

**Signatories of the  
Mid San Joaquin Regional Flood Management Working Group Charter**

We, the regional stakeholders and interested parties of the Mid San Joaquin Regional Flood Management Working Group, support the Mid San Joaquin River Flood Management Group Charter and commit to implementing the charge and deliverables of the Charter. Signatories to this Charter shall be held harmless from any legal liabilities related to implementation of decisions or actions associated with the Mid SJR Flood Management Plan.

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Name, Entity

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Signature, Date

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## A. Introduction

The Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) calls for DWR to work with local flood management agencies to prepare detailed Regional Flood Management Plans (RFMPs). In November, 2014, such a plan was completed and approved by RD 2092 and Stanislaus County for the Mid San Joaquin River Region. The Mid San Joaquin River RFMP includes the following:

- Describes flood management challenges and deficiencies at the regional level, including operations and maintenance practices, levee and channel inspection, and emergency response plans.
- Proposes potential solutions/projects identified by local public agencies and interest groups for the region, projects’ costs, and prioritization of the solutions/projects (e.g., enhanced operations and maintenance, emergency response, and floodplain management).
- Proposes financial strategies that identify benefits of the projects and sources of the funding for implementation of the projects.

The purpose of the regional planning effort is to build upon the CVFPP by obtaining more region-specific information and local input for long term implementation of a sustainable and integrated flood risk reduction program in the Mid San Joaquin River Region. The post-plan effort will continue to engage resource agencies, local governments, levee maintenance agencies, flood emergency responders, stakeholders and property owners with the DWR and Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) to address and support the Region’s needs and projects related to integrated regional flood management.

This Program Charter will describe the scope and deliverables of the Mid San Joaquin River Flood Management Working Group; identify the stakeholders, management team, and consultant support team and their roles; and describe the Working Group protocols and ground rules.

This version of the Charter is expected to remain in effect for at least the period from the date of adoption through June, 2017, the duration of the current funding from DWR for the Regional Flood Management Planning (“funded project period”). At the end of this period, the Flood Management Working Group may continue to operate under this Charter, or may revise the Charter as appropriate or desired, subject to the approval or general support of the Working Group members.

## **B. Charge and Deliverables**

The Working Group will serve as a motivating force in advancing flood management in the Mid San Joaquin River Region through multiple avenues, including federal and state agencies; local agencies within the region, including municipalities, Resource Conservation Districts, Reclamation Districts, Irrigation Districts and others; non-governmental organizations; and landowners and land managers. The Working Group will share information and resources amongst stakeholders and continue to promote, integrate, and implement the regional flood management vision and RFMP projects, both within the Mid San Joaquin River Region and the watershed as a whole.

The Working Group will meet regularly and may develop focus groups around specific issues, such as Operations and Maintenance, Emergency Response, Governance, Permitting, and Levee Modification Approaches.

## **C. Membership/Participants**

The Regional Partners will consist of RD 2092 and Stanislaus County, assisted by DWR staff and the ESA consultant team. The Working Group will consist of all active participants in the Working Group meetings and associated projects and communications. The Working Group will provide input to develop flood management initiatives and aid in their implementation. Sixteen stakeholder groups and organizations previously submitted official commitment letters for the development of the RFMP, and these groups have direct and prior involvement in flood planning, including development of the CVFPP and/or through their professional roles in organizations. Regional Stakeholders and all parties interested in flood management and the implementation of the RFMP and its goals are invited to join the Working Group.

## **D. Roles and Responsibilities**

**DWR:** Provides relevant and updated information and data such as technical information, funding opportunities, and support for policy-related issues.

**Regional Partners** (RD 2092 and Stanislaus County, assisted by the ESA consultant team during the funded project period): Works with DWR and Regional Stakeholders to provide coordination services

throughout the funded project period to ensure broad stakeholder involvement within the region and the neighboring regions.

**Technical Team** (ESA consultant team): Provides technical support to RD 2092 and Stanislaus County in planning, public outreach, and technical services throughout the funded project period.

**Outreach Team** (ESA consultant team and Julie Rentner of RD 2092): Engages a broad range of stakeholders that are interested and/or affected by the implementation of the Mid SJR RFMP throughout the funded project period.

**Working Group** (listed above under C. Membership/Participants): Contributes expertise, data and information to develop action items; contributes to, reviews, and provides comments on initiatives and products of the Working Group; and represents various interests in the region and serves as the liaison to communicate information to and from their organizations and constituencies.

**Facilitation Support** (ESA consultant team): Provides neutral leadership to the dialogue process and meeting management; advocates for the process and works to keep the Working Group within the terms of the Charter; and actively suggests methods to accomplish tasks and oversees preparation of meeting summaries throughout the funded project period.

## E. Decision-Making within Working Group

This is an advisory rather than a final decision-making group. The Working Group and Regional Partners will use a consensus-seeking approach and work diligently to find common ground on issues.

## F. Schedule and Work Plan

The Working Group will convene regularly starting in 2015 and is expected to continue through June 2017 or beyond, pending interest and resource availability. Attendance at meetings and/or timely provision of comments and information is critical to ensuring the ability of the Working Group to accomplish its charge.

## G. Protocols and Meeting Ground Rules

### Protocols

- All Working Group members agree to act in good faith in all aspects of this process and to communicate their interests.
- Working Group members agree not to make commitments they do not intend to keep.
- Parties will act consistently in other forums where similar topics are being discussed, including sessions with the press.
- Working Group members agree to make a concerted effort to provide requested information or to explain the reason why not.

- Meeting notes will be prepared with a focus on key points, ideas, and action items rather than as transcripts. Unless very specific to understanding the content, references will generally be made to the content rather than the members.

### Meeting Ground Rules

- Use common conversational courtesy. Don't interrupt each other, use appropriate language, and avoid side conversations.
- Humor is welcome but should never be at someone else's expense.
- Stay focused on the charge and deliverables. There are many related issues and topics that could be discussed. Such topics will be noted, but will not be the focus of discussions.
- Focus on the substantive issues, not on formatting, structure, or wordsmithing. The most helpful input will be advice on how to best address the key issues, not how to organize the document.
- All ideas and points have value. The purpose of the Working Group is to share ideas and capture various perspectives. All ideas have value in this setting. If you believe another approach is better, offer it as a constructive alternative. Please avoid ascribing motives to others.
- Members have a right to change their minds as information is discussed and conditions change.
- Turn cell phones or other electronics off or to silent mode. If you do not believe you will be able to participate fully, please discuss your situation with one of the facilitators.
- Honor time. We have ambitious meeting agendas, so please follow the time guidelines provided by the facilitator.