

Central Valley Flood Protection Board Meeting

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING

Feasibility Cost Share Agreement and Local Feasibility Cost Share Agreement for the Yolo Bypass Comprehensive Study

Summary

Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Board) staff will lead a discussion on the draft Feasibility Cost Share Agreement (FCSA) among the Board, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA), and a Local Feasibility Cost Share Agreement (LFCSA) between the Board and SAFCA to initiate a joint Comprehensive Study on the Yolo Bypass and Cache Slough (YBCS) region. The purpose of the study is to cooperatively investigate alternatives intended to improve flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, recreational opportunities and other features.

Background

In 2016, the YBCS Partnership was formed through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to collaboratively prioritize and resolve barriers to success and collaborate to implement projects that provide benefit the YBCS region.

In 2020, the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2020 was passed, authorizing a Comprehensive Study (Study) for the YBCS region for the purposes of flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, water supply, hydropower, and recreation. WRDA 2020 also states that the YBCS Partnership should be consulted in conducting the Study. Depending on the Study's findings there may be opportunities for Congress to consider federal authorization and/or funding for additional activities.

In 2021, Senate Bill (SB) 369 was passed, endorsing the YBCS Partnership and its role in development and implementation of projects in the YBCS region in order to meet the following objectives: (a) prioritize projects that accommodate multiple objectives in the YBCS region, (b) identify project implementation challenges and work collaboratively to resolve those challenges, (c) develop programmatic and expedited approaches for regulatory compliance, (d) identify funding mechanisms for project implementation and long-term operations and maintenance, and (e) develop strategies to foster regional agricultural sustainability, recreational opportunities, and long-term water supply reliability.

Currently, DWR and Board are developing the YBCS Master Plan and Program Environmental Impact Report (Program EIR) through the YBCS Partnership, which are programmatic documents that describe the proposed program purpose, potential project components and rationale for inclusion, phasing, and measurement of individual and cumulative project impacts and benefits against proposed hydraulic and environmental baselines. The Study will be developed in parallel and coordination with the YBCS Master Plan to efficiently leverage existing tools and data and ensure consistent findings and recommendations.

The FCSA targets completion of the investigation within three years at a total cost of no more than three million dollars. The cost-sharing for the study is based on a 50% contribution by the federal government, with the non-federal sponsors (Board and SAFCA) 50% contribution provided in cash and in-kind contributions. The non-federal sponsors will use the LFCSA for cost share purposes. Consistent with the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between CVFPB and DWR, DWR Division of Flood Management (DFM) will be performing project management on behalf of the State, including managing the State's contribution.

Once the FCSA is finalized, a project management plan will be developed and agreed upon by USACE, the Board, DWR, and SAFCA. USACE will conduct and manage the study.

Status

At the July 2023 Board meeting, Staff expects to request that the Board consider adopting a resolution which approves the signing of the FCSA, LFCSA and self-certification documents.