

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE CENTRAL VALLEY FLOOD PROTECTION BOARD

May 23, 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 California Central Public Library, 828 I Street, Galleria Room, Sacramento, California and concurrently online (on WebEx) on May 23, 2025, beginning at 9:15 a.m.

Board Members present:

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

Board staff present:

Chris Lief, Executive Officer
Andrea Buckley, Deputy Executive Officer, Natural Resource Management and Planning Division
Kanwarjit (Jit) Dua, General Counsel (Remote)
Michael Wright, Chief Engineer
Jonah Knapp, Board Clerk and Executive Assistant
Greg Harvey, Program Manager, Flood System Improvement Branch

Department of Water Resources (DWR) staff present:

Corey Lasso, Chief, Flood Risk Reduction Projects Branch

Also present:

William Avery, PhD
Cheryl Bly-Chester, Rosewood Environmental Engineers
Hans Carota, United States Army Corps of Engineers
Colonel Chad Caldwell, United States Army Corps of Engineers
Greg Ellis, ICF

Also present (continued):

Brenda Gustin
Orville Hrabe
Josh Hurd
Karla Hurd
Rick Johnson, Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency
William Polk, United States Army Corps of Engineers
Pete Spaulding, American River Trees
Ronald Stork, Friends of the River
Ben Tustison, MBK Engineers
Brian Wardman, Northwest Hydraulic Consultants
Tim Washburn

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, announced that Abby Muntean, Youth Aide, has graduated CSU-Sacramento and will be leaving the Board.

Jordan Robbins, Environmental Services Section, has changed roles and is backfilling the vacant Senior Environmental Scientist position.

Mr. Lief welcomed Ken Ramirez, a new Engineer in the Inspection Section; and Ashley Williams, a new Contracts Analyst joining the Administration team.

3. REVIEW AGENDA

President Dolan briefly reviewed the agenda.

4. APPROVE MINUTES – April 25, 2025

Upon motion by Secretary Johnson, seconded by Board Member Griego, the Board unanimously approved, by a 6-0 vote, the April 25, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes (Abstained-Bosler).

5. CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Approve Permit No. 19707, Butte Creek Farms Floodplain Restoration, Butte Sink Mitigation, LLC, Colusa County.
Humberto Negrete, Board Staff, Operations Branch
- B. Approve Permit No. 19880, Solar Array, Prentice Frank & Lila Trust, Butte County.
Humberto Negrete, Board Staff, Operations Branch
- C. Approve Permit No. 19881, Solar Array, Parrott Investment Company, Inc., Butte County.
Humberto Negrete, Board Staff, Operations Branch
- D. Approve Permit No. 19903, Solar Array, Christensen Keyawa, LLC, Butte County.
Humberto Negrete, Board Staff, Operations Branch
- E. Approve Permit No. 19904, Solar Array, Christensen Keyawa, LLC, Butte County.
Humberto Negrete, Board Staff, Operations Branch
- F. Approve Permit No. 19932, Sweeney Ranch Pump Station Reconstruction Project, Sacramento County.
Karina Castro, Board Staff, Flood System Improvement Branch
- G. Approve Permit No. 19934, North Beach Lake Levee Seepage Berm Project, Sacramento County.
Karina Castro, Board Staff, Flood System Improvement Branch
- H. Approve Permit No. 19971, Mom's Farm, Agriculture Building, carport and Solar Array, Butte County.
Celina Ortega, Board Staff, Operations Branch

Upon motion by Board Member Countryman, seconded by Secretary Johnson, the Board unanimously approved Consent Items 5A, 5B, 5C, 5D, 5E, 5F, 5G and 5H.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Orville Hrabe had specific questions about previous Board actions and was referred to the Board Permitting Unit.

7. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

President Dolan noted that the Board had received the written update.

8. UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (USACE)

There were no USACE items.

9. BOARD ITEMS

A. American River Common Features 2016, Lower American River Erosion Protection Project Technical Discussion

Andrea Buckley, Deputy Executive Director, introduced the presentations.

Rick Johnson, Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) Executive Director, provided historical background on the geographical areas involved.

Ben Tustison, MBK Engineers, discussed the critical dynamics inherent in managing extreme floods in the American River Watershed.

Tim Washburn, former SAFCA Planning Director and agency counsel, and current Retired Annuitant, discussed the origins of the Lower American River Task Force, erosion management, and the American River Parkway Plan. He noted that the Task Force was created at a critical moment in Sacramento's response to the 1986 flood event.

Greg Ellis, ICF, Facilitator for the Bank Protection Working Group and the Technical Resources Advisory Committee, described the stakeholder outreach and collaboration process, focusing on the last 10 years.

Brian Wardman, Northwest Hydraulic Consultants Principal Engineer, talked about project objectives and the design processes that were followed.

Colonel Chad Caldwell, USACE Sacramento District Commander, explained how USACE does its contract work.

William Polk, USACE Senior Project Manager overseeing both Sacramento Basin and American River Common Features (ARCF) 16 erosion elements, gave a presentation focusing on project design and the constraints and risks of implementing site-specific flood protection measures in an urbanized river system.

Hans Carota, former USACE Sacramento District ARCF Engineering Program Manager, discussed the importance of riverbank erosion protection and levee improvements.

Corey Lasso, DWR Flood Risk Reduction Projects Branch Chief and Division of Flood Planning and Improvements Sacramento Area Program Manager, shared the State's perspective on risk evaluation, design alignment, and the importance of interagency collaboration to deliver safe, effective flood control for the region.

Board Members asked clarifying questions throughout the various presentations.

Pete Spaulding, American River Trees, shared his concerns and recommendations on the American River Flood Control Project, focusing primarily on Contract 3B. He noted that more than 3,000 people had signed their petition asking USACE to achieve a balance for flood protection that does not destroy hundreds of trees. He concluded by asking that the Board, to avoid litigation, not approve Contract 3B launchable rock toes and trenches and not certify the CEQA documents for Contract 3B as proposed; and further, that the Board delay the Notice of Record of Decision for at least 60 days to allow the public, the Board and the staff more time to complete a thorough review.

Brenda Gustin described the perceived CEQA deficiencies in the project.

Dr. William Avery presented some conceptual designs intended to show that less destructive alternatives were potentially feasible for certain Contract 3B sites and should be analyzed and considered by USACE for implementation.

Cheryl Bly-Chester, former Vice Chair of the Board, thanked all the presenters for their informative discussion and talked about her family's long-term interactions with the American River. Finally, she read portions of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act she felt were pertinent to the project discussion.

Ron Stork, Friends of the River, complimented USACE on their job thus far and suggested that the Board, USACE and the various groups involved sit down with American River Trees and have a detailed series of adult discussions to see what things can be resolved, what things can't be resolved, and why/why not.

President Dolan remarked that since the facility would be closing soon, the 22 other interested names who had signed up to speak but had not been heard from thus far would be put into the official record as being in opposition to Contract 3B.

10. DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES (DWR) ITEMS

A. Written Report from DWR

President Dolan noted that the written report was submitted.

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

Greg Harvey, Flood System Improvement Branch Manager, provided a quick update on the Maintenance Area 20 formation staff have been working on.

D. Natural Resource Management and Planning Division

E. Executive Officer Delegated Permit Report

President Dolan noted that all the written updates had been submitted.

12. BOARD COMMENTS AND UPCOMING COMMITTEE UPDATES

Board Member Bosler expressed her concerns about the reduction in federal funding and how that may be devastating to the Board's ability to keep doing programs on protecting communities in a way that has all of the benefits known to be important to the projects the Board does. Board Member Griego echoed those sentiments.

13. UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **Board Meeting, June 13, 2025 (California Natural Resources Agency Headquarters)**
- **Advisory Committee, June 24, 2025 (Central Valley Flood Protection Board)**
- **Board Meeting, June 27, 2025 (California Natural Resources Agency Headquarters)**
- **Board Meeting, July 18, 2025 (California Natural Resources Agency Headquarters)**

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

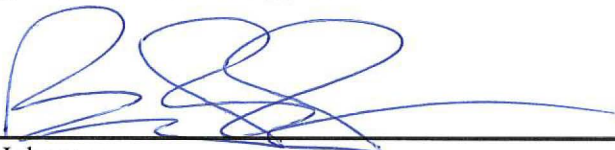
As there was no Closed Session, there was no Closed Session Report.

16. ADJOURNMENT

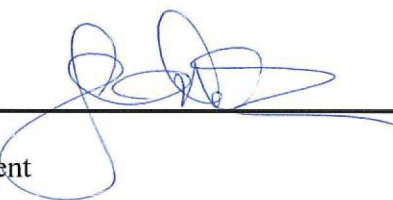
President Dolan adjourned the Board Meeting at 4:43 p.m.

Dated: 7/18/2025

The foregoing Minutes were approved:



Brian J. Johnson
Board Secretary



Jane Dolan
Board President