Thank you. Thanks.

2           Okay. Anything else from the public on this  
3 item?

4           I would have thought Chris Neudeck would have  
5 been jumping up and down.

6           (Laughter.)

7           MR. NEUDECK: I did not to extend your meeting,  
8 but we're very thankful for the process. Thank you very  
9 much.

10          (Laughter.)

11          PRESIDENT EDGAR:

12          MR. NEUDECK: Yes, absolutely.

13          PRESIDENT EDGAR: Okay. Great.

14          Thanks, Ryan. Thank you. This is, at this  
15 point, an informational item.

16          Okay. Item 8. We're on Item 8, Department of  
17 Water Resources items. And we do have our regularly  
18 scheduled with DWR today. Jon Ericson our the Chief of  
19 Flood Management Division is going to present his normal  
20 monthly report. And then he's arranged to have Central  
21 Valley Tributaries Program presentation, which came up  
22 last month, I believe at the Board, and the -- Michael  
23 Sabbaghian's Flood Management Assistance Program, which  
24 he'll give a status report on.

25          Jon, good morning.

1 DWR DIVISION OF FLOOD MANAGEMENT CHIEF ERICSON:

2 Good morning, President Edgar, members of the  
3 Board, Executive Officer Gallagher. Jon Ericson,  
4 Department of Water Resources, Division of Flood  
5 Management. My thanks to Ryan Larson for wearing Air  
6 Force blue today.

7 (Laughter.)

8 DWR DIVISION OF FLOOD MANAGEMENT CHIEF ERICSON:

9 It's an inside joke.

10 (Laughter.)

11 DWR DIVISION OF FLOOD MANAGEMENT CHIEF ERICSON:

12 There he is.

13 So I know theres's a lot of items today. I'm  
14 going to make it quick. Please to have Jeanine Jones with  
15 us today from our executive office. So I'll just give a  
16 quick, what I call, a halftime report in terms of the  
17 flood season. We got some greater weather this week.

18 But I'd like to share with you -- is it ready to  
19 go?

20 (Thereupon an overhead presentation was  
21 Presented as follows.)

22 DWR DIVISION OF FLOOD MANAGEMENT CHIEF ERICSON:

23 There we go. Okay. Thank you very much.

24 --o0o--

25 DWR DIVISION OF FLOOD MANAGEMENT CHIEF ERICSON:

1           Like I said, just a quick halftime report of  
2 where we are in terms of hydrologic conditions throughout  
3 the Central Valley.

4           So here's our precipitation from our northern  
5 Sierra 8-station index. You can see the blue number there  
6 toward the left-hand side. But right about average right  
7 now. So we made a big second quarter comeback. We'll see  
8 what the third and fourth quarter bring for us this year.

9           It's always interesting to look at these water  
10 years and see how water actually arrives in California.  
11 Our average line is obviously smooth with all the years  
12 accumulated. But you can see that it comes in waves of  
13 energy that are stair-stepped across the water year. So  
14 it's always fascinating to look at that.

15                           --o0o--

16           DWR DIVISION OF FLOOD MANAGEMENT CHIEF ERICSON:

17           Here's our snow water content, northern, central,  
18 southern Sierra. So again a great comeback here in the  
19 second quarter. So we're right about average. A little  
20 over 100 percent throughout all the regions in statewide  
21 conditions right now.

22                           --o0o--

23           DWR DIVISION OF FLOOD MANAGEMENT CHIEF ERICSON:

24           Here's a look at our major reservoirs throughout  
25 the Central Valley. So so far this year, we haven't had

1 any significant flood control releases, so to speak.  
2 So -- but you can see right now we're approaching top of  
3 conservation in many of our reservoirs. So we're going to  
4 have to keep a close eye in terms of what's coming next,  
5 because as these storms arrive, potentially in February,  
6 March, and April, then there will be flood releases as  
7 people come out of their flood control requirements. So  
8 we'll keep an eye on that.

9 Joe.

10 BOARD MEMBER COUNTRYMAN: Why is Oroville so low.  
11 Is it being held?

12 The question was why is Oroville so low?

13 DWR DIVISION OF FLOOD MANAGEMENT CHIEF ERICSON:

14 Yeah, I wouldn't say it's being held, Joe. It  
15 just -- the storm centering really this year has been  
16 around the Shasta Basin, the north coast. So it's  
17 interesting how the patterns have come through. So  
18 there's been no changes in releases. They've been at  
19 minimum flows for many months now. So, yeah, not sure  
20 why.

21 I just want to say a quick thanks in terms of our  
22 slide presentations. Again, we have a lot today. So  
23 Wendy Wang, Wendy Valdez with staff. Kathryn, thank you  
24 for your coordination. So we appreciate that.

25 With that, let's see, any type of issues we



1 had -- we've had some minor debris flow from the Camp Fire  
2 area. Nothing significant. And we have had a landside  
3 slip on the Cherokee Canal, which we're working on right  
4 now. Nothing significant. But we can report back to you  
5 next month on that.

6 So that's kind of a summary of conditions right  
7 now.

8 --o0o--

9 DWR DIVISION OF FLOOD MANAGEMENT CHIEF ERICSON:

10 I'm happy to announce Jeanine Jones here. She's  
11 going to probably have to have these microphones turned  
12 down a little bit

13 (Laughter.)

14 DWR DIVISION OF FLOOD MANAGEMENT CHIEF ERICSON:

15 But she doesn't work with any organization that  
16 doesn't have a long acronym name.

17 (Laughter.)

18 DWR DIVISION OF FLOOD MANAGEMENT CHIEF ERICSON:

19 So I think her for coming today. I sure  
20 appreciate it, Jeanine. She's going to talk about S2S,  
21 which is our subseasonal to seasonal forecasting, which  
22 really is going to help us extend out. Right now, we have  
23 some skill with the National Weather Service in terms of  
24 up to a five-day forecast. We want to extend that to two  
25 weeks to three weeks. She'll tell you more. She's the

1 expert. So thank you, Jeanine, for coming.

2 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Thank you, Jon.

3 DWR INTERSTATE RESOURCES MANAGER JONES: Mr.  
4 President and members, thank you for the opportunity to  
5 come before you today. I want to thank Jon for giving me  
6 some time on his part of the presentation. Very timely,  
7 because we're sort of at the middle of our wet season  
8 right now, and we'd like to know what's the rest of the  
9 wet season going to be like? Is it going to be wet? Is  
10 it going to be dry?

11 We've been making some exciting progress in this  
12 area. It's a difficult scientific problem. Definitely  
13 needs more resources, but I'm happy to be able to share  
14 with you what we've been doing laterly.

15 --o0o--

16 DWR INTERSTATE RESOURCES MANAGER JONES: So just  
17 a quick reminder, weather models operationally run out to  
18 about two weeks. Most of the skill is in the first half  
19 of that period. The academic community defines  
20 subseasonal, out to a couple of months. So, for example,  
21 the rest of this water year, we could call subseasonal.  
22 And if I were to ask my scientific friends in November  
23 what's the winter going to be like, they would call that a  
24 seasonal forecast.

25 --o0o--

1           DWR INTERSTATE RESOURCES MANAGER JONES: Now,  
2 NOAA makes many operational forecasts, including an  
3 operational outlook for precipitation that goes out 30  
4 days, 60 days, 90 days.

5                           --o0o--

6           DWR INTERSTATE RESOURCES MANAGER JONES: However,  
7 the skill of that is virtually zero. To be technical,  
8 it's 7.9. As shown on this graphic of NOAA's, which is  
9 the long-term skill score as meteorologists measure their  
10 forecast skill, for, in this case, I'm showing the three  
11 wettest months for us December, January, February on a  
12 forecast made in mid-November. White areas on the map  
13 have no skill. White color is most of the map, yeah.

14           The blue areas are where they actually have  
15 negative skill, worse than predicting just average  
16 weather. So they're not doing too well on the American  
17 River basin clearly. A few areas where they do well is on  
18 the southern, you know, Gulf Coast area, southwest, where  
19 they get some signal from El Niño and La Niña. Still, you  
20 know, if their average skill over the entire U.S. is 8,  
21 and it's essentially zero for us in California, we need to  
22 do better.

23                           --o0o--

24           DWR INTERSTATE RESOURCES MANAGER JONES: Been  
25 making some interesting progress on the policy side. We

1 just saw the enactment of some important legislation  
2 earlier this month. The reauthorization -- reauthorization  
3 for the National Integrated Drought Information System was  
4 signed into law. And it also reauthorized an important  
5 part of the Weather Research Act, which was originally  
6 adopted in 2017.

7           It specifically directs NOAA to make some  
8 improvement on S2S forecasting, and importantly provides a  
9 vehicle that stakeholders like us can use to have  
10 conversations with people on the Hill about the level of  
11 resources and the priority of this work. It also directs  
12 them to make a report to Congress on what needs to be  
13 done. We're looking forward to the release of that  
14 report, when the shutdown ends. And it gives us another  
15 opportunity to walk in the door and say, gee, here are  
16 some things you need to do for us.

17           But we have not been resting on our laurels  
18 waiting for the federal level. Wearing a drought hat,  
19 we've been attempting to work on this seasonal forecasting  
20 thing over roughly the past decade. We've seen a lot of  
21 potential, now based on the investment that we've made in  
22 the observing systems in partnership with NOAA. There's  
23 support in the science side from a couple of recent  
24 National Academies reports. And then we have the federal  
25 legislation that gives us a foot in the door.

1                   --o0o--

2                   DWR INTERSTATE RESOURCES MANAGER JONES: So over  
3 the last decade, DWR has invested more than almost \$50  
4 million now in the observing system for extreme precip,  
5 the atmospheric river work, the hydrometeorology test bed  
6 program with NOAA, grants that we're making to local  
7 agencies, and other basic research that we're focusing on  
8 with academia.

9                   --o0o--

10                  DWR INTERSTATE RESOURCES MANAGER JONES: Our  
11 strategy is basically first to try to extend operational  
12 weather modeling capability out into that subseasonal  
13 world, look at week three, week four, and then look at the  
14 climate modeling and try and bring that in timewise. So  
15 S2S really op -- exists in the time scale in between  
16 weather and climate. Some people call it the bridge  
17 between weather and climate. So we want to work both ends  
18 of the spectrum to see what we can do in trying to improve  
19 skill. And we're also developing a coalition of partner  
20 water agencies across the west that share similar  
21 interests in seeing improvements.

22                  --o0o--

23                  DWR INTERSTATE RESOURCES MANAGER JONES: Last  
24 month, DWR executed a contract that was handled by our  
25 Division of Flood Management. A five-year contract with

1 NOAA for making improvements in weather forecasting at a  
2 week zero to week four time range, specifically to help  
3 support operations of the State Water Project. But going  
4 out into that week four, you're doing things like  
5 improving how models -- weather models deal with tropical  
6 convection, i.e. storms, out in the Pacific Ocean, which  
7 are important later on in a few weeks for what we get here  
8 in California.

9 --o0o--

10 DWR INTERSTATE RESOURCES MANAGER JONES: We've  
11 been funding some work with NASA JPL, with Scripps  
12 Institution as a subcontractor, to do experimental  
13 forecasts of atmospheric rivers at lead times of three to  
14 four weeks.

15 --o0o--

16 DWR INTERSTATE RESOURCES MANAGER JONES: This  
17 work started last year. We're in year two of it now. And  
18 this is actually an experimental product that is being  
19 internally produced for us by Scripps. This was forecast  
20 illustration that was made earlier this week for going out  
21 several weeks.

22 And after the end of this wet season, we'll look  
23 at these two years of experimental forecasts we've been  
24 making, evaluate the skill, and see where we go from  
25 there.

1                   --o0o--

2                   DWR INTERSTATE RESOURCES MANAGER JONES:

3                   Something I'm very -- oh, yes, and those are the little  
4                   lenticular cards that the Board members have. And, yes,  
5                   we use those -- it's a complex scientific subject. And we  
6                   use these little lenticular cards, because it's a very  
7                   graphical way to help explain it to people, and give them  
8                   something to look at.

9                   And effort that I'm really excited about is  
10                  another research project that we're doing with NASA JPL to  
11                  basically forecast when it won't rain. And this is very  
12                  important for doing things like enabling forecast-informed  
13                  reservoir operations, like the pilot project we've been  
14                  doing on the Russian River, the one that we've started in  
15                  partnership with Orange County Water District for the  
16                  Santa Ana River. And there may actually be more skill in  
17                  this.

18                  So similarly, we're going to spin-up an  
19                  experimental forking -- forecasting effort. Do that for a  
20                  coupe of years, evaluate the forecasts, see how good they  
21                  work.

22                  But, you know, for example, in our recent drought  
23                  years, why did we not have rain? We had the ridiculously  
24                  resilient ridge sitting out there for weeks and weeks and  
25                  weeks. Perhaps we can predict this and gain useful skill

1 for operating flood control facilities and water supply  
2 reservoirs.

3 --o0o--

4 DWR INTERSTATE RESOURCES MANAGER JONES: Working  
5 on the climate side, we're purusing projects with several  
6 of the UC campuses, including a statistical model for  
7 seasonal forecasting, some climate diagnostic analysis.  
8 And we're just starting on a conversation with NOAA about  
9 some basic research that would normally take them about 10  
10 to 15 years to put into operations on western snowpack  
11 forecasting.

12 --o0o--

13 DWR INTERSTATE RESOURCES MANAGER JONES:  
14 Something that they had just been able to  
15 develop, because of using very high resolution research  
16 climate models to see if we can take this, and expedite  
17 this, and try and move it further long. Because  
18 obviously, we'd all like to know at the beginning of the  
19 winter season what's going to be happening towards the end  
20 of it.

21 --o0o--

22 DWR INTERSTATE RESOURCES MANAGER JONES: And  
23 lastly, I'd like to mention that we do have this coalition  
24 formed that's been working with us on the Hill in this,  
25 that worked to support the Weather Research Act. And when



1 the government shutdown ends, and they get going again,  
2 and people start working on the FY 20 budget, we would  
3 perhaps like to come back to this Board and ask if the  
4 Board would be willing to sign on a support letter for  
5 this important research for NOAA.

6 So that's all I have.

7 PRESIDENT EDGAR: What exactly is your goal in  
8 terms of weather forecasting for the state? In other  
9 words, should we be able to get a forecast that's pretty  
10 accurate two weeks out, three weeks out, one week out?  
11 What -- what's our goal? What are we trying to achieve  
12 here?

13 DWR INTERSTATE RESOURCES MANAGER JONES: Well, so  
14 with weather forecasts, short-term weather forecasts, they  
15 have been over a time scale of unfortunately decades  
16 slowly improving the skill, such that the skill of a  
17 five-day forecast now is what a three-day forecast used to  
18 be sometime in the past.

19 And while we can't expect that kind of skill at  
20 say three weeks, four weeks, five weeks, we think we could  
21 at least get hints. Is it going to be wet? Are we going  
22 to see a big transition?

23 You know, for example, the year starts out dry  
24 then transitions wet, or vice versa, because this gives  
25 people lead time in managing resources, whether it's

1 forecast-informed reservoir operations, or for making  
2 plans about doing water transfers, if it's going to be  
3 dry. So we essentially have almost no skill at these  
4 longer lead times now. And we'd like to see how much  
5 skill we can get with them, and can we get something that  
6 would be useful for us?

7           The problem is this area has been a low priority  
8 for federal research funding. Frankly, it has been  
9 seriously underfunded, and we just need to raise the  
10 priority of it with our federal research partners.

11           PRESIDENT EDGAR: Okay. Joe.

12           BOARD MEMBER COUNTRYMAN: I just wanted to  
13 highlight the importance of being able to forecast no  
14 rain. The -- like as you said, the reservoir-informed  
15 forecasting is now being implemented at Folsom Reservoir.  
16 And it's very, very significant. And the skill level has  
17 been very high already actually for some time on  
18 forecasting no rain.

19           So -- but the flood control diagrams for our  
20 reservoirs have not recognized that. They require a  
21 certain amount of space in the reservoir regardless if  
22 it's a very dry period with a clear forecast of no rain,  
23 and has caused us to lose water from the system  
24 arbitrarily really.

25           And by integrating this ability to forecast no

1 rain into the flood control diagrams, you can essentially  
2 keep the reservoirs higher with no risk, because we do  
3 have skill level at forecasting no rain.

4           So, it's kind of funny. You know, people  
5 concentrate on forecasting the rain and how much. And our  
6 skill level is a little variable there. But we have shown  
7 over a long period of time a high skill level in  
8 forecasting no rain. And we're finally starting to  
9 integrate that knowledge into the operation of the flood  
10 system.

11           So I just wanted to bring that out, so the Board  
12 and people understand the significance of that.

13           Thank you.

14           DWR INTERSTATE RESOURCES MANAGER JONES: And, you  
15 know, an interesting follow-up on that is that for most of  
16 your big Central Valley rim reservoirs, as you know, Joe,  
17 the reservoir operations rule curves for those were put  
18 into place before there were even weather satellites.

19           BOARD MEMBER COUNTRYMAN: Oh, yeah, fifties and  
20 sixties.

21           DWR INTERSTATE RESOURCES MANAGER JONES: So they  
22 took no cognizance of forecasting at all.

23           PRESIDENT EDGAR: Mike.

24           BOARD MEMBER VILLINES: Thanks for your reports.  
25 Very interesting. I guess following up on what you were

1 talking about Joe. I'm curious if ASO is the part you're  
2 about, the airborne snow observatory project that's  
3 partnered with NASA? I didn't hear you talk about it. But  
4 it -- it has been a pilot project through DWR for a while.  
5 And I'm just curious what your thoughts are or how it fits  
6 into this? Anything you can share would be helpful.

7 DWR INTERSTATE RESOURCES MANAGER JONES: Yeah.  
8 So ASO, which is a NASA JPL project, and also the MOD SCAG  
9 work, which is uses satellite observations at the  
10 University of Colorado, are both ways to give us better  
11 monitoring of existing snowpack, so that we can improve  
12 our runoff forecasts.

13 Both are very important. And they're going  
14 forward in somewhat of a different forum. But, you know,  
15 certainly big picture, we need to move forward with better  
16 monitoring, better forecasting, more efficient facility  
17 operations, and that all fits together in that sense.

18 BOARD MEMBER VILLINES: When you say a different  
19 forum, what does that mean?

20 DWR INTERSTATE RESOURCES MANAGER JONES: Well, so  
21 these forecasting -- weather forecasting improvements that  
22 we're trying to do with the -- our federal partners about  
23 forecasting precipitation. The ASO work and also the  
24 University of Colorado work is about better observing the  
25 whole snowpack, so that we can use that to make runoff

1 forecasts. So, in a sense, we want to improve the  
2 precipitation forecasts, which are much earlier in the  
3 hydrologic cycle. Then the precipitation lands as rain or  
4 snow. Then we monitor that and use that to improve the  
5 runoff forecasts.

6 BOARD MEMBER VILLINES: Thank you.

7 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Anything else from the Board?  
8 Anything else from the public on this?

9 Yes.

10 MR. GULLI: Yes. I heard him mention debris  
11 yesterday and that caught my -- caught my ear, because  
12 yesterday I drove down the Sacramento River and there's a  
13 lot of debris --

14 GENERAL COUNSEL DUA: Excuse me, Mr. Gulli.  
15 Again, could you please state your name for the record?

16 MR. GULLI: Yeah. Dominick Gulli.

17 There's a lot of debris at the Sutter Slough  
18 Bridge, probably about two barges worth of -- and if we do  
19 get rain, hopefully not too much, but there might be an  
20 issue for flood control with the debris at Sutter Slough  
21 Bridge.

22 Thank you.

23 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Thank you, Jon.

24 DWR DIVISION OF FLOOD MANAGEMENT CHIEF ERICSON:  
25 Thank you, Jeanine. Much appreciated.

1           Jeanine and Dr. Michael Anderson provide some  
2 experimental products on occasion, and they've been very  
3 helpful, so hope to extend that.

4           Any questions?

5                           --o0o--

6           PRESIDENT EDGAR: Thank you, Jeanine.

7           DWR DIVISION OF FLOOD MANAGEMENT CHIEF ERICSON:

8           Here's our additional DWR items today. So we  
9 look forward to presentations from Patrick and Jeff Van  
10 Gilder and Wade Wylie.

11           If there's not more questions for me, I'll turn  
12 it over to Patrick.

13           PRESIDENT EDGAR: That would be great. Thank  
14 you, Jon.

15           DWR SENIOR ENGINEER LUZURIAGA: Thank you, Jon.

16                           --o0o--

17           DWR SENIOR ENGINEER LUZURIAGA: Good morning,  
18 President Edgar, members of the Board. Executive Officer  
19 Gallagher, Board staff. My name is Patrick Luzuriaga.  
20 I'm a Grant Program Manager with the Department of Water  
21 Resources Flood Projects Office. And I'm told I need to  
22 speak louder. So here we are.

23           So Patrick Luzuriaga, Flood Projects Office,  
24 Grants Program Manager. I've done this grants program  
25 management for about four years now, and have seen about

1 six different programs come across my desk. This is one  
2 of the programs. It's a newer program. And I'm here  
3 today to give you an informational briefing on the Central  
4 Valley Tributaries Grant program and what it's about.

5 --o0o--

6 DWR SENIOR ENGINEER LUZURIAGA: So as a quick  
7 overview, the program itself was created in the Budget Act  
8 of 2017 but the State Legislature, and was allocated  
9 funding from Proposition 1. We have a proposal  
10 solicitation on the street right now. We've got \$36  
11 million available for competitive awards for competitive  
12 applications and for direct expenditure projects. The  
13 process to date has included three workshops -- three  
14 public workshops. And this presentation is a strimmed --  
15 slimmed down version of the PowerPoint presentation we  
16 gave at those workshops.

17 And we also had a tribal session to -- where we  
18 invited many tribes, federal and State tribes, to  
19 participate in hearing about this program.

20 The program is intended to fund multi-benefit  
21 flood protection projects that include a flood protection  
22 component and an ecosystem enhancement or protection  
23 component. Those are basic criteria of the grant program.

24 In July, we closed the public comment period on  
25 the draft guidelines. We received half a dozen letters,

1 and half dozen phone calls throughout the open period of  
2 the draft guidelines. And then internally, we worked with  
3 the executive floor of DWR to produce the final guidelines  
4 and solicit them -- post them to solicit proposals in  
5 early December. And we're expecting applications from  
6 grantees or prospective grantees in February, in a few  
7 weeks.

8 --o0o--

9 DWR SENIOR ENGINEER LUZURIAGA: As I mentioned,  
10 the program is funded from Proposition 1, which was passed  
11 in 2014. And eligible applicants are defined in  
12 Proposition 1, which include public agencies, nonprofit  
13 entities, public utilities, recognized tribes, or mutual  
14 water companies. That's straight from the Water Code from  
15 Proposition 1.

16 As far as the geographic area that's covered, the  
17 program is named Central Valley Tributaries as defined in  
18 the budget bill of 2017. And we took the step to use the  
19 2012 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan planning areas  
20 and State Plan of Flood Control protected areas as an  
21 aggregate shape to establish the geographic area for this  
22 grant program.

23 With that geography we did reserve some  
24 flexibility for ourselves to allow for grant awards  
25 outside of that exact shape. So we indicate in the



1 guidelines that eligible applicants can apply for projects  
2 within that geography or adjacent to that geographic  
3 shape. And as I mentioned, projects are flood risk  
4 reduction ecosystem enhancement projects.

5 --o0o--

6 DWR SENIOR ENGINEER LUZURIAGA: As far as the  
7 strategy goes, it's a little bit different than some of  
8 the grant programs we've run to date. In this program,  
9 there's no individual project cap. So for the State cost  
10 share, we don't have a cap. Some programs we've run in  
11 the past have had caps of \$5 million, for example, or \$2  
12 million, depending on the type of project. Here, we do  
13 not have that.

14 Proposition 1 also indicates that benefits must  
15 be achieved through expenditure of these funds. So we are  
16 making that clear that there must be a construction and/or  
17 acquisition component to achieve real benefits,  
18 on-the-ground benefits, when spending this money.

19 And the State share will be half -- at least  
20 half, and it can go up to 100 percent, depending on the  
21 multi-benefit criteria that a project applicant proposes,  
22 and their economic status, disadvantaged or severely  
23 disadvantaged status. And the -- in the guidelines,  
24 there's a broad list of eligible project costs. The most  
25 frequently asked questions to date have been can I do CEQA

1 under this grant program?

2 And yes, you can. It has to be part of a larger  
3 project vision that includes acquisition and/or  
4 construction of likewise for design or some study efforts.

5 --o0o--

6 DWR SENIOR ENGINEER LUZURIAGA: Our outreach and  
7 public participation to date has included, as I mentioned  
8 earlier, we had three workshops. Prior to the workshops,  
9 we made notice of them through DWR's listserves. We had  
10 approximately 1,400 email addresses who received our  
11 notice of the workshops. Some members of the Board staff  
12 were on that list. And we had the three workshops and the  
13 tribal workshop totaling about 57 days of public comment  
14 period that were available. There were about 100  
15 different individuals or organizations represented at the  
16 four different workshops, and those who have called and  
17 emailed us in the last few months about the program.

18 My cohort Ruth Darling had come to the Board I  
19 guess in July and December and had shared what we had  
20 talked about at the office with you all.

21 And as I mentioned, we have some frequently asked  
22 questions from grantees right now. And we've prepared a  
23 frequently asked questions portion of the public website  
24 that everybody can look at and make sure they all have the  
25 same information to go off before applying.

1                   --o0o--

2                   DWR SENIOR ENGINEER LUZURIAGA:  As far as the  
3 next steps go, we expect to receive applications on the  
4 12th of February or sooner.  We'll get together a team  
5 internally that will review the applications.  We've got a  
6 couple months to do that.  And we'll make a draft list of  
7 proposed grantees, and get those to the management team  
8 for review.

9                   We'll get that posted to the DWR website  
10 publicly.  And once we get comments on that, if any, we  
11 might change the priorities or the funding amounts, and  
12 then get internal approval through DWR, and then prepare  
13 the grant agreements, which should take at least four  
14 months per agreement.

15                  And there has been a question as to what projects  
16 may require an encroachment permit from the Board.  And we  
17 have posted that as a frequently asked question on the DWR  
18 public website that extracts -- or excerpts precise  
19 language from the Central Valley Board encroachment permit  
20 website and offers a link and a phone number for  
21 applicants to consider while they're preparing their  
22 applications, just so they're not blindsided that they  
23 didn't know a permit from the Board was required.

24                   --o0o--

25                  DWR SENIOR ENGINEER LUZURIAGA:  And there's our

1 contact information. With me here today is Aaron Wu who's  
2 been an engineer and stellar help to get this program off  
3 the ground. And my supervisors is Robert Crane and Jeremy  
4 Arrich in the Flood Projects Office.

5 And I am happy to entertain any questions you  
6 might have?

7 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Patrick, could you give me an  
8 idea of how those geographic areas were developed and how  
9 they differ from the planning areas that the Board has in  
10 their regional planning groups?

11 DWR SENIOR ENGINEER LUZURIAGA: From my  
12 understanding, they're identical. So I'm clicking back to  
13 the slide here.

14 Does the camera work right here?

15 This one. Okay. So I've got the 2012 plan here.  
16 And we aggregated the shapes that were in the 2012 plan,  
17 figure 1-9. I apologize. It's pretty easy to see. So  
18 this is a figure from the 2012 plan. And it shows in  
19 yellow shading the State Plan of Flood Control protected  
20 areas. And then in blue shading, which is a little more  
21 difficult to see, a system-wide planning area. So we  
22 aggregated both of those shapes to produce the geographic  
23 eligible for the Central Valley Tributaries Grant Program.

24 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Yeah. That -- that doesn't  
25 look -- where did you get those? It doesn't look like the

1 areas to me. Oh, this is the old plan. Okay.

2 DWR SENIOR ENGINEER LUZURIAGA: Correct. It is.  
3 But to clarify, this isn't a strict boundary. So when we  
4 show our geographic area in the grant program, it does not  
5 mean anything that is not explicitly within that lined  
6 area is excluded. And we've had that question a few dozen  
7 -- a few times over the last couple of months. And like I  
8 mentioned, we reserved flexibility in the guidelines that  
9 applicants can be within the geographic area or adjacent  
10 to it.

11 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Okay. It seems to me that if  
12 we are offering grant money for essentially flood  
13 improvements, they ought to be -- the planning areas ought  
14 to be consistent with the grant approval areas. But maybe  
15 we could update that with the next round or something. I  
16 don't know.

17 Tim.

18 BOARD MEMBER RAMIREZ: I think we talked at the  
19 December meeting -- I don't think you were here for the  
20 December meeting. But we asked for this briefin in part,  
21 because we wanted to have somebody from the staff involved  
22 as part of the selection process just to front-load our  
23 awareness of what's been proposed and to help. I don't  
24 know where we are with that. Has that been followed up on  
25 yet?

1 I'm looking at Leslie or I don't know if you  
2 know, Patrick.

3 EXECUTIVE OFFICER GALLAGHER: I believe Ruth has  
4 been involved. Ruth Darling has been involved.

5 BOARD MEMBER RAMIREZ: Okay. I just wanted to  
6 make sure we were -- besides having it as a frequently  
7 asked question, if we were -- there was a person. Great.  
8 Thanks, Ruth.

9 DWR SENIOR ENGINEER LUZURIAGA: A great person.

10 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Joe.

11 BOARD MEMBER COUNTRYMAN: Well, two questions.  
12 Have you received any applications yet?

13 DWR SENIOR ENGINEER LUZURIAGA: No.

14 BOARD MEMBER COUNTRYMAN: And what would be an  
15 example of a project that you would fund?

16 DWR SENIOR ENGINEER LUZURIAGA: Well, over the  
17 years, I've gained some understanding of projects that  
18 were underfunded, for example, or were funded to the tune  
19 of say a first phase of a project. So I've gotten calls  
20 recently on projects. I won't be too specific, because  
21 they may or may not apply, but projects within -- within a  
22 bypass area. I've had calls for projects to repair -- to  
23 expand the floodway to create more floodplain habitat.  
24 And I've gotten calls from nonprofit entities and  
25 counties. And we've had folks attend our meetings who

1 have been from counties, and cities, and water agencies --  
2 or flood control agencies by and large.

3           So I expect the demand to be significantly higher  
4 than the funding available. We've got 36 million. And  
5 just in a few phone call conversations, you know, two or  
6 three projects are already looking for tens of millions of  
7 dollars. So it's all across the Board, I think.

8           BOARD MEMBER COUNTRYMAN: Thanks.

9           PRESIDENT EDGAR: I think the overarching thing  
10 for us is we now have a plan. We now have an updated plan  
11 for the -- how we're going to improve the flood protection  
12 system for the entire valley over a 30-year period. And  
13 that -- that's -- you know, we're trying to get various  
14 pots of money. And it's still a mystery to me how  
15 suddenly these pots of money pop up for grants that may or  
16 may not relate to the plan that's been adopted, you know,  
17 whether it's the boundaries, whether it's the processes,  
18 whether it's the first phase implementation capital  
19 project set forth in the plan, or whether it's operations  
20 and maintenance.

21           I mean, where -- where and how does this money  
22 just pop up and all of sudden a grant program is out there  
23 that may or may not relate to the plan we've been working  
24 on -- I mean, that we, the Department and Board, for  
25 years? How does that work exactly?

1           DWR SENIOR ENGINEER LUZURIAGA: Well, I'll do the  
2 best to answer from my understanding. As I mentioned, the  
3 program was created by the State Legislature in the Budget  
4 Act of 2017. So surely upon State Hill, there were  
5 discussions as to funding being needed in the Central  
6 Valley. So at that point of genesis is kind of where I  
7 step in as the grants program manager.

8           One thing that the Proposition 1 language  
9 required is consistency with the Central Valley Flood  
10 Protection Plan. So that is something we have included  
11 clearly in the guidelines to ensure applicants understand  
12 their projects must be consistent with what's in the plan.

13           Beyond that, I think it will be helpful. We've  
14 got --

15           PRESIDENT EDGAR: Now, how are you going to do  
16 that Patrick? How are you going to take these  
17 applications and having not been -- I mean, I don't mean  
18 this as a criticism, all right.

19           DWR SENIOR ENGINEER LUZURIAGA: Understood.

20           PRESIDENT EDGAR: But having not been intimately  
21 involved in the preparation of the plan and blah, blah,  
22 blah, how are you going to do that?

23           DWR SENIOR ENGINEER LUZURIAGA: Well, we're --

24           PRESIDENT EDGAR: How are you going to say to  
25 this applicant that's absolutely consistent with the plan?



1 Are you going to make that decision? Are you going to ask  
2 us, or the Department, or what? How does that work?

3 DWR SENIOR ENGINEER LUZURIAGA: Well, at this  
4 point, we appreciate the idea and recommendation to  
5 include Ruth Darling in our team, who will be looking at  
6 proposals from applicants. At that point, I would hope  
7 Board staff can interject their thoughts on whether  
8 something is consistent or not with the Central Valley  
9 Flood Protection Plan.

10 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Well, that's great. And as  
11 Emma said, that's terrific. We appreciate that. You  
12 know, it just -- as we went through this planning process,  
13 Mary Jimenez, Michael Mierzwa, all of those folks were  
14 involved the plan. They know more about the plan than  
15 anybody, at this -- and --

16 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: They wrote it.

17 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Yeah, they wrote it is  
18 essentially what it is, but somehow they're not going to  
19 be involved in reviewing these projects, right? I mean,  
20 it's going to be another group of people reviewing the  
21 project to make sure that they're consistent with the  
22 plan, I guess.

23 DWR SENIOR ENGINEER LUZURIAGA: I don't think  
24 necessary this going to be operated in a vacuum. I mean,  
25 Mary is --

1           PRESIDENT EDGAR: Oh, okay. I -- that's what I'm  
2 trying to understand how the process is going to work.  
3 The applicants out there are going to ask all these  
4 questions. And they're going to say, well, is this  
5 project -- yeah, I guess maybe that's -- are we asking the  
6 applicant to make the case that it's consistent with the  
7 plan? Is that what we're doing here?

8           DWR SENIOR ENGINEER LUZURIAGA: Well, the onus is  
9 on the applicant to demonstrate the validity of their  
10 project in all aspects of the criteria that we've laid out  
11 in the guidelines. So if they, for some reason, don't  
12 make their case, it may show up in their score negatively.

13           There is a process. As I mentioned, we'll be  
14 posing draft recommendations for funding on the public  
15 website for review, at which anybody from the public can  
16 consider the priorities and the funding amounts we've Made  
17 initial recommendations on and comment to us on them.

18           PRESIDENT EDGAR: Okay. Joe, did you have  
19 another question?

20           BOARD MEMBER COUNTRYMAN: No.

21           PRESIDENT EDGAR: Okay. Emma.

22           VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: Yes. Just very quickly  
23 and just kind of sharing after President Edgar's comments.  
24 During our second phase of planning in the plan that we  
25 just updated, we had regional planning groups. These

1 regional planning groups prepared plans. No better people  
2 to tell us what their needs are than our regional  
3 partners.

4 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Right.

5 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: And I'm glad Ms. Darling  
6 is involved. But somehow we need to recognize that not  
7 everything that was recommended in those regional plans,  
8 which were accepted by the Department, made it to the  
9 update.

10 And if there are opportunities then to build upon  
11 what these regional plans included, that perhaps did not  
12 make it to the -- to the final plan that the Board updated  
13 recently, it would be very helpful. Because again, these  
14 were plans that were funded and accepted by the  
15 Department, and became part of what was later presented to  
16 this Board for approval.

17 Thank you.

18 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Yeah. That -- she made the  
19 case much better than I, you know, was. We spent a lot of  
20 time with the regional planning groups. And that's -- you  
21 know, to be honest, that's why the plan was accepted is  
22 because they had local input and they felt it was part of  
23 their plan. They developed these gigantic lists of  
24 projects and programs that they felt were priorities in  
25 each of these planning areas. And there are millions of

1 dollars worth of those.

2           Now, I mean, I'm hoping that those projects on  
3 those lists were -- are going to be part of your review,  
4 and that we're not looking at another category of  
5 projects. For example, in the north area, if we fund a  
6 group of projects that the North Sacramento Upper  
7 Sacramento regional planning group hasn't reviewed or --  
8 you know, we're going to catch it from those people,  
9 because these -- you know, what they've told us is here is  
10 the list of projects that we think are important. And  
11 they spent a lot of time on that, a lot of money, a lot of  
12 State money, because we funded the -- you know, the effort  
13 and all of this. And then all of a sudden, these other  
14 projects are funded.

15           Well, it's not going to make any sense. And  
16 that's the concern I have, Patrick. And it's not -- I'm  
17 sure it's not anyone's fault, but I just feel there's  
18 going to be some disconnects here.

19           DWR SENIOR ENGINEER LUZURIAGA: I appreciate you  
20 acknowledging that. Internally, we've had discussion  
21 about that briefly with integrated regional water  
22 management folks who've been working on the regional plans  
23 just a couple days ago on a conference call I was on. And  
24 just so you know, at least one of the calls I received  
25 over the last couple months told me that their project was

1 in an IRWM plan -- is in a regional plan.

2 So it's nothing we asked for up front, but it's  
3 clearly -- it will clearly lend credibility to the project  
4 applicant when they say my project is part of the Northern  
5 Sacramento Valley Region regional plan.

6 We recognize the importance to the Board. And it  
7 definitely adds credibility when they call that to our  
8 attention.

9 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Okay. And I apologize, Joe  
10 asked you the question if you have any applicants at this  
11 point?

12 DWR SENIOR ENGINEER LUZURIAGA: Have we received  
13 any applications to this point?

14 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Yes.

15 DWR SENIOR ENGINEER LUZURIAGA: And the answer is  
16 no.

17 PRESIDENT EDGAR: No. Okay. Well, you've got  
18 eight lists of projects that -- from these planning areas  
19 that are ripe for at least discussion. So that would be a  
20 start I would think.

21 I'm going to get this wrong again, Emma, or Tim,  
22 or -- Tim. Okay.

23 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: I'm good. Thank you.

24 PRESIDENT EDGAR: All right.

25 BOARD MEMBER RAMIREZ: Just a quick suggestion,

1 Bill, that might help. I think the responses have helped  
2 make it more clear. But it might be worth thinking about  
3 how to visually provide a description of how the plan is  
4 being implemented for the Coordinating Committee or some  
5 other group just so we all can see the different ways  
6 things are being done that are in the plan, to some  
7 extent. There are individual projects where people have  
8 taken the lead, because it's their responsibility.  
9 They're on the ground. They need to modify something for  
10 various reasons, 408, et cetera.

11 But there's grant programs, too, that are out  
12 there that people are helping to develop. And maybe, it  
13 would be good to see it all in one screen. Like, you  
14 know, there's -- the plan was adopted, and now two years  
15 later, these are the ways the plan is being implemented.  
16 This is one example I think of that happening. There's  
17 other examples too.

18 But maybe that's one way to think about that, so  
19 we have a better sense of, you know, not just this  
20 snapshot of what was adopted, but now, how it's  
21 progressing. Does that make sense?

22 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Yeah, I really think it does  
23 make senses, because we need -- what's happening here is  
24 all of a sudden this pot of money comes up. I didn't know  
25 anything about it until I think I was talking to Jon and

1 he was mentioning the program, or somebody was. And so we  
2 had a little presentation on it.

3 But this is -- I'm sure the regional planning  
4 groups would be interested in this.

5 BOARD MEMBER RAMIREZ: And I'm sure they all know  
6 about it. I'm guessing that every single one of them is  
7 aware and thinking about how they can apply for it.

8 I think we get so ingrained in our day-to-day  
9 business sometimes, that we forget to step back and look  
10 at the ways things are happening sort of at the landscape  
11 level. And maybe we can do that and just understand that  
12 better, and make sure when these things do come up, you  
13 know, maybe we're not so surprised by them, but we're more  
14 conscious on the front end of all the different things  
15 that are happening. This is just one of them, I think.

16 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Right.

17 BOARD MEMBER RAMIREZ: But I think it's because  
18 we end up, you know, looking at our agendas and all the  
19 details for things that we need to actually do. This is  
20 an example of something that's related, but we're not  
21 leading right now. And, you know, to their credit, I  
22 think they came in the spring, they came in December, and  
23 we just haven't really talked about it the same way that  
24 we have today.

25 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Okay. Well, I -- so your

1 position or you -- you're thinking that the Dave  
2 Petersons, and the Chris Neudecks, and the Barry O'Regans  
3 all know about this program?

4 BOARD MEMBER RAMIREZ: I don't want to speak to  
5 all those folks. I'm thinking that the people for sure  
6 upstream could just by title are aware of it.

7 DWR SENIOR ENGINEER LUZURIAGA: We've heard from  
8 one of those people, Bill.

9 PRESIDENT EDGAR: What's that?

10 DWR SENIOR ENGINEER LUZURIAGA: I've heard from  
11 one of these three people. I won't tell you whom.

12 (Laughter.)

13 BOARD MEMBER RAMIREZ: Yeah, I think --

14 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Okay. Well, as --

15 BOARD MEMBER RAMIREZ: My view is this was a bit  
16 of a -- I won't call it a gap. But for people that don't  
17 have -- we haven't delegated them to have this role  
18 locally, the LMAs, and the folks that are running the  
19 JPAs. They're looking to do things to expand floodway  
20 corridors, and to implement the conservation strategy.  
21 This is a way to do that, right?

22 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Yeah. That's --

23 BOARD MEMBER RAMIREZ: And I think that's a good  
24 thing. And it's just another tool in our toolbox. So --  
25 and I think we're going to have people involved, which is



1 going to be great, because we'll hear about more of it.  
2 And it would be really great. I'm glad Joe asked the  
3 question about has anybody, you know, actually filed yet,  
4 and what do we think that looks like. If -- I would love  
5 to see how many people apply. I would be really happy if  
6 we had way more applicants than we had resources for.

7           That's a great thing for us to be able to then  
8 use and take back and say, hey, this is a really  
9 successful program with lots of interest. We need to be  
10 better resourced to make more of these happening, and get  
11 some good examples of things that we can support, and then  
12 take it to the next step. So that -- that would be a  
13 really great part of the program as well to be able to  
14 move forward once they get done with the first round.

15           DWR SENIOR ENGINEER LUZURIAGA: Thank you, Time  
16           And to clarify, Mary Jimenez's group had an email  
17 list also that we used to distribute initial notice of the  
18 draft guidelines on. And there were about 900 email  
19 addresses to my understanding. So the initial blast was  
20 probably 2,300 email addresses, including Mary's list.

21           PRESIDENT EDGAR: Okay.

22           EXECUTIVE OFFICER GALLAGHER: Can I just mention  
23 also in furthering kind of the second point you made, we  
24 did just have a strategic meeting with the Coordinating  
25 Committee steering committee group. And I know that when

1 Mary Jimenez was still in charge of the Planning Office,  
2 she had started a significant effort to work on a  
3 spreadsheet like you were talking about of all the  
4 implementation items for the plan that are going on. We  
5 hadn't heard about that in a long time. But we just heard  
6 from Jon on Tuesday that that effort is ongoing, or being  
7 revived, or -- there will be some documentation of  
8 implementation for the plan at some point that will be on  
9 a spreadsheet.

10 And hopefully, when they have that product, we  
11 can either workshop that, or look at that, or evaluate  
12 that further.

13 BOARD MEMBER RAMIREZ: Yeah. That would be  
14 great. To steal Jon's football references, we can call it  
15 a first quarter report or halftime report, whatever he  
16 wants to call it.

17 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Um-hmm.

18 BOARD MEMBER RAMIREZ: That's great though.  
19 That's a good idea.

20 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Okay. Thank you. Any other  
21 questions for Patrick?

22 Okay. Thank you.

23 DWR SENIOR ENGINEER LUZURIAGA: Thank you much  
24 for your time. I look forward to being part of the  
25 process to funding some of these valuable projects.

1           PRESIDENT EDGAR: Thank you, Patrick.

2           Let's see what time is it?

3           Okay. All right. Why don't we take a -- excuse  
4 me. Why don't we take a short break. And I have to leave  
5 for an appointment, but Emma is going to take over for the  
6 remaining reports here.

7           What do you want?

8           SECRETARY DOLAN: Five after.

9           PRESIDENT EDGAR: Five after. Five after 11:00.  
10 Thank you.

11           (Off record: 10:53 a.m.)

12           (Thereupon a recess was taken.)

13           (On record: 11:03 a.m.)

14           VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: If our Board members are  
15 ready, and the Department is ready, I think we're -- I  
16 know Ms. Dolan stepped out for a second.

17           Okay. All right. Hello, everybody. And again  
18 my name is Emma Suarez. And Mr. Edgar will be back  
19 shortly. But in the meantime, I have the pleasure to  
20 continue this meeting with all of you. And, Mr.  
21 Sabbaghian, are you ready to -- I believe you are next on  
22 our agenda.

23           DWR FLOOD MAINTENANCE OFFICE CHIEF SABBAGHIAN:

24           Actually, Jeff Van Gilder going to make the  
25 presentation.

1           VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: I'm sorry. I have  
2 Item --

3           SECRETARY DOLAN: 8C.

4           VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: -- 8C, Flood Maintenance  
5 Assistance Program.

6           DWR FLOOD MAINTENANCE OFFICE CHIEF SABBAGHIAN:

7           Hi. It's not on?

8           Oh, there it is.

9           Hi, Vice Chair and Board Members, Jeff Van Gilder  
10 is the program manager. He's going to make the  
11 presentation. I'll be available to answer any questions.

12           VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: It's your show. Whatever  
13 pleases you.

14           Welcome. Both microphones are on.

15           (Thereupon an overhead presentation was  
16 presented as follows.)

17           DWR SENIOR ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST VAN GILDER:

18           Good morning, members of the Board and Board  
19 staff. My name is Jeff Van Gilder. I'm with DWR, the  
20 Flood Maintenance Office. I'm one of the section chiefs  
21 in there, and the program manager for the Flood  
22 Maintenance Assistance Program. And what I'm going to do  
23 is just give a real brief description through a series of  
24 slides and an overview of what the FMAP program is.

25                                   --o0o--

1           DWR SENIOR ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST VAN GILDER: So  
2 to start with the FMAP Program, or Flood Maintenance  
3 Assistance Program, is a program to assist locals. And  
4 some people ask how did we get here? Well, we got here by  
5 this being identified as a basic maintenance need through  
6 the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan. And it's funded  
7 true the 2018 Budget Act with annual requirements for  
8 funding through the Cal Leg. Now, what is it we want to  
9 do through this program?

10           Well, we want to provide additional funding to  
11 the LMAs, so that they can increase work towards better  
12 maintenance activities. And why are we doing this? For  
13 sustainable O&M on all the levees within the State Plan of  
14 Flood Control.

15           And part of the reason how we get there is we  
16 increase O&M funding directly to the LMAs, which will  
17 assist and help them to meet PL 84-99 requirements. As  
18 part of a subset of in this program, the maintenance areas  
19 are also eligible, so your MA 7s, MA 4s, MA 9s, 16, 7, et  
20 cetera.

21                           --o0o--

22           DWR SENIOR ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST VAN GILDER:

23           There are some requirements that FMAP has, like  
24 many other programs in the Department. And there's four  
25 basic and broad ones here. They must submit what's called

1 a PSP, or proosal solicitation package, to our office for  
2 approval. That PSP is online, along with the guidelines.  
3 And it's on -- available online right now. They must  
4 commit to approaching or approving working towards an LOI  
5 through the Corps or a SWIF through the Corps. And they  
6 must secure sufficient funds in order to get there. So  
7 even outside of these funds that we may provide them, they  
8 have to work their own to obtain these -- the SWIF and the  
9 LOI.

10 Now, the other thing that's part of this there  
11 are two agreements, a new OMRR&R agreement with the Board,  
12 and a new project agreement between the LMA and DWR.  
13 These are standard requirements through any kind of  
14 program of this nature.

15 --o0o--

16 DWR SENIOR ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST VAN GILDER:

17 There is an implementation schedule that should  
18 have been in here.

19 Okay. So the next thing with this is the funding  
20 approach. How are we going to fund these LMAs? There's  
21 three main items in here. Items 1, 2, and 3. And Item 1  
22 is to fund 27 -- or \$20,000 for the pursuit of an LOI or a  
23 SWIF, you know, in the preparation of those two documents.

24 The second way is we would provide 20,000 of  
25 funding to the LMA to help them secure sufficient O&M

1 funds to perform the requirements by the Code of Federal  
2 Regulations, Corps O&M, and the new O&M -- OMRR&R  
3 agreement that they must sign in order to get to a proper  
4 218 election.

5           The third way is the maintenance activities  
6 themselves. So we look at their application. They have X  
7 number of miles of levee. And they've performed over like  
8 the 2017 and 2018 funding periods X number of dollars.  
9 And we would provide 75 percent matching funds for the  
10 first 10,000 per mile. If they do more than 10,000 per  
11 mile, it would be a 50 percent matching fund after that.

12           Now, the other item on here is many of the locals  
13 the LMAs already have in place items 1, 2 or both. And we  
14 would supplement those items, 1 and 2, and allow them to  
15 use the additional 20 or 40 thousand dollars in funds for  
16 fund Item 3, which are the maintenance activities.

17                           --o0o--

18           DWR SENIOR ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST VAN GILDER: So  
19 there's a pretty quickly placed program. So there's this  
20 year, before the end of fiscal year, for 2018, 2019, we  
21 have three funding periods to initiate this funding, which  
22 is January 25th, which is today, February 22nd, and March  
23 25th. These are for the FY '18-'19. The fourth and  
24 bottom bullet on there is April/May 2019. And then this  
25 is the time frame for initial submittal to receive funding

1 through this program for the '19-'20 cycle.

2 --o0o--

3 DWR SENIOR ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST VAN GILDER:

4 There are some exclusions, like with any other  
5 program. And basically, there's been a lot of  
6 improvements through other funding sources, the Corps, the  
7 Department, through EIP, UFRR, and the Corps of Engineers.  
8 And we don't want to duplicate funding that's already  
9 existing and they already have through those programs.

10 Also, O&M activities for Delta levees and the  
11 Delta LMAs. And additionally, if there's anything  
12 outstanding, we don't want to duplicate or supplant any  
13 other funding mechanisms that may be in place, or they're  
14 already being worked on. And those programs would be  
15 something like the flood corridors or maybe FSRP, the  
16 system repair program.

17 --o0o--

18 DWR SENIOR ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST VAN GILDER: So  
19 how are we going to measure our success as this program  
20 implements and goes through?

21 Well, if we can start getting acceptable ratings  
22 by the LMAs through DWR and Corps inspections, annual  
23 inspections every year, that would be -- that would show a  
24 sign of improvement for those LMAs that have not been able  
25 to do so.



1           The second way we're going to do this is if we  
2 can obtain new assurance agreements with the LMAs, that is  
3 also something the Department and Board has always strived  
4 for. We want to ensure also that all reporting  
5 requirements are met, such as AB 156. And then the fourth  
6 bullet on here is that we don't form any new maintenance  
7 areas. That's always a difficult task, and ongoing, but  
8 that would be one of our goals if we could get there.

9                           --o0o--

10           DWR SENIOR ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST VAN GILDER:

11           Now, I'm sure there's a series of questions. And  
12 Michael is here to answer all of them, if I can't, you  
13 know. We'll work --

14                   (Laughter.)

15           DWR SENIOR ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST VAN GILDER: I  
16 put the shoe on his foot. But anyhow, if there's any  
17 questions from anybody, I'm more than welcome to attempt  
18 to answer them. It's a new program. We'll get there.

19           VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: Thank you very much.

20           Members, any questions?

21           Mr. Countryman.

22           BOARD MEMBER COUNTRYMAN: It sounds like a great  
23 program. What kind of interest have you received from the  
24 LMA?

25           DWR SENIOR ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST VAN GILDER:

1           There is a broad interest. I have received  
2 hundreds of phone calls and emails. And I'm not sure I  
3 appreciate that so much anymore. But there is a broad  
4 amount of interest. So all the -- all the major local  
5 players. At least 20 direct LMAs have contacted me. And  
6 then there's several, you know, groups that represent  
7 several different LMAs. So I'm anticipating to receive 20  
8 to 30 applications next week.

9           BOARD MEMBER COUNTRYMAN: Wow. This is a great  
10 program. Wouldn't it be nice if we could get this system  
11 up to a sustainable maintenance level. And this is a way  
12 to get there hopefully. So it's wonderful.

13           Thank you.

14           VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: Anybody else from the  
15 Board?

16           I'm going to echo something Mr. Ramirez mentioned  
17 on an earlier presentation, if perhaps in the future we  
18 can get an update on the type of applications you received  
19 and projects you approved would be helpful.

20           DWR SENIOR ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST VAN GILDER: Oh,  
21 absolutely. It is the intent of the program to keep a  
22 ongoing tracking sheet for -- for it, because there's  
23 going to be -- there's many LMAs out there that unless we  
24 can track it successfully, we won't be able to look at the  
25 progress correctly, so --



1           Today with the help of Saskia Donovan, an  
2 engineer from the Flood Project Engineering Assessment  
3 Section, and Dan Rasmussen, the Chief of the Flood Project  
4 Integrity Inspection Branch, we will be presenting the  
5 2018 inspection and local maintaining agency report.

6                           --o0o--

7           DWR FLOOD PROJECT INSPECTION SECTION CHIEF WYLIE:

8           In today's presentation, I will be giving an  
9 overview of the contents of the report. Then I will  
10 highlight some of the differences between this year's  
11 summary reports and last year's summary reports. And  
12 after that, I will sum up this year's inspection results.

13           At that time, I'll give it to Saskia who will  
14 talk about this year's LMA reporting results. And when  
15 Saskia is finished, Done will provide an update with our  
16 programs, tools, activities, and achievements.

17           And after that, Don will discuss some of the  
18 Inspection Branch's goals for the future.

19                           --o0o--

20           DWR FLOOD PROJECT INSPECTION SECTION CHIEF WYLIE:

21           So similar to previous year's reports, this  
22 report combines the results from many different programs  
23 from both DWR and the Army Corps of Engineers. Some of  
24 the programs included in this report are the utility  
25 crossing inventory program, the Sac Bank erosion survey,

1 DWR's Flood System Repair Project, and the Army Corps'  
2 inspection ratings.

3 Together with our maintenance inspections, the  
4 information provided by these programs helps the  
5 Inspection Section determine the quality of maintenance  
6 that the levee maintaining agencies are providing.

7 The first up in the report are the maintenance  
8 inspection results for the levees, channels, and  
9 structures. And the results of the San Joaquin River  
10 erosion survey are provided. And following that, the LMA  
11 annual reports -- or LMA annual reporting results are  
12 displayed and discussed.

13 Then other Flood Project Integrity and Inspection  
14 Branch activities and accomplishments are listed.  
15 Finally, the LMA summary reports are provided in appendix  
16 A and B.

17 --o0o--

18 DWR FLOOD PROJECT INSPECTION SECTION CHIEF WYLIE:

19 The LMA summary reports in appendix A and B  
20 provide one location for each LMA to review all the data  
21 gathered from the many programs that contribute to the  
22 results of the inspection report. This includes data and  
23 results from the Inspection Branch, the Flood Maintenance  
24 Branch, and the Army Corps of Engineers. These reports  
25 look very similar to reports from last year, but there are

1 some minor differences.

2 This year, there was not an update to the erosion  
3 inspections from either the Corps on the Sacramento or DWR  
4 on the San Joaquin. The Corps did provide inspection  
5 results from 2017 in draft form, which were incorporated  
6 into this year's report. DWR's erosion inspection was  
7 deferred until next year as critical inspection staff were  
8 reassigned to support the Department's priority work  
9 dealing with dam inundation modeling on all dams within  
10 the State's jurisdiction.

11 Another different I would like to draw your  
12 attention to has to do with the LMA maps. Because of the  
13 2017 storm damage, the Flood System Repair Project points  
14 of interest were not available in last year's report.  
15 This year, the Flood System Repair Project points of  
16 interest are again available and are shown along with the  
17 2017 storm damage sites. And if there was overlap, the  
18 2017 storm damage sites were shown.

19 --o0o--

20 DWR FLOOD PROJECT INSPECTION SECTION CHIEF WYLIE:

21 So I want to emphasize, the only storm damage  
22 sites that were rated as critical or serious were shown in  
23 the LMA summary reports or maps. And sites rated as area  
24 of concern were not shown. So at this time, these storm  
25 damage sites are not being used in the calculation for the

1 LMA's overall rating. And this will continue to be the  
2 case for a three-year grace period providing some time for  
3 some repairs.

4           These sites may again be included in the LMA's  
5 rating calculation after the grace period has ended in  
6 2020.

7                           --o0o--

8           DWR FLOOD PROJECT INSPECTION SECTION CHIEF WYLIE:

9           So here we have the LMA's overall rating summary  
10 for 2018. And this table shows the results for levees,  
11 channels, structure, and pumping plants within the State  
12 Plan of Flood Control.

13                           --o0o--

14           DWR FLOOD PROJECT INSPECTION SECTION CHIEF WYLIE:

15           Looking closer at just the levee inspection  
16 results, you can see a slight improvement year after year  
17 for the last three years with more LMAs receiving an  
18 acceptable rating and less receiving an unacceptable  
19 rating.

20                           --o0o--

21           DWR FLOOD PROJECT INSPECTION SECTION CHIEF WYLIE:

22           If you look at the data behind the ratings, you  
23 can see the most common deficiency identified by  
24 inspectors is vegetation management. This year's results  
25 show that 30 percent of the LMAs receiving an unacceptable

1 rating could improve to an acceptable rating by just  
2 performing thorough vegetation management.

3 Many of the remaining LMAs receiving an  
4 unacceptable rating could also improve their current  
5 rating by performing a combination of vegetation  
6 management and either animal control, erosion maintenance,  
7 or crown surface maintenance. So why is vegetation  
8 management so important?

9 Well, proper vegetation management allows  
10 inspectors to identify and document the animal burrows,  
11 the erosion, the slope stability issues that are  
12 detrimental to levee integrity that would otherwise be  
13 missed when obscured by thick vegetation.

14 As always, the inspectors do their best to help  
15 focus the LMA's attention on the issues that will do the  
16 most to improve the quality of their maintenance.

17 --o0o--

18 DWR FLOOD PROJECT INSPECTION SECTION CHIEF WYLIE:

19 So the 26 channels reported on in this section  
20 are non-leveed project channels specifically called out in  
21 the Water Code and Army Corps O&M manuals. Channels are  
22 inspected at specific locations where there are  
23 restrictions to the channel like bridges, roadways, or  
24 other restrictions.

25 Excessive vegetation, shoaling, erosion or other



1 factors that may impact the capacity of the channel are  
2 noted and used in the rating analysis for each channel.

3 This year's channel results show a slight  
4 improvement in maintenance activities overall, despite one  
5 channel receiving a unacceptable rating for vegetation  
6 management issues.

7 --o0o--

8 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: Can I ask you a quick  
9 question as I look at this bar chart. You know, the --  
10 yes, that one. Am I reading this right that we went from  
11 minimally acceptable to more being unacceptable from one  
12 year to the next, from 2017 to 2018?

13 DWR FLOOD PROJECT INSPECTION SECTION CHIEF WYLIE:  
14 I'd say we had quite an improvement where  
15 minimally acceptable went to acceptable.

16 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: Right. But then there's  
17 the top of the bar.

18 DWR FLOOD PROJECT INSPECTION SECTION CHIEF WYLIE:  
19 I have on that dropped into the unacceptable  
20 category for vegetation. They did not do vegetation  
21 management.

22 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: So that's what that  
23 change. And how many -- how many miles of channel are we  
24 talking about here?

25 DWR FLOOD PROJECT INSPECTION SECTION CHIEF WYLIE:

1 I can get that figure for you, but I don't have  
2 it off the top.

3 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: Okay. That's okay.  
4 Thank you.

5 DWR FLOOD PROJECT INSPECTION SECTION CHIEF WYLIE:  
6 Structure maintenance appears to have improved  
7 slightly this year, when compared to the previous four  
8 years of inspections. Looking at this chart, you can see  
9 a slight increase in the total number of structures. And  
10 that's not a result of adding new structures, but rather  
11 we split some structures that were previous treated as  
12 one. So it's just a slight improvement on structures this  
13 year.

14 --o0o--

15 BOARD MEMBER COUNTRYMAN: What are the  
16 structures?

17 DWR FLOOD PROJECT INSPECTION SECTION CHIEF WYLIE:  
18 Weirs, pumping plans -- or, I'm sorry.

19 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: For the record, Mr.  
20 Countryman asked what are the structures?

21 DWR FLOOD PROJECT INSPECTION SECTION CHIEF WYLIE:  
22 Different flood control structures that controls  
23 water, overflow structures, weirs, that kind of thing.

24 Moving on to pumping plant inspection. It seems  
25 the results are similar to the last several years with 12

1 being rated as acceptable and one as minimally acceptable.  
2 So that concludes the results from the 2018 inspection.

3 With that, I'd like to turn it over to Saskia who  
4 will talk about the LMA reporting program.

5 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: Are there any Board  
6 members that would like to ask any questions from Mr.  
7 Wylie at this point or should we move on?

8 Okay.

9 DWR STAFF ENGINEER DONOVAN: All right. Thank  
10 you, Wade.

11 Good morning, esteemed members of the Board, I  
12 manage the local maintaining agency reporting program.

13 --o0o--

14 DWR STAFF ENGINEER DONOVAN: And today, I will be  
15 giving you a brief update on last year's activities and  
16 results of the program. As a reminder --

17 GENERAL COUNSEL DUA: Would you please just state  
18 your name for the court reporter, please.

19 DWR STAFF ENGINEER DONOVAN: Saskia Donovan.  
20 Sorry about that.

21 As a reminder, this program is separate from the  
22 Inspection Program. And now just for a quick background,  
23 the LMA reporting program was established in 2007. Pardon  
24 me.

25 The LMA reporting program was established by

1 Assembly Bill 156 in 2007 and is codified in Water Code  
2 sections 9140 and 9141. It requires annual reporting on  
3 operation and maintenance activity for project levees, as  
4 well as for certain nonproject levees.

5 9140 requires that the LMAs report annually to  
6 DWR. And 9141 requires that we, in turn, report that  
7 information to the Board. The intent is to obtain  
8 information beyond what is observed by DWR inspectors. We  
9 are looking for the local operator's perspective of their  
10 problems with their levees, and their priorities for levee  
11 maintenance, in addition to information on cost.

12 --o0o--

13 DWR STAFF ENGINEER DONOVAN: These are the five  
14 parts -- or these are the five parts belonging to the  
15 information request that we request from the LMAs. In  
16 part one, we ask for information that is relevant to the  
17 levee -- levee's condition or performance, such as  
18 vegetation issues, encroachments, sediment accumulation,  
19 and berm erosion.

20 In part two, we ask for information relevant to  
21 levee integrity, known conditions that might impair or  
22 compromise the level of flood protection provided by the  
23 levee, such as seepage, boils, burrow holes, levee  
24 erosion, levee instability, cracks, and penetration  
25 deficiencies.

1           In part three, we ask for a summary of  
2 maintenance performed during the previous fiscal year.

3           And in part four, we ask for a list maintenance  
4 activities planned for the current fiscal year, as well as  
5 the estimated costs for operation and maintenance of the  
6 levee in the current fiscal year.

7           In part five, we ask for supporting information  
8 and any other readily available information that is in the  
9 records of the LMA relevant to the condition or  
10 maintenance of the levee. Examples are updates to  
11 emergency action plans, as-builts, permits, memorandum of  
12 understanding, and studies.

13                           --o0o--

14           DWR STAFF ENGINEER DONOVAN: There are 106  
15 geographical areas that have been identified as required  
16 to report. And those 106 areas are served by 84 LMAs.

17           Of those 106 areas, 93 percent reported in 2018  
18 or met the minimum requirements. We defined that as  
19 responding to at least one of the five parts. The  
20 reporting compliance trends in line with the three  
21 previous years when it was between 94 95 percent.

22           We will strive to keep up this high level of  
23 reporting compliance next year. And we are working on  
24 updating the LMA reporting tool to make reporting easier  
25 for the LMAs.

1           Sixty-nine percent of the reports were submitted  
2 via this web-based LMA reporting tool. And the remaining  
3 31 percent were submitted as a hard copy, which we then  
4 entered into the database ourselves.

5                           --o0o--

6           DWR STAFF ENGINEER DONOVAN: So as far as  
7 maintenance activities performed during the previous  
8 fiscal year, we condensed the responses into these  
9 operation and maintenance categories. So the graph shows  
10 the dominant performed maintenance activities of the  
11 reporting LMAs for the last three years.

12           For example, for vegetation in 2018, 86 percent  
13 of the LMAs that submitted reports stated that they  
14 performed vegetation control during the previous fiscal  
15 year. Whereas, in 2017, 90 percent of the LMAs stated  
16 that they performed vegetation control.

17           The overall trend shows that vegetation  
18 management dominates the LMA's efforts followed by rodent  
19 control, levee repair, levee crown maintenance, and  
20 encroachment control.

21                           --o0o--

22           DWR STAFF ENGINEER DONOVAN: Again, we condensed  
23 the LMA's responses for plans, operation, and maintenance  
24 for the current fiscal year. They're mostly similar to  
25 activities performed last year. So the graph shows the

1 maintenance activities planned for the current fiscal  
2 year. Again, vegetation control, rodent control, levee  
3 crown maintenance, levee repair, and encroachment control  
4 are the dominant categories.

5 In general, in 2018, more LMAs reported to spend  
6 money on these activities than in the previous two years.

7 Greater benefit current repair programs and to  
8 find better data for planning, we will begin asking the  
9 LMAs for more specific data and budget information on  
10 individual tasks.

11 --o0o--

12 DWR STAFF ENGINEER DONOVAN: We did not hold a  
13 workshop in 2018, but provided continuous assistance to  
14 LMAs via phone and email. We mailed the annual reporting  
15 reminder to all LMAs including instructions and hard copy  
16 forms. We also contacted the LMAs that missed the  
17 reporting deadline, and reduced the number of  
18 non-reporters from 25 to 7.

19 Simultaneously, we've been coaching the LMAs on  
20 improving the quality of their reports. We provided  
21 specific constructive feedback on 26 reports from 2017  
22 that needed improvement. Sixty-eight percent of LMAs who  
23 received improvement letters showed a clear improvement on  
24 their 2018 responses as compared to 2017. We will provide  
25 feedback on the 2018 reports in the coming months.

1                   --o0o--

2                   DWR STAFF ENGINEER DONOVAN: The annual report as  
3 well as individual inspection reports are accessible on  
4 CDEC. Also, CDs and/or hard copies of the annual report  
5 are being distributed to each LMA and to counties, cities,  
6 and libraries within the LMA's jurisdiction. And the raw  
7 data from the LMA reporting can accessed by the LMAs  
8 through the LMA reporting tool.

9                   --o0o--

10                  DWR STAFF ENGINEER DONOVAN: Information provided  
11 through our program has several benefits. As far as the  
12 data, the information collected from the LMAs provides a  
13 local understanding of system performance and knowledge of  
14 maintenance challenges and management practices. Also,  
15 the data provide critical information for flood emergency  
16 preparedness.

17                  The issues raised can be informative to  
18 allocating future levee improvement funding like the Flood  
19 Maintenance Assistance Program or the Flood System Repair  
20 Project. For certain DWR grants and repair programs, the  
21 level of cost share eligibility provides an incentive for  
22 reporting compliance.

23                  The data were used in the evaluation of long-term  
24 operation and maintenance costs as part of the Central  
25 Valley Flood Protection Plan.



1           And as far as the LMA reporting tool, it provides  
2 LMAs a pathway to code compliance, and provides LMAs with  
3 secure data management of their inspection data. And this  
4 is all I have. And now, I will turn it over to Don, who  
5 will talk about branch activities.

6           VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: Thanks, Ms. Donovan.

7           Members, do anybody -- Mr. Countryman.

8           BOARD MEMBER COUNTRYMAN: The presentation of the  
9 information was based on the percent compliance. What  
10 about information on the amount of money being spent by  
11 the LMAs? did you summarize that? Is there a trend in  
12 the amount of money that's being spent on maintenance?

13           DWR STAFF ENGINEER DONOVAN: Well, that's a very  
14 good question. So right now, as far as the budget that  
15 the LMAs provide to us, they're in the summaries in the  
16 appendices. So this is per LMA individually.

17           Right now, we -- we are looking into improving  
18 the way we process and pass on that information. So for  
19 example, like I mentioned before, we are going to ask for  
20 more detailed information from the LMAs per category. Our  
21 goal is to be able to break down the costs per category in  
22 the entire system. We are also going to break it down per  
23 system, per urban non-urban levees project and nonproject  
24 levees. So this is some work in progress, and there will  
25 be some changes made this year as far as the budget

1 information.

2 BOARD MEMBER COUNTRYMAN: Do they -- I'm trying  
3 to remember what you just showed us. But do we -- do they  
4 show what they actually spent and then what they budget?

5 DWR STAFF ENGINEER DONOVAN: They -- well, they  
6 are required to show us what they plan to spend, so we  
7 receive their budgets. And this is for the part four of  
8 the program. For part three, which is what they actually  
9 did, maintenance activities that were performed, some LMAs  
10 provide that information to us. But per Water Code, they  
11 are not required to submit what they actually spend.  
12 However, we receive this information from a large number  
13 of LMAs, but not from all.

14 BOARD MEMBER COUNTRYMAN: It seems like that  
15 would be useful information to see how we're doing on  
16 ramping up to get the sustainable maintenance that we need  
17 in the system.

18 DWR STAFF ENGINEER DONOVAN: (Nods head.)

19 BOARD MEMBER COUNTRYMAN: But you say they're not  
20 allowed or we --

21 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: Required.

22 BOARD MEMBER COUNTRYMAN: It's not required.

23 DWR STAFF ENGINEER DONOVAN: It is -- it is not  
24 required. We don't specifically ask in part three. We  
25 just ask for the maintenance activities that were

1 performed. And we don't specifically -- we do not  
2 specifically ask what they actually spend.

3 BOARD MEMBER COUNTRYMAN: Could you ask that?

4 DWR STAFF ENGINEER DONOVAN: I suppose. I  
5 suppose we can.

6 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: You can try.

7 DWR STAFF ENGINEER DONOVAN: We can try.

8 (Laughter.)

9 BOARD MEMBER COUNTRYMAN: Thanks.

10 DWR STAFF ENGINEER DONOVAN: Thank you.

11 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: Any other Board member?

12 Ms. Donovan, I actually was on the Board when the  
13 Board received the first report after '07, and to see the  
14 progress that the program has made in collecting  
15 information and analyzing information. And it seems to me  
16 to be a direct correlation between the improvement within  
17 the inspections, and then when I look at your report and  
18 you see the LMAs reporting how much they're spending on  
19 vegetation, and rodent management, and to see that link.

20 So I know it's been ten years in the making, and  
21 a lot of people working on it, but what a difference.  
22 Close to ten years of fine-tuning the program. So I  
23 wanted to congratulate you and the team.

24 DWR STAFF ENGINEER DONOVAN: Thank you.

25 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: Now, I'm sorry, we have

1 Mr. Rasmussen.

2 --o0o--

3 DWR FLOOD PROJECT INTEGRITY & INSPECTION SECTION  
4 CHIEF RASMUSSEN: Good morning Board members. Don  
5 Rasmussen. I'm the Chief of the Flood Project Inspection  
6 and Integrity Branch.

7 At this time, I would like to provide an update  
8 on the many programs -- program tools and activities.  
9 First up is the Inspection Program. This tool is the  
10 workhorse of the Inspection Program. We are continually  
11 updating its content and functionality, and it is used to  
12 collect all inspections performed.

13 --o0o--

14 DWR FLOOD PROJECT INTEGRITY & INSPECTION SECTION  
15 CHIEF RASMUSSEN: Our Levee Log Program utilizes the same  
16 platform as the Inspection Program, but has designed --  
17 but has been designed specifically for use in collecting  
18 features for the levee log updates. At this time, all the  
19 field inspections for the levee log update have been  
20 completed. Inspection staff are working to finalize the  
21 field inspection data and have QA reviewed approximately  
22 620 miles of levee logs.

23 As the levee logs are finalized, they will be  
24 updated on our website and made available to the LMAs.

25 --o0o--

## 1 DWR FLOOD PROJECT INTEGRITY &amp; INSPECTION SECTION

2 CHIEF RASMUSSEN: The LMA reporting tool is an internet  
3 best -- based portal that allows users to access  
4 information about their levees. The user cannot update  
5 the contact information, obtain copies of maps, and O&M  
6 manuals, review utility crossing inventory reports,  
7 provide feedback to the inspectors on inspection items,  
8 submit their LMA reporting requirements, and update the  
9 port -- the Board staff with corrections they have made to  
10 their -- made to their Corps periodic inspections.

11 At this time, we are beginning the process, as  
12 Saskia had mentioned, to update the tool which we hope  
13 will improve the functionality and its ease of use.

14 --o0o--

## 15 DWR FLOOD PROJECT INTEGRITY &amp; INSPECTION SECTION

16 CHIEF RASMUSSEN: The designated floodway tool -- the  
17 designated floodway too. This tool allows inspectors to  
18 perform floodway inspections from their desk using aerial  
19 imagery. Identified encroachments are delineated and  
20 georeferenced and then documented in a database which then  
21 can be used to report on findings.

22 The baseline assessment was completed in 2018 and  
23 the inespec -- and inspectors are currently working on the  
24 inspection for the 2019 inspection season.

25 Identified unauthorized encroachments will be

1 turned over to the Board's Enforcement Section as  
2 appropriate.

3 --o0o--

4 DWR FLOOD PROJECT INTEGRITY & INSPECTION SECTION

5 CHIEF RASMUSSEN: Our efforts to develop a street view  
6 imagery of the State Plan of Flood Control levees

7 continues. We beginning to collect imagery for State

8 maintained areas and will continue to expand our imagery

9 database over the next several years. At this time, the

10 imagery is only available to Inspection Section staff.

11 However, we are looking to make this imagery available to

12 DWR, Board, and LMA personnel in the future as funding

13 becomes available.

14 This imagery could be help -- could help provide

15 valuable information for emergency response, operattion

16 and maintenance, environmental studies, and enforcement.

17 --o0o--

18 DWR FLOOD PROJECT INTEGRITY & INSPECTION SECTION

19 CHIEF RASMUSSEN: FERIX, or the Flood Emergency Response

20 Information Exchange portal, is another tool that we

21 continue to expand our use of. Currently, we have two

22 portals within FERIX that we are utilizing, the levee mile

23 calculator tool and the UCIP datebase viewer -- date

24 viewer.

25 This year, the FERIX UCIP data viewer has been

1 enhance. New features include an updated data set, access  
2 to documents associated with the utility crossings,  
3 enhanced search functions, filters, viewing options, and  
4 sharing features.

5 --o0o--

6 DWR FLOOD PROJECT INTEGRITY & INSPECTION SECTION  
7 CHIEF RASMUSSEN: Some of the additional branch activities  
8 I'd like to share. We continue to participate in  
9 coordination meetings with the Corps, the Board, the local  
10 maintaining agencies helping to maintain good  
11 communication between agencies at all levels.

12 Branch personnel have continued to teach flood  
13 fight training courses throughout the state. Over the  
14 last year, our inspectors have helped to teach  
15 approximately 33 flood fight classes, providing training  
16 to about 900 flood fighters.

17 Branch personnel were also deployed to post-fire  
18 recovery efforts at various times throughout the year.  
19 And inspectors have been working digitally -- diligently  
20 to -- and this says 460, but it's been -- that number has  
21 been updated to 526 permits in 2018. So we've made  
22 tremendous progress in the last few years on closing out  
23 permits

24 --o0o--

25 DWR FLOOD PROJECT INTEGRITY & INSPECTION SECTION

1 CHIEF RASMUSSEN: So into the future. As we move into  
2 2019, we will continue to do our best to communicate with  
3 the many agencies involved with maintaining the levees to  
4 share knowledge with the Board, Corps, LMAs to help meet  
5 their operational and -- their operational and regulatory  
6 challenges, improve the LMA reporting participation and  
7 the quality of their reports, obtain more detailed budget  
8 information to provide planning and assistance programs  
9 with better data, update the web-based LMA reporting tool  
10 for more efficient and user-friendly reporting.

11 We intend to develop the high-water staking  
12 partnerships needed to collect infor -- important data.  
13 We will continue to finalize levee log updates through the  
14 sys -- through the system -- throughout the system. We  
15 plan to continue our effort to assess LMA responsible  
16 drainage pipes.

17 As always, we will respond to another Emergencies  
18 such as post-fire recovery as they arise and are  
19 requested.

20 This concludes our presentation on the 2018  
21 inspection and local maintaining agency report.

22 At this time, I'd like to take any questions.

23 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: Thank you, Mr. Rasmussen.

24 Ms. Dolan.

25 SECRETARY DOLAN: A couple questions, please.



1           On your slide that talks about program tools and  
2 activities, your levee street view. Is this a screen shot  
3 of an actual levee street view?

4           DWR FLOOD PROJECT INTEGRITY & INSPECTION SECTION  
5 CHIEF RASMUSSEN: Yes. We have an actual kind of like a  
6 Google street view camera that is on -- that we can put on  
7 our -- on a vehicle and go along the levee and take a  
8 street view.

9           SECRETARY DOLAN: Perhaps it just doesn't show on  
10 this slide, but is a date associated with each photo. I'm  
11 assuming you don't do it every year. So sometimes things  
12 change. So if you're looking at something in 2016 --

13           DWR FLOOD PROJECT INTEGRITY & INSPECTION SECTION  
14 CHIEF RASMUSSEN: So we're --

15           SECRETARY DOLAN: -- it might look different  
16 after the 2017 --

17           DWR FLOOD PROJECT INTEGRITY & INSPECTION SECTION  
18 CHIEF RASMUSSEN: Right. So we're assessing that. We're  
19 assessing how often we need to do it, how many years we  
20 need to keep that data. And, you know, it's just a lot of  
21 data management. So -- and it costs money to do that. So  
22 we're looking into -- we're -- that's --

23           SECRETARY DOLAN: If you had a date on it it  
24 might help. Perhaps it is and it just doesn't show on the  
25 screen shot.

1 DWR FLOOD PROJECT INTEGRITY & INSPECTION SECTION

2 CHIEF RASMUSSEN: Yeah.

3 SECRETARY DOLAN: And then on your slide that  
4 talks about key activities and you talk about how your  
5 branch closed 416, now 526 permits, which -- what permits  
6 does your branch issue?

7 DWR FLOOD PROJECT INTEGRITY & INSPECTION SECTION

8 CHIEF RASMUSSEN: So there are thousands of old permits  
9 that have been stagnant over the years.

10 SECRETARY DOLAN: What kind of permits?

11 DWR FLOOD PROJECT INTEGRITY & INSPECTION SECTION

12 CHIEF RASMUSSEN: Oh. Oh, levee permits, encroachment  
13 permits.

14 SECRETARY DOLAN: So you're working with the  
15 Board that actually issues the permits?

16 DWR FLOOD PROJECT INTEGRITY & INSPECTION SECTION

17 CHIEF RASMUSSEN: Yes.

18 SECRETARY DOLAN: Okay. Maybe you might want to  
19 say work with the Board to issue ther permits.

20 DWR FLOOD PROJECT INTEGRITY & INSPECTION SECTION

21 CHIEF RASMUSSEN: Okay.

22 SECRETARY DOLAN: Thank you.

23 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: Thank you, Ms. Dolan.

24 Mr. Countryman.

25 BOARD MEMBER COUNTRYMAN: I noticed you had

1 something there on high water staking. I had, about a  
2 month ago, a discussion with the Corps of Engineers, some  
3 staff over there. And they introduced the idea to me the  
4 possibility of using drones to -- at a relatively low cost  
5 to document high water events and also to document channel  
6 maintenance. Have you been involved in any discussions  
7 about the fact that drones are now becoming very cost  
8 effective and could replace some of these things that  
9 we've done in the past?

10 DWR FLOOD PROJECT INTEGRITY & INSPECTION SECTION  
11 CHIEF RASMUSSEN: We've seen some presentations, but as of  
12 yet, we haven't really done much work in that arena. It  
13 might be worth checking out.

14 BOARD MEMBER COUNTRYMAN: This is an area where  
15 maybe technology can help us quite a bit on doing some of  
16 the levee inspection work and things like that. So it's  
17 an area that has great potential, so we should keep an eye  
18 on it.

19 Thanks.

20 DWR FLOOD PROJECT INTEGRITY & INSPECTION SECTION  
21 CHIEF RASMUSSEN: Thank you.

22 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: Okay. Thank you, Mr.  
23 Countryman.

24 Mr. Ramirez.

25 BOARD MEMBER RAMIREZ: Thank you. Hello. How

1 are you?

2 DWR FLOOD PROJECT INTEGRITY & INSPECTION SECTION

3 CHIEF RASMUSSEN: Hi.

4 BOARD MEMBER RAMIREZ: You mentioned something  
5 that I don't want to ignore or gloss over that I think  
6 maybe is relatively significant, which is the designated  
7 floodway program and the inspection --

8 EXECUTIVE OFFICER GALLAGHER: I cleared you.

9 BOARD MEMBER RAMIREZ: Okay.

10 So the designated floodway, you said there was an  
11 inspection done, a desktop, with aerial photography. I  
12 don't know or I can't think the last time that was done.  
13 Do you guys know off the top of your head the last time we  
14 had an inspection at that level for the entire floodway  
15 program?

16 DWR FLOOD PROJECT INTEGRITY & INSPECTION SECTION

17 CHIEF RASMUSSEN: It's been a lot of years.

18 DWR FLOOD PROJECT INSPECTION SECTION CHIEF WYLIE:  
19 Early 2000s, I think.

20 BOARD MEMBER RAMIREZ: Which is --

21 DWR FLOOD PROJECT INTEGRITY & INSPECTION SECTION

22 CHIEF RASMUSSEN: And that was something that we  
23 recognized. And it's quite an effort with the amount of  
24 staff that we have to go out and actually inspect those  
25 levees. So this -- this allows us to --

1 BOARD MEMBER RAMIREZ: All right.

2 DWR FLOOD PROJECT INTEGRITY & INSPECTION SECTION

3 CHIEF RASMUSSEN: -- through imagery just sit at the desk.

4 And so we've got it all, you know, baseline now, and we

5 can look at it from year to year and see --

6 BOARD MEMBER RAMIREZ: Right. It's a place to  
7 start for sure, which is great. I think it's really great

8 to have collected that information. I can only imagine

9 the numbers of things that might eventually be forwarded  
10 to us for encroachments. But you've got to start some  
11 place.

12 Is that information in the levee report or is  
13 that just another exercise you guys wanted to report on  
14 and it's not captured in that report?

15 DWR FLOOD PROJECT INSPECTION SECTION CHIEF WYLIE:

16 So -- Wade Wylie -- at this time, we're reporting  
17 basically we did a baseline. And we're trying to work out  
18 with Board staff how we're going to deal with identified  
19 encroachments in the future --

20 BOARD MEMBER RAMIREZ: Okay.

21 DWR FLOOD PROJECT INSPECTION SECTION CHIEF WYLIE:

22 -- and how we might want to see that in the  
23 report in the future.

24 BOARD MEMBER RAMIREZ: Great. So the baseline  
25 was 2018. It just says we collected baseline data. No

1 detail. And then we'll -- you guys will talk with our  
2 staff and we'll figure out what happens next?

3 DWR FLOOD PROJECT INSPECTION SECTION CHIEF WYLIE:

4 Right now, it's looking like if we identify  
5 encroachments in the floodway that need to go to  
6 enforcement, we will do those on an individual basis --

7 BOARD MEMBER RAMIREZ: Right.

8 DWR FLOOD PROJECT INSPECTION SECTION CHIEF WYLIE:

9 -- and coordinate with enforcement staff.

10 BOARD MEMBER RAMIREZ: Right. It makes perfect  
11 sense. I can see that and probably groundtruthing it and  
12 everything else.

13 I'm going to guess there's more than one, but --

14 DWR FLOOD PROJECT INSPECTION SECTION CHIEF WYLIE:

15 Thousands identified in our baseline, and  
16 that's -- that's kind of where we want to start from.

17 BOARD MEMBER RAMIREZ: Right. No, I -- we can  
18 take it off line. I just wanted to sort of confirm what  
19 was already presented and then what's happening behind the  
20 scenes, but you've done that. So thank you for doing that

21 I also wanted to echo what Emma said. The level  
22 of detail and the follow up in the year-to-year part is --  
23 I've only been here eight years -- but dramatically  
24 improved and really great. So thank you guys for doing  
25 that and walking through everything.

1           It's really helpful. I almost feel like you guys  
2 should have gone first and then we should have had the  
3 flood system grant program go second, right. To the  
4 extent that there's funding problems, these folks are  
5 going to pick up, based on where you guys have left off,  
6 right? You're reporting on this 2018 snapshot. I'm sure  
7 people that are red in whatever category they need help  
8 financially are going to probably apply to the program.

9           DWR FLOOD PROJECT INTEGRITY & INSPECTION SECTION

10 CHIEF RASMUSSEN: I hope so.

11           BOARD MEMBER RAMIREZ: So that's great. Thank  
12 you.

13           VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: Thank you, Mr. Ramirez.

14           I don't have any cards from members of the public  
15 that want to address the Board on this matter. So unless  
16 somebody raises their hand, I'm going to assume there is  
17 not.

18           I am -- before wrapping up, I wanted to take the  
19 opportunity, and I don't know if the camera can see, for  
20 those of us -- for those folks that are seeing us  
21 online -- on the webcast, this is the level of detail.

22           DWR FLOOD PROJECT INTEGRITY & INSPECTION SECTION

23 CHIEF RASMUSSEN: Put it on this one.

24           VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: No, that's okay. But  
25 this is the level of detail. And these reports get better

1 and better every year, in great part to the work of the  
2 Department and in great part to the work of the local  
3 maintain entities and our partners that continue to help  
4 to compile the information.

5 I did want to take an opportunity to just  
6 believably -- if Ms. Gallagher can help me with this. We  
7 received this information. We have these public  
8 discussions. This does not sit in a shelf. And maybe Ms.  
9 Gallagher can take a second and talk a little bit about  
10 what this Board and our team does with the information  
11 that we receive from the Department and from our local  
12 partners every year.

13 EXECUTIVE OFFICER GALLAGHER: Certainly. And  
14 thank you, Madam Vice President. And continue with your  
15 question, Mr. Countryman, your Board staff is and has  
16 been, for the last several months as part of the  
17 implementation of Resolution 2018-06 last year as part of  
18 the OMRR&R work that we're doing, we have met already with  
19 10 of the 30 LMAs that have been identified in these  
20 reports as failing multiple years of their inspection, and  
21 spoken with them in a lot more detail about the whats and  
22 the whys, and the what's preventing you from doing it, and  
23 is it financial?

24 And that's been as -- with some assistance from  
25 our local funding committee board members, Secretary Dolan



1 and President Edgar. So we are getting some good data and  
2 we're going to be able to use that as we work both on our  
3 priority of figuring out how to fund O&M, and also  
4 implementing that resolution for making sure there's  
5 adequate OMRR&R.

6 So we are definitely doing something with that  
7 information at least on that front and working very  
8 aggressively on a pilot program. So we have several staff  
9 involved in that. And our program manager Ruth Darling  
10 and -- is working along -- along with our Acting Chief  
11 Engineer on that.

12 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: Thank you very much.  
13 And, Ms. Dolan and President Edgar, I know this is  
14 something that you have spent countless hours on. So on  
15 behalf of the Board, we appreciate your outreach and you  
16 continue working with our local partners.

17 Mr. Wylie, Ms. Donovan, Mr. Rasmussen, excellent  
18 presentation. Every year we begin the year with this. So  
19 I appreciate it. And we look forward to next year's  
20 presentation.

21 If there are no other questions or comments, we  
22 will move forward. Let's see, Mr. Harvey, do you think we  
23 can take Item 9A in the next -- oh, I guess probably. How  
24 long do you think you need for that item?

25 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLIANCE BRANCH ACTING

1 CHIEF HARVEY: It will be quick.

2 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Okay.

3 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: All right. Well, if --  
4 Jim, do you think --

5 THE COURT REPORTER: (Nods head.)

6 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: Okay. So if none of us  
7 talk, maybe we can get Item 9A done. And then from there,  
8 we will take a break for lunch and Board members will meet  
9 in closed session with our executive team, if that sounds  
10 acceptable.

11 Okay. Mr. Harvey.

12 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLIANCE BRANCH ACTING  
13 CHIEF HARVEY: Good afternoon, Vice President Suarez and  
14 members of the Board. As you know, my name is Greg  
15 Harvey. I'm the Acting Chief for the Plan Implementation  
16 and Compliance Branch. And I'm going to be giving a brief  
17 introduction to the West Sacramento U.S. Army Corps of  
18 Engineers project design agreement and local design  
19 agreement for pre-construction and engineering design.

20 In just a moment Curtis Lee, the project manager  
21 with the Department of Water Resources, will give a more  
22 in-depth informational briefing on this project. Mr. Greg  
23 Fabun and Cameron Sessions are also here to answer any  
24 question that you may have.

25 The project is located in West Sacramento on the

1 east side of the Yolo Bypass, south of the Sacramento  
2 Bypass. As a part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
3 2018 workplan, the West Sacramento Area Flood Control  
4 Agency project received \$400,000 in federal funds to start  
5 preliminary engineering and design activities for the work  
6 described in the general reevaluation report.

7 To allow them to utilize these funds, the U.S.  
8 Army Corps of Engineers needs the non-federal partners to  
9 provide matching funds. For this reason, the State and  
10 West SAFCA are working to enter into a design agreement  
11 that will serve as a vehicle for these funds.

12 Curtis will talk more about the total design  
13 cost, and the cost percentage breakdown between the U.S.  
14 Army Corps, West SAFCA, and the Central Valley Flood  
15 Protection Board. Receiving these funds will allow the  
16 design to become complete and ready to go should a new  
17 start become available.

18 Next month, the design agreements will be on  
19 consent for approval. And now, Mr. Curtis Lee, I invite  
20 you to the podium and give a more in-depth about the  
21 project.

22 Thank you.

23 DWR SENIOR ENGINEER LEE: Thanks, Greg.

24 (Thereupon an overhead presentation was  
25 Presented as follows.)

1           DWR SENIOR ENGINEER LEE: Good morning, members  
2 of the Board, Vice President Suarez and Board staff. My  
3 name is Curtis Lee. I'm a Project Manager with the  
4 Department of Water Resources Flood Projects Office.

5           And like Greg had just stated, I'm here today  
6 with Greg Fabun, Flood Protection Manager from the City of  
7 West Sacramento, Carmeron Sessions, the program manager  
8 from the United States Army Corps of Engineers, and Greg  
9 Harvey from the Central Valley Flood Protection Board.

10           We're very excited to be here with you today to  
11 present this informational briefing on the proposed West  
12 Sacramento Basin design agreement. The implementation of  
13 this agreement in the basin will be the first step forward  
14 to completing this important project and improving flood  
15 protection for the City of West Sacramento and meeting the  
16 goals that were laid out in the Central Valley Flood  
17 Protection Plan for urban flood risk reduction and  
18 environmental enhancement.

19                           --o0o--

20           DWR SENIOR ENGINEER LEE: So the project  
21 partners. The federal sponsor in this agreement is the  
22 United States Army Corps of Engineers with project  
23 management provided by the Sacramento District. The  
24 non-federal sponsors for this agreement are the West  
25 Sacra -- or West Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, and

1 the Central Valley Flood Protection Board with project  
2 management provided by DWR.

3 --o0o--

4 DWR SENIOR ENGINEER LEE: So there's a history of  
5 partnership that led us to this point. In April of 2016,  
6 USACE completed the West Sacramento General Reevaluation  
7 Report for the West Sacramento Basin. This report  
8 detailed the necessary flood protection improvements that  
9 the federal government had a financial interest in  
10 constructing in that area.

11 In December of 2016, the West Sac GRR was  
12 included in the water infrastructure improvements for the  
13 Nation Act and was approved by Congress. While this did  
14 provide federal authorization for the project, no funds  
15 were provided at that time. In November of 2018, as part  
16 of the USACE 2019 workplan, the West Sacramento Area Flood  
17 Control Agency project received \$400,000 in general -- or  
18 in federal funds to start preliminary engineering and  
19 design activities for the work described in the GRR.

20 This first infusion of federal money creates an  
21 important path for the continual funding of the project --  
22 or, yeah, continual funding of the project. All of the  
23 project partners anticipate federal funding to be  
24 allocated to this project in future years. So currently,  
25 January of 2019.

1           In order to utilize the federal funds, USACE  
2 needs the non-federal partners, West SAFCA and the State,  
3 to provide matching funds. For this reason, USACE, the  
4 State, and West SAFCA are working to enter a design  
5 agreement that will serve as a vehicle for these funds.  
6 The State and West SAFCA will also enter into a separate  
7 State and local two-party agreement. February of 2019,  
8 DWR will seek Board approval of the agreements.

9                           --o0o--

10           DWR SENIOR ENGINEER LEE: If you look at the  
11 slide above, this is the project location. The study area  
12 is located in West Sacramento as highlighted in blue.

13                           --o0o--

14           DWR SENIOR ENGINEER LEE: There was quite a bit  
15 of work that was detailed in the West Sac General  
16 Reevaluation Report, the GRR. The West Sacramento General  
17 Reevaluation final report includes the following features,  
18 as you can see, cut off walls, rock bank protection, sheet  
19 pile wall, embankment fill, setback levees, cutoff wall,  
20 et cetera.

21           There are 48,000 people and \$4.2 billion in  
22 damageable assets protected by the levees in West  
23 Sacramento. The initial effort will be for the design of  
24 the first construction increment, which will be the  
25 development of design for two small areas along the Yolo

1 Bypass that are circled in red.

2           The goal is to have these areas essentially  
3 shovel ready when Federal funds become available. This  
4 will be the first federal investment in this basin for  
5 this project.

6                           --o0o--

7           DWR SENIOR ENGINEER LEE: So the design agreement  
8 budget. The project cost share is the standard 65  
9 percent/35 percent federal and non-federal sponsor split.  
10 The non-federal portion of the total project cost, the 35  
11 percent, will be split again 70 percent/30 percent between  
12 the State and West SAFCA. In the slide above, you can see  
13 each partner's cost and total project cost, and cost  
14 percentage inside the circle.

15                           --o0o--

16           DWR SENIOR ENGINEER LEE: So the brief design  
17 agreement schedule. Signing the agreement in February  
18 will allow us to begin design in April of 2019. With  
19 additional federal funding, USACE plans to have the design  
20 completed in April of 2020. This will put West Sacramento  
21 in a favorable position to receive a new start if -- when  
22 one comes -- becomes available.

23                           --o0o--

24           DWR SENIOR ENGINEER LEE: At this point, I'd like  
25 to take any questions that you might have.

1 Thank you all.

2 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: Thank you.

3 Any questions?

4 Mr. Countryman, you look like you're ready.

5 BOARD MEMBER COUNTRYMAN: I'm always ready. I  
6 think this is great. But I do want to also comment on the  
7 work that West Sacramento has done out there and has  
8 completed along the Sacramento River. The Board had an  
9 opportunity to inspect that work. And honestly, it's some  
10 of the finest levee work I've seen in my 50 years of  
11 engineering, both the planning, the execution, the way the  
12 work was, you know, put into place. And if that's an  
13 indication of how the design work is going to go, I think  
14 we're in good shape.

15 DWR SENIOR ENGINEER LEE: Yeah. Thank you. And  
16 I notice the City appreciates that as well.

17 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: Thank you, Mr.  
18 Countryman.

19 Any other?

20 Mr. Ramirez, no.

21 Any other member?

22 (Laughter.)

23 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: You're good.

24 BOARD MEMBER RAMIREZ: Second.

25 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: Oh, Ditto.



1 Very good.

2 Any member -- is that it for the presentations?

3 DWR SENIOR ENGINEER LEE: That's it for me.

4 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: Any member of the public  
5 would like to comment or -- there's a gentleman  
6 approaching.

7 MR. FABUN: Greg Fabun, the Flood Protection  
8 Manager for the City of West Sacramento and West SAFCA. I  
9 just want to thank the Board for the opportunity to  
10 present. And also to thank the comments about our  
11 Southport Project and just to remind the Board that  
12 although that project is complete, it is part of the  
13 federal project that was authorized and that we're looking  
14 to continue design in. And it lays the foundation from a  
15 mitigation -- advanced mitigation for those future efforts  
16 So I think we've got a good head start.

17 And also with the other projects that have been  
18 fully funded in the region, it's really critical that West  
19 Sacramento get started on design and try and keep pace  
20 with the rest of these projects that are on such an  
21 aggressive implementation schedule. So that's it. Thank  
22 you, and look forward to moving forward in the future.

23 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: Thank you.

24 So before we wrap up this discussion, Mr. Harvey,  
25 can you again remind us what it is that's coming to

1 consent next month? If I understood that correctly,  
2 the -- we have a consent item next month.

3 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLIANCE BRANCH ACTING  
4 CHIEF HARVEY: Yeah. The signing of the design agreement  
5 and the local design agreement for the project.

6 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: So it would be an  
7 approval to authorize the President to sign, or to the  
8 Executive Officer to sign?

9 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLIANCE BRANCH ACTING  
10 CHIEF HARVEY: For the authorization of the -- of the  
11 400,000.

12 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: Okay. Thank you.  
13 Well, with that, thank you very much.

14 Members, I think, if possible, if we can adjourn  
15 and meet again at 12:30 for closed session. Does that  
16 give everybody enough time to get some lunch?

17 Okay.

18 Should we --

19 EXECUTIVE OFFICER GALLAGHER: Can we take a break  
20 at least to get something?

21 (Laughter.)

22 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: Can we meet at -- okay.  
23 Members, if we can meet at 12:15 for closed session, and  
24 we will reconvene here close to 1:00 o'clock.

25 Okay. See you in about an hour or so.

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(Off record: 12:05 p.m.)  
(Thereupon the meeting recessed into  
closed session.)  
(Thereupon a lunch break was taken.)

## 1 A F T E R N O O N S E S S I O N

2 (Thereupon the meeting reconvened open session.)

3 (On record: 1:34 p.m.)

4 PRESIDENT EDGAR: We'll reconvene from being in  
5 closed session. And there is a report to be made from the  
6 closed session under Item 14. And I'm going to ask our  
7 legal counsel to explain what we did.

8 GENERAL COUNSEL DUA: Thank you, President Edgar.

9 So we discussed three litigation matters. The  
10 first of which is Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency for  
11 complainant eminent domain, of which the Sacramento-San  
12 Joaquin Drainage District is a named defendant acting and  
13 by -- as it's managed by the Board. And the Board has  
14 granted me authority to resolve that lawsuit by way of  
15 stipulated judgment, subject to the Board's easements and  
16 property interests being unaffected.17 The second is the Grass Valley Neighbors matter  
18 versus the Board over a CEQA action, which has allowed me  
19 -- the Board has granted me authority to resolve that suit  
20 as well, with a dismissal with prejudice once I receive  
21 the settlement agreement from the AG's office.22 And the final matter would be another litigation  
23 matter Encore Liberty, LLC, as a plaintiff versus the  
24 Sacramento-San Joaquin Drainage District acting by and  
25 through the -- the Central Valley Flood Protection Board

1 to resolve that lawsuit by way of settlement.

2 Those are the three matters that we had before  
3 the Board.

4 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Okay. Thank you, Jit.

5 Thank you, Jit.

6 Members, let's move to Item 10. We're on Item  
7 10, the Executive Officer's reports. And you have these  
8 items in your packet for today's meeting. The A, B, C, D,  
9 and E, Administration, Operations Branch, Plan  
10 Implementation, and Environmental Services and Land  
11 Management.

12 Leslie, do you have any additional comments you  
13 would like to make on those items?

14 EXECUTIVE OFFICER GALLAGHER: No, no additional  
15 comments.

16 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Any comments -- oh, excuse me.

17 EXECUTIVE OFFICER GALLAGHER: Just other than  
18 that I allowed staff to go back to work. So if there are  
19 any specific questions that I or Jit or Ruth can't answer,  
20 I'll have to get those for you at a later date.

21 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Okay. Any questions from the  
22 Board or the audience?

23 Yeah. Hello.

24 (Laughter.)

25 SECRETARY DOLAN: Where is Mr. Gulli?

1           PRESIDENT EDGAR:  Yeah.

2           SECRETARY DOLAN:  Gulli.

3           PRESIDENT EDGAR:  Gulli, I think.  Yeah.  Okay.

4  Thank you.

5           And then we're on Item 11, which are Board  
6  comments.

7           Tim, do you have any?

8           BOARD MEMBER RAMIREZ:  No.

9           PRESIDENT EDGAR:  Mike?

10          BOARD MEMBER VILLINES:  No.

11          PRESIDENT EDGAR:  Joe?

12          BOARD MEMBER COUNTRYMAN:  Yes.

13          PRESIDENT EDGAR:  Tell us about your trip Cuba.

14          BOARD MEMBER COUNTRYMAN:  Well, I'll save that  
15  for individually.  But Mike and I have had a couple -- and  
16  Leslie has also been involved.  But yesterday, Mike and I  
17  had a meeting with the sponsors for the Sacramento Weir  
18  expansion project.  And this is the one, \$1.6 billion or  
19  whatever, that they're on a fast track to spend this money  
20  as fast as possible.

21                 And this Board knows from our field trips and so  
22  forth I'm not a fan of gates on this weir.  And I had met  
23  with the Corps several weeks ago -- actually before I went  
24  to Cuba -- and talked to the Corps technical staff there,  
25  and got them to agree to fully review the non-gated

1 alternatives for this project. Even if it had to go  
2 forward with gates, in the long term, the technical work  
3 would be done to later remove the gates, if possible. The  
4 issue being what's the impacts in the Yolo Bypass.

5           So we received the -- some of the draft results  
6 of that yesterday, which were surprising to some extent  
7 that -- one, that they'd found with a new survey that the  
8 Sacramento Weir had settled up to a foot, and it wasn't  
9 even across the entire weir. It was four-tenths of a foot  
10 in part and, you know, up to a foot in another part. And  
11 that their modeling was showing that the actual elevation  
12 of the weir, the results were insensitive to it. And  
13 that's because of backwater conditions from the Yolo  
14 Bypass.

15           So that has opened up the door to possibly have  
16 no gates by having a higher weir on this extension of the  
17 weir that they're putting there, so it spills less  
18 frequently for small floods. But still for the -- the  
19 design floods would still be able to pass the flow  
20 necessary to provide the protection.

21           So there was a general agreement between the  
22 State and the local sponsors that they wanted to continue  
23 to pursue that alternative. And there's a charrette with  
24 the Corps next week, which I'll be attending. I --  
25 Leslie, are you going to attend that or is Mike?

1 EXECUTIVE OFFICER GALLAGHER: Mike is doing all  
2 of the technical work.

3 BOARD MEMBER COUNTRYMAN: Okay. So Mike and I  
4 will be attending that. No, I just was wondering.

5 So anyway, just a little status report of what's  
6 going on there with the Sacramento Weir. And I hope --  
7 I'm hopeful that it's going to get to the right place here  
8 soon.

9 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Well, that's good, Joe.  
10 That's...

11 Emma, is there anything you want to --

12 VICE PRESIDENT SUAREZ: No.

13 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Jane, is there anything you  
14 want to bring up?

15 SECRETARY DOLAN: No.

16 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Okay. Okay.

17 All right. Let's see, then -- let's see, Item 12  
18 is just the listing of items we have. We're familiar with  
19 having the workshop, and then the regular business  
20 meetings. Any questions on these meetings at all? I  
21 think we had a briefing on what the workshop --

22 EXECUTIVE OFFICER GALLAGHER: I can't see to turn  
23 my microphone on.

24 Kathry, could you tell them what the venue is for  
25 the workshop.



1 Thank you. The venue for the workshop.

2 BOARD ANALYST BAINES: The venue for the workshop  
3 is in West Sac. It's the DWR building - been there before  
4 - on Industrial. And I think it's room 109, but I'll make  
5 sure you have the invite with all of that information.  
6 You know which building I'm talking about?

7 BOARD MEMBER COUNTRYMAN: Yes, been there several  
8 times.

9 BOARD MEMBER RAMIREZ: Start time?

10 BOARD ANALYST BAINES: 10:00.

11 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Okay.

12 SECRETARY DOLAN: Did you say show time?

13 BOARD MEMBER RAMIREZ: Start time.

14 BOARD ANLALYST BAINES: No, start time.

15 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Start time.

16 (Laughter.)

17 PRESIDENT EDGAR: Okay. And then we've had our  
18 executive closed session and a report on the closed  
19 session.

20 Item 15 is adjournment. So without objection,  
21 this meeting is adjourned.

22 (Thereupon the Central Valley Flood Protection  
23 Board meeting adjourned at 1:42 p.m.)

24

25

## 1 C E R T I F I C A T E O F R E P O R T E R

2 I, JAMES F. PETERS, a Certified Shorthand  
3 Reporter of the State of California, do hereby certify:

4 That I am a disinterested person herein; that the  
5 foregoing California Central Valley Flood Protection Board  
6 meeting was reported in shorthand by me, James F. Peters,  
7 a Certified Shorthand Reporter of the State of California,  
8 and thereafter transcribed under my direction, by  
9 computer-assisted transcription.

10 I further certify that I am not of counsel or  
11 attorney for any of the parties to said meeting nor in any  
12 way interested in the outcome of said meeting.

13 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand  
14 this 1st day of February, 2019.

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21  
22 JAMES F. PETERS, CSR  
23 Certified Shorthand Reporter  
24 License No. 10063  
25