

# CENTRAL VALLEY FLOOD PROTECTION BOARD

## EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

### August 25, 2023



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## FLOOD PLANNING AND PROGRAMS BRANCH

### Status Report and Work Activities

#### **2022 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) Update**

Activities related to implementation of the CVFPP.

1. Sacramento San-Joaquin Drainage District (SSJDD) Assessment District Feasibility Study
  - The SSJDD Feasibility Study continues to advance toward a draft Report of Findings (ROF). Board staff and the consultant team provided an Information Briefing on the SSJDD Feasibility Study at the July Board Meeting. A preliminary Draft of the Report of Findings will be presented to Board staff in September for review and edits. The Draft ROF will be circulated with interested parties after Board review. Submitted comments will be incorporated into the report and released for public review in the fall. Public comments will be presented to Board in the Fall 2023. The Final Report of Findings will be presented at the December Board meeting.
  
2. Regional Flood Management Program (RFMP):
  - All 6 RFMP agreements have been executed effective 4/1/2023. Quarterly meetings were held with all 6 regions in July and August: July 17<sup>th</sup> with Lower Sacramento Delta North, July 19<sup>th</sup> with Feather River, July 27<sup>th</sup> with Lower San Joaquin Levee District, August 2<sup>nd</sup> with Mid and Upper Sacramento, August 4<sup>th</sup> with Upper San Joaquin, and August 22<sup>nd</sup> with Mid San Joaquin.
  
3. Yolo Bypass Federal Comprehensive Study:
  - The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Comprehensive Study has been funded. An Informational Briefing was provided to the Board on the YBCS Comprehensive Study at the June Board Meeting. At the July Board Meeting, the Board adopted Resolution 2023-07, agreeing to enter into a Feasibility Cost Share Agreement (FCSA) and a Local Feasibility Cost Share Agreement (LFCSA) for the Yolo Bypass Comprehensive Study. FPP Branch staff continue to coordinate with DWR, SAFCA and USACE leading up to the FCSA Signing Ceremony. The USACE is preparing Study Specific Guidance for the Comprehensive Study. The Non-Federal Sponsors (NFS) are encouraging USACE to share the SSG with NFS prior to the FCSA Signing. FPP Branch staff will support the Comprehensive Study

scoping efforts after the FCSA is signed.

4. CVFPP 2022 Update – Resolution Workplans:

- FPPB staff began development of strategic workplans for several key resolution items by identifying activities in the 2022 CVFPP Update that the resolution identifies as key for the Board and partner agencies. This will include specific efforts to guide work for these items over the next five years. The workplans will identify scope of work, resources, budget, and key deliverables. FPPB staff will support internal efforts to continue development of these items.

5. CVFPP 2022 Update Floodplain Management Association (FMA)

- Board staff is organizing a Panel for the FMA 2023 in Los Angeles September 5-8, 2023. This panel will include representatives from CVFPB, DWR, Delta Stewardship Council, Lower San Joaquin Levee District, and HDR. The panel will discuss implementation priorities for the Plan including climate, regional partnerships, and prioritizing vulnerable communities. Staff will be traveling to Los Angeles to attend this conference.

6. Yolo Bypass Cache Slough (YBCS) Partnership (Partnership)

- The FPPB staff works closely with DWR and program partners to coordinate on the YBCS Partnership. The Partnership is currently advancing the YBCS Master Plan and the activities listed below:

Partnership Workgroup and Committee activities

- Board staff continues to lead the Organizing Committee, Strategic Planning Workgroup (Co-lead), the Communication & Engagement Workgroup, Environmental Workgroups, and several other Ad Hoc Workgroups. This includes managing the Partnership Forum/Public engagements and an annual Executive Meeting.
- The Partnership Organizing Committee consists of members from agency partners and consultants that meet quarterly to provide leadership for Partnership activities and objectives. In addition, the Strategic Planning workgroup is developing an Implementation Plan to identify actions needed to advance the Partnership priorities and identify gaps not likely addressed through the Master Plan and YB Comprehensive Study. A Governance Framework draft is being finalized and will describe the organizational structure and processes through which member agencies will interact and engage as part of the Partnership looking forward. The Governance Framework will be circulated with the Executive Committee at the end of the year.
- The Strategic Planning Workgroup is revising the YBCS Vision document. Direction for revisions were discussed at the YBCS Executive Committee meeting in October 2022. Notable revisions include adding language supporting equity and collaboration with Native American tribes. The revised Vision document will be

approved by the Organizing Committee and once final, be shared for endorsement with the Executive Committee.

FPPB Staff - Partnership Workgroup Efforts

YBCS Workgroups - FPPB Role	Lead	Support
Agricultural Sustainability/Recreation	X	
CEQA/NEPA	X	
Communication and Engagement	X	
Cultural Resources	X	
Ecosystem Baseline & Accounting (EBAS)	X	
Environmental Permitting	X	
Organizing Committee	X	
Programmatic 408	X	
Strategic Planning Co-Lead	X	
Water Quality	X	
Governance Workgroup	X	
H&H Workgroup		X
Master Plan		X
OMRRR		X
Water Infrastructure Assurances		X
Projects Workgroup		X

Master Plan:

- The Master Plan workgroup is continuing to draft the Master Plan for an anticipated administrative draft by Fall 2023. Staff attends weekly meetings to further develop Master Plan content including project descriptions and deliverables needed from other workgroups.

Hydrology and Hydraulics (H&H):

- The H&H analyses and assessments support both the YBCS Programmatic 408 request and Master Plan. Consultants have completed hydraulic modeling runs and review for quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) to confirm model robustness/accuracy for all Programmatic 408 Scenarios. Documentation is in progress. The Programmatic 408 H&H Scenarios include:
  - Baseline Conditions
  - Existing Conditions
  - Scenario 1 (the first grouping of proposed projects)
  - Scenario 2 (the second grouping of projects)
  - Scenario 3 (the third grouping of projects)
  - Scenario 4 (Scenario 3 with a smaller Fremont Weir Expansion and smaller Upper Elkhorn Basin Levee Setback)
  - Scenario 5 (Scenario 3 without the Conaway Ranch Levee Setback Project)

- Scenario 6 (Scenario 4 without the Conaway Ranch Levee Setback Project)

In August 2022, staff sent the Hydraulic Baseline Package Submittal for the Programmatic 408 to USACE for review. Consultants have completed a draft Master Plan H&H workplan and scenario matrix that builds upon the Programmatic 408 workplan and includes two additional scenarios with new sets of projects, climate change hydrology, and sea-level rise. The Master Plan H&H analysis has begun. Scenarios 1 and 2 simulations have been completed and QC is complete.

#### CEQA/NEPA:

- The CEQA/NEPA workgroup will focus on further developing the Program EIR's Program Description and collaborating with other work groups for data requests and information sharing.

#### Cultural:

- The cultural workgroup continues to support consultation efforts, as well as technical analyses and planning efforts to consider and include Tribal values and interests. To expand engagement in the Partnership, the Cultural workgroup developed opportunities for Tribal engagement beyond regulatory AB52. Considerations for joining workgroups was presented to the Steering Committee in February. Board staff are actively coordinating with consulting Tribes to share and discuss these suggestions.

#### Permitting:

- For the Clean Water Act 408 Programmatic Permission and 404 programmatic permits, Partnership efforts are on hold to align with decisions regarding the USACE Comprehensive Study and identifying specific permitting needs and related required information.
  - OMRR&R: Staff are working closely with DWR on efforts to support development of a long-term management framework related to the Partnership's pillars, and the Master Plan.
  - Ecosystem Baseline/Accounting: Staff will continue to work with DWR and consultants to develop ecosystem baseline and analysis information to support the Programmatic 408 and Master Plan.

#### Communication and Engagement:

- The Communications and Engagement workgroup (C&E) continues to focus on internal engagement between workgroups to guide coordination and interdependencies. Board staff continues to support the C&E workgroup including tracking engagement data, supporting workgroup coordination, developing publication protocols to support the new Governance Framework, managing the

Listserve with 1066 subscribers and the website: [www.ybcspartnership.org](http://www.ybcspartnership.org). Upcoming external engagement activities in the planning stages: Participating in local engagement meetings and site visits in the YBCS footprint; Creating a plan for workgroup outreach efforts including Tribes, LMAs, RDs, & Project Proponents. The Panel for the YBCS Partnership has been postponed until the FMA 2025. FPPB Staff are drafting a Communication and Engagement Plan as a key appendix to the Master Plan.

#### Additional Planning Efforts:

- Upper Elkhorn Regional Planning and Coordination Steering Committee: Upper Elkhorn Regional Planning and Coordination is needed to synchronize activities of the YBCS Partnership with the on-going development of the State's YBCS Master Plan and the USACE Comp. Study, scheduled to start in the fall of 2023. The Upper Elkhorn planning efforts are funded by DWR while SAFCA is serving as the project and grant manager. The planning efforts will result in key deliverables that describe the Upper Elkhorn Basin local landowner preferred plan. The Steering Committee is comprised of but not limited to representatives from SAFCA, the Board, DWR, Yolo County, and Reclamation District (RD) 1600. The Steering Committee will help identify local priorities (e.g., project features, processes, agreements, engagement activities) for improving all six of the Partnership's pillars (agriculture, flood management, habitat, recreation, water quality, and water supply). The Steering Committee held a kick-off meeting on August 2, 2023, and is scheduled to meet monthly.

#### 7. Water Resilience Portfolio:

- Board staff provided updates to CNRA on the WRP 2023 Progress Report. Board staff continues to coordinate internally on advancing WRP Action 25.4, the San Joaquin Regional Flood Management Strategy, specifically the Tuolumne River Action Plan.