

ATTENDING AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS

1. County of Orange
2. CH2M Hill
3. CalEMA
4. DBF Consulting
5. Mojave Water Agency
6. DWR
7. San Bernardino County Flood Control District
8. Tetra Tech
9. USACE
10. DWR
11. Coachella Valley Water District

SUMMARY

Ed Demesa from USACE gave quick opening remarks and stressed the important work that went into *California’s Flood Future* from the local, State and Federal perspectives.

DWR’s Terri Wegener and USACE’s Kim Gavigan lead the approximately 60-minute Riverside presentation. A deeper, although brief, discussion of each *California’s Flood Future* recommendation followed.

Key Questions/Suggestions Included:

- The impact of wildfires on flood risk should be included in the flood risk assessments
- Information included in utility bills can be effective in educating the public
- Leverage relationships with FEMA, SEMS group, and community-based organizations to reach wider audiences
- Calculating societal or regional benefits of IWM projects is a challenge as environmental and other benefits may be difficult to quantify economically
- Permitting timeline can impact funding opportunities and sources. Grant timing deadlines may not match permitting timelines.
- Agencies should work together to keep mitigation within watershed to keep amenity local as well as work with local conservancies and RCDs to help with permitting

RECOMMENDATIONS DISCUSSION

(Italics indicate ideas or phrases from meeting presenters)

Recommendation 1

Conduct regional flood risk assessments to better understand statewide flood risk.

- *Are we hitting the mark here? Does anyone think there is adequate flood risk assessment?*
- Did anyone look at the impact of wild fires on flood risk? Maybe this could be part of the climate change impacts, but something that we should look at.

- *Consider the impact of wildfires on flood risk. Debris flow – wildfires are interrelated to flood risk assessment.*

Recommendation 2

Increase public and policymaker awareness about flood risks to facilitate informed decisions.

- *A recommendation we heard at another meeting was educating our younger citizens and getting them involved.*
- It is as basic as sending information out on your utility bill. The website we pay online could be a good method to distribute information as well
- We should coordinate messages with FEMA. How do we get a more positive message out as opposed to “you have to pay?” This resonates more with the public.
 - *Coordinate more with FEMA and its messaging. Not only coordinate with FEMA, but people are interested and paying attention if they feel their personal economies are being impacted.*
- Community-based workshops – there are workshops happening already for various topics. A push to them to reach out to develop community partnership could be beneficial. Emergency Network Los Angeles (ENLA), for instance, can put on a workshop and deliver information.
 - *We should look at outreach via community-based organizations. We can use a communications network that is already established, and can work directly with community organizations and networks (emergency managers) to provide information.*

Recommendation 3

Increase support for flood emergency preparedness, response, and recovery programs to reduce flood impacts.

- DWR is in the process of evaluating grant proposals for up to \$5 million this fiscal year. The cycle has closed for this year but information is available on the DWR grants and loans website.
- From a federal perspective, the process to get disaster funding is very deliberate. Work closely with CalEMA in making the notification. The first few hours could make or break the level of assistance the federal government can provide. Sometimes the locals will wait until the last possible moment to request assistance, which is often too late. Just to understand how quickly we need to get the information in order to help is important. Is there anyone who knows the process from your end that could describe to decision makers what needs to happen (notification process) so that within a matter of minutes or hours you can get the process rolling?
 - *Point being made is that there needs to be an increased understanding of State and Federal emergency management systems and the specific ways to request assistance once state resources are extended.*

Recommendation 4

Encourage land use planning practices that reduce the consequences of flooding.

- Where does water supply factor in? Is it number four? I don't see supply in this discussion. It is mentioned but it is not hitting me in the face.
 - *Consider low impact development and recharge as a best management practice.*

Recommendation 5

Implement flood management from regional, systemwide, and statewide perspectives to provide multiple benefits.

- Link funding to the IWM approach – in a lot of ways we are seeing that you can only get one benefit and can't double count this. Sometimes double counting encourages collaboration. Emphasis on economic incentive could ensure that you aren't penalized/or not recognized when applying for grant funding.
- As you start to stack these real but loose benefits, sometimes things are lost in the equation and things are hard to quantify. This is an incentive to get people to pay attention to this. Just want to ask that this be part of the consideration. We have seen a change at DWR to address this but there are funds from other places like the Corps and the Bureau who have pots of money to get things done.
 - *Consider a bonus point for multiple-benefit projects/ a multi-benefit approach.*
 - *You will find that this is changing at the Corps. You can't put a dollar value on a life. We are approaching from a holistic perspective.*
 - *DWR has definitely taken steps through economic analysis and is beginning to take these into account. We are listening to the agencies and the grantees on this process.*

Recommendation 6

Increase collaboration among public agencies to improve flood management planning, policies and investments.

- Sometimes mitigation can be expensive and working with other groups to keep it reasonable is difficult. We see local riparian systems getting choked by urbanization. It is still very expensive.
- Keep mitigation local and reasonable to those local entities (RCDs) so that people can see progress. There are a lot of small organizations that aren't tapped into permit mitigation programs.
- Also, timing is a factor. Sometimes by the time you get all of the permits the timeline for the grant has expired. Somehow we need to look at the timing, streamline that and make sure we don't end up chasing our tails.
 - *Consider keeping mitigation more local so that locals can see it and so that connectivity can be more possible.*
 - *Need to look at timelines and coordinate timelines to be sure it is worth it.*

- If your operational area has a mitigation plan that needs Federal and State approval, you are eligible for a hazard mitigation grant. If you are not a part of the plan you need to get involved so that you can be eligible as well.

Recommendation 7

Establish sufficient and stable funding mechanisms to reduce flood risk.

(No comments or discussion)

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