

## Flood Management Working Group Meeting #2

### MEETING NOTES

July 28, 2015

**Location:**

Stanislaus County Ag Center  
3800 Cornucopia Way (Harvest Hall)  
Modesto, CA

9:30am – 12:00pm

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**1. Welcome and Introductions**

**2. Update on RFMP Activities**

- a. Mid-SJR News
- b. Report on meetings of interest held, scheduled
  - i. DWR: BWFS – climate change
  - ii. DWR: CVFPP 2017 integration
  - iii. USACE: Levee Modification approaches
  - iv. SJR Basin – permitting coordination
  - v. RD 2031
- c. Report out on Grouting Demo
- d. Announce upcoming pre-season meeting

**3. Discuss Draft Flood System Long-Term Operations, Maintenance, Repair, Replacement, and Rehabilitation (OMRR&R) Cost Evaluation Technical Memorandum (TM)**

- a. Chris Williams of DWR gave a summary of the Draft Flood System Long-Term OMRR&R Cost Evaluation TM, which will be incorporated into the 2017 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan. One of the points of the TM is to highlight the challenges and funding shortfalls so DWR knows what to fund in the future within the system. A huge part of that is funding O&M activities. Repair, replacement and rehabilitation activities are non-routine and beyond the scope of typical O&M activities.
  - b. AB156 requires LMAs to report of what is spent but doesn't account for what needs to be spent or done. Approximately \$23-27 million were AB156 reported costs for the SPFC. DWR wants to define unit costs better for OMRR&R activities and formed a working group in 2013 to refine costs. DWR knows that \$80-100 million was spent system-wide and then applied to total levee mile to come up with unit costs. DWR
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needs LMAs to provide input so they can refine these unit costs. The funding for these activities has not kept up with need.

- c. DWR would like to set up an O&M Program to get all activities done and address climate change, help rural areas/disadvantaged communities, etc.
- d. The TM has been out since February 2015, and DWR has received many comments. This document won't be revised until end of year so there will be plenty of time to submit comments.
- e. There was a question about whether there have been any discussions about using State bond funds for updating O&M manuals. The State has negotiated with the federal government to update the manuals but federal procedures are a sticking point as the O&M manuals only get updated when the levee is modified. O&M manuals need to be changed.

#### **4. Charter**

- a. Harriet Ross of ESA discussed the charter, and indicated that comments were received at the last working group meeting in March and incorporated, and the charter was finalized. The Charter outlines the mission of the working group, roles and responsibilities, how decisions are made, schedule, and meeting protocols and rules. We are asking the Flood Management Working group members to sign onto the charter to give credibility to the process, indicate commitment to flood management and strengthen the region's ability to gain funding for projects. Stakeholders have until June 30 2016 to sign on, and signatories can be individuals or organizations.

#### **5. Integration of RFMP, Basin-wide Feasibility Studies, and other DWR efforts**

- a. Greg Farley of DWR gave a presentation on the integration of the RFMPs, Basin-wide Feasibility Studies and other DWR efforts. Greg gave an overview of all of the RFMPs:
    - i. All RFMPs together identified 584 management actions that are estimated to cost nearly \$14 billion.
    - ii. There are more rural projects than in urbanizing/urban areas, and there are more near term than long term projects.
    - iii. Project descriptions are limited in detail so DWR needs help in obtaining more detail. DWR wants to know what projects can be bundled together, which will make it easier to gain funding.
    - iv. There are binders being developed that contain a summary of regional plans – each region should review it and make sure it is reflective so can be revised.
  - b. DWR is looking at how the 2017 CVFPP will contribute to intended outcomes, and at aligning actions to outcomes. The RFMP-identified projects/actions will be included in the CVFPP, though not all will be in the State Investment Strategy.
  - c. DWR will continue to refine the BWFS and Conservation Strategy, and complete their RFMP assessment by evaluating potential management actions. DWR plans on
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communicating to the State Legislature to obtain funding for these actions. Bigger fixes will take some time, but there are some projects that are shorter term and can be implemented more quickly. The goal is to get projects prioritized and implemented.

## **6. Project Updates**

- a. Updates on projects were given. The Tuolumne River Trust received a \$400,000 grant for the Dennett Dam Removal. Currently, they are undergoing studies and permitting; removal may begin as early as fall of 2017.
- b. An update on Three Amigos was given. Three Amigos is a non-structural alternative to flood management and levee repairs, and allows USFWS to manage wildlife habitat and to reduce flood risk. There is one more round of public review and CEQA documentation will be available for comment in a few months. It is anticipated that the project will be done by December. Upon completion, Three Amigos was the first non-structural alternative identified by the USACE when conceived in 1997.
- c. DWR also now has a Small Communities Flood Risk Grant Program that is part of the CVFPP. The original CVFPP looks at small communities protected by the SPFC. Small communities are defined as those with less than population of 10,000 that are not urbanizing. There is \$50 million for the program, of which \$20 million is allocated for feasibility studies. There are 58 small communities identified, which will be prioritized. There will be a short application of about 10 pages. The program will require a very small contribution from the community. DWR will be working with the Counties now to determine eligible projects. The goal is to have feasibility studies done by next summer/fall 2016, and implementation to occur right away. The program is seeking to meet a 100 year FEMA flood standard.
- d. County OES received an emergency response grant to prepare a Flood Response Plan.

## **7. RFMP Project Addition Process**

- a. The hyperlink to access the form for Proposed Project Additions is available on project website at <http://www.midsjrfloodplan.org/>, or can be accessed directly by entering this address into your browser: <http://tinyurl.com/midsjr-proj>. All RFMP projects and hopefully any added projects will feed directly into the 2017 CVFPP. The Mid SJR Team also asked for updated project descriptions.

## **8. Next Steps**

- a. The next steps are to get the Charter signed, and for LMAs to fill out the OMRR&R questionnaire. The next Flood Management Working Group Meeting is scheduled for October 1 at 10am at the County Ag Center.
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