

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE CENTRAL VALLEY FLOOD PROTECTION BOARD

January 24, 2025

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

A regular meeting of the Central Valley Flood Protection Board was held at the Sacramento Area Council of Governments Building, Third Floor, 1415 L Street, Sacramento, California and concurrently online (on WebEx) on January 24, 2025, beginning at 9:09 a.m.

Board Members present:

Jane Dolan, President
Mike Villines, Vice President
Brian Johnson, Secretary
Keely Bosler
Joe Countryman
Mary Jane Griego

Board Members absent:

Betty Andrews

Board staff present:

Chris Lief, Executive Officer
Andrea Buckley, Deputy Executive Officer, Natural Resource Management and Planning Division
Kanwarjit (Jit) Dua, General Counsel
Michael Wright, Chief Engineer
Zubair Dosu, Manager, Deferred Encroachment Compliance Section
Jonah Knapp, Board Clerk and Executive Assistant
Celina Ortega, Staff Engineer, Operations Branch
Jeremiah Peek, Staff Engineer, Flood System Improvement Branch
Preston Shopbell, Manager, Operations Branch
Michael Zelazo, Senior Engineer, Flood System Improvement Branch

Department of Water Resources (DWR) staff present:

Mike Thao, Acting Senior Engineer, Flood Inspection and Assessment Section
Wade Wylie, Manager, Flood Project Inspection and Assessment Section

Also present:

Nathan Bray, Merced Public Works
Tom Engler, California Central Valley Flood Control Association
Emily Greene, United States Army Corps of Engineers
Juan Gonzalez, United States Army Corps of Engineers
Kim Hunter, Butte County Public Works
Nancy Kniskern
Christopher Neudeck, KSN, Reclamation District 1601
Elizabeth Ramos, KSN
Rob Tull, Jacobs Engineering

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

Jonah Knapp, Board Clerk and Executive Assistant, called the roll and a quorum was established.

2. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jane Dolan, Board President, welcomed the participants.

Chris Lief, Board Executive Officer, welcomed Darren Suen and announced that Mr. Suen was appointed Executive Director for the San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency. Mr. Suen made brief remarks.

Mr. Lief also announced that Senator Monique Limón is the new Senate ex-officio Board Member. Senator Limón was recently appointed Chair of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water. Also, Assembly Member Diane Papan remains the Assembly's ex-officio member, as she remains Chair of the Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife.

Lastly, Mr. Lief announced the departure of Ryan McGhehey, who is moving on from the Board's Inspection Section and returning to the private sector.

3. REVIEW AGENDA

President Dolan briefly reviewed the agenda.

4. APPROVE MINUTES – October 25, 2024 and November 15, 2024

Upon motion by Secretary Johnson, seconded by Board Member Griego, the Board unanimously approved, by a vote of 6-0, the October 25, 2024 and November 15, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes (Absent – Andrews).

5. CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Approve staff's findings on a Letter of Intent (LOI) for Reclamation District (RD) 2060 - Hastings Tract Levee System and authorize the Executive Officer to transmit the LOI to the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Solano County. Richard Brutski, Board Staff, Flood System Improvement Branch**
- B. Approve Permit No. 19671, Union Pacific Railroad Bear Creek Bridge Replacement, Merced County. Humberto Negrete, Board Staff, Operations Branch**
- C. Approve Permit No. 19837, City of Chico Pomona Avenue Bridge Replacement, Butte County. Humberto Negrete, Board Staff, Operations Branch**

Upon motion by Board Member Bosler, seconded by Board Member Countryman, the Board unanimously approved, by a vote of 6-0, Consent Item 5A, 5B and 5C (Absent – Andrews).

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Nancy Kniskern discussed aspects of the American River Common Features Final GRR Report and again requested a workshop with the Board.

Tom Engler, California Central Valley Flood Control Association, commented on how the local flood communities were disappointed with the budget released by the Governor last week and the significant cuts to DWR and the flood world. He also reiterated the need to streamline the USACE permit process and timeline.

7. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- A. A written update on pertinent State legislation and federal news will be provided.**

President Dolan noted that the Board did receive the written update.

8. UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (USACE)

- A. Presentation of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Levee Inspection Results for Named Area (NA) 0003 – Chico Creek-Mud Creek, Butte County.**

Zubair Dosu, Board Deferred Encroachment Compliance Section Manager, introduced the item. He and Emily Greene, USACE, gave the presentation and answered questions.

Elizabeth Ramos, KSN and on behalf of Butte County; and Kim Hunter, Butte County Public Works, provided additional information.

- B. Presentation of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Levee Inspection Results for Reclamation District (RD) 1601 – Twitchell Island, Sacramento County.**

Jeremiah Peek, Board Staff Engineer; and Emily Greene, USACE, gave the presentation.

Chris Neudeck, KSN and Reclamation District 1601, provided additional details and answered questions.

9. BOARD ITEMS

A. Approve Permit 19777, Eric and Jennifer Krienert Dwelling, Sacramento River, Sacramento County.

Celina Ortega, Board Permitting Engineer, gave the presentation and concluded with the staff recommendation that the Board adopt the CEQA findings, approve the variance to Board Standard 113(b)(1) and the permit as provided in the staff report, and direct the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse.

Upon motion by Board Member Griego, seconded by Board Member Countryman, the Board approved the staff recommendation, by a vote of 6-0; concurrently approved the variance to the application and directed the Executive Officer to take the necessary actions as stated in the report (Absent-Andrews).

B. Informational briefing on Permit 19643, Black Rascal Creek Flood Control Project, Merced County Department of Public Works, Black Rascal Creek, Merced County.

Michael Zelazo, Board Senior Engineer, Flood System Improvement Branch, gave the briefing. Mr. Zelazo, Nathan Bray, Merced Public Works, and Rob Tull, Jacobs Engineering, provided additional information and answered questions.

10. DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES (DWR) ITEMS

A. Written Report from DWR

President Dolan noted that the written report was submitted.

B. 2024 Inspection and Local Maintaining Agency Report of the Central Valley State-Federal Flood Protection System.

Preston Shopbell, Board Operations Branch Manager, introduced the item.

Wade Wylie, DWR Flood Project Inspection and Assessment Section Manager, and Mike Thao, Flood Inspection and Assessment Section Acting Senior Engineer, gave the presentation and answered questions.

11. STAFF ACTIVITY REPORTS

Written updates regarding the activities of the Board's staff:

- A. Executive Staff and Administrative Division**
- B. Operations Branch**
- C. Flood System Improvement Branch**
- D. Natural Resource Management and Planning Division**

President Dolan acknowledged receipt of all the updates.

Board Member Countryman discussed the USACE's slow response on permitting activities.

Juan Gonzalez, USACE Levees and Channels Branch Acting Chief, detailed the lack of funding and resource availability that helped lead to the slow response. He and Board Members discussed ways of mitigating this ongoing problem.

12. BOARD COMMENTS AND UPCOMING COMMITTEE UPDATES

There were no comments.

13. UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **Board Meeting, February 28, 2025 (SACOG)**
- **Board Meeting, March 28, 2025 (Location to be determined)**
- **Board Workshop, April 11, 2025 (Location to be determined)**

President Dolan briefly discussed the upcoming meetings.

14. CLOSED SESSION

- A. Pursuant to the authority of Government Code Section 11126 (e)(i). To discuss litigation: Sierra Northern Railway vs. Central Valley Flood Protection Board, et al, Superior Court of the State of California, County of Yolo Case No. CV-2022-0479. (Kanwarjit (Jit) Dua, Board Counsel)**
- B. Pursuant to the authority of Government Code section 11126 (e)(i). To discuss litigation: Liam Meyer v. Central Valley Flood Protection Board, et al., Sacramento County Superior Court Case No. 34-2020-00276397. (Kanwarjit (Jit) Dua, Board Counsel)**
- C. Pursuant to the authority of Government Code section 11126 (e)(i). To discuss litigation: The People of The State vs. Yeung Farms Enterprises, Superior Court of the State of California, County of Yolo CV-2020-330. (Kanwarjit (Jit) Dua, Board Counsel)**

- D. Pursuant to the authority of Government Code section 11126, subdivisions (e)(1), (e)(2)(B)(i), and (e)(2)(C)(i), to consider potential litigation involving the Board. (Kanwarjit (Jit) Dua, Board Counsel)**
- E. Pursuant to the authority of Government Code section 11126, subdivisions (a)(1), to consider personnel matters. (Kanwarjit (Jit) Dua, Board Counsel)**

There was no Closed Session.

15. CLOSED SESSION REPORT

As there was no Closed Session, there was no Closed Session Report.

16. ADJOURNMENT

President Dolan adjourned the Board Meeting at 12:45 p.m.

Dated: February 28, 2025

The foregoing Minutes were approved:



Brian J. Johnson
Board Secretary



Jane Dolan
Board President