CENTRAL VALLEY FLOOD MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROGRAM

FloodSAFE CALIFORNIA

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LOWER SACRAMENTO RIVER REGIONAL MANAGEMENT ACTIONS WORK GROUP

CHARTER

The Phase 2, Lower Sacramento River Regional Management Actions Work Group (RMAWG) will assist the Department of Water Resources (DWR) in developing contents for Phase 2 of the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) development process.

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A. Introduction

In 2007 the California legislature passed and the Governor signed into law a series of laws regarding flood management including Senate Bill (SB) 5. Known as the Central Valley Flood Protection Act (Act), these laws set the framework and guidance for preparation of the CVFPP.

DWR is required to prepare the CVFPP as a sustainable, integrated flood management plan by January 1, 2012, for adoption by the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Board) by July 1, 2012. The plan is to focus on areas of the Central Valley currently receiving protection from the State Plan of Flood Control facilities.1 The Plan is to be updated every five years.

The 2012 CVFPP will be accompanied by a program-level environmental compliance document consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Additional technical studies (feasibility studies, engineering, and designs) and site-specific environmental analyses will be required before individual elements of the CVFPP can move forward to construction.

The 2012 CVFPP will be developed using an iterative planning process completed in four phases:

Past Phase

Phase 1 – Recently completed, the Regional Conditions Work Groups focused on defining current conditions and future challenges; problems and opportunities; and goals and objectives. Results

[1] 1 A system of approximately 1,600 miles of federal levees the Board or DWR is committed to maintain.

from this phase are summarized in the Regional Conditions Report – A Working Document and the Interim Progress Summary No. 1.

Current Phase

Phase 2 – This phase, for which this group is charted, will help identify a broad set of individual management actions for consideration in the CVFPP; review evaluation methods and screening criteria; and consider results from public workshops held on specific management action topics. Results from this phase will be summarized in the Interim Progress Summary No. 2.

Future Phases – The RMAWGs will be re-chartered for future Phases. Following are tasks expected during those Phases.

Phase 3 – Assist in formulating potential solution sets by region; compare and evaluate potential regional solution sets; and discuss regional priorities and trade-offs.

Phase 4 – Assist in developing and comparing potential systemwide solution sets; explore systemwide trade-offs; and develop systemwide objectives. Groups will also be asked to recommend next steps for State action and assess level of agreement.

Working together with RMAWG members, technical consultants, and other stakeholders and partners, DWR will prepare a 2012 CVFPP that:

- Promotes understanding of existing conditions, likely future challenges, problems and opportunities, and goals and objectives of integrated flood management in the Central Valley from various perspectives (including state, federal, tribal, local, regional, and other interests).
- Develops a broadly supported vision for improving integrated flood management in the Central Valley.

The systematic preparation of the CVFPP is urgent since the personal safety, ecosystem, and economic stability of large segments of the Central Valley rely on or are at risk from flood management systems that do not meet modern engineering or environmental standards.

B. Regional Management Actions Work Group Focus

The Lower Sacramento River RMAWG is a place-based work group chartered to assist DWR in framing management action categories and providing advice on the general approach to incorporating management actions into the CVFPP. The RMAWG will also be asked to provide an additional level of review, with a particular eye to regional significance, on the input received during CVFPP management actions public workshops. Input will primarily address the following topics (from the state, federal, tribal, local, and regional perspectives):

1. The framework for presenting and considering a broad range of potential management actions, including potential qualitative evaluation metrics (economic, environmental, social, and other considerations). The RMAWG will also be asked to consider the comprehensiveness or completeness of the approach.

2. The regional applicability of management actions, including the packaging of management actions into groups that should be carried forward for further consideration (in Phase 3) or removed from consideration (either within the region or systemwide).

3. The fit of identified management actions as related to the intended scope of the CVFPP, as envisioned by the legislature and the Board.

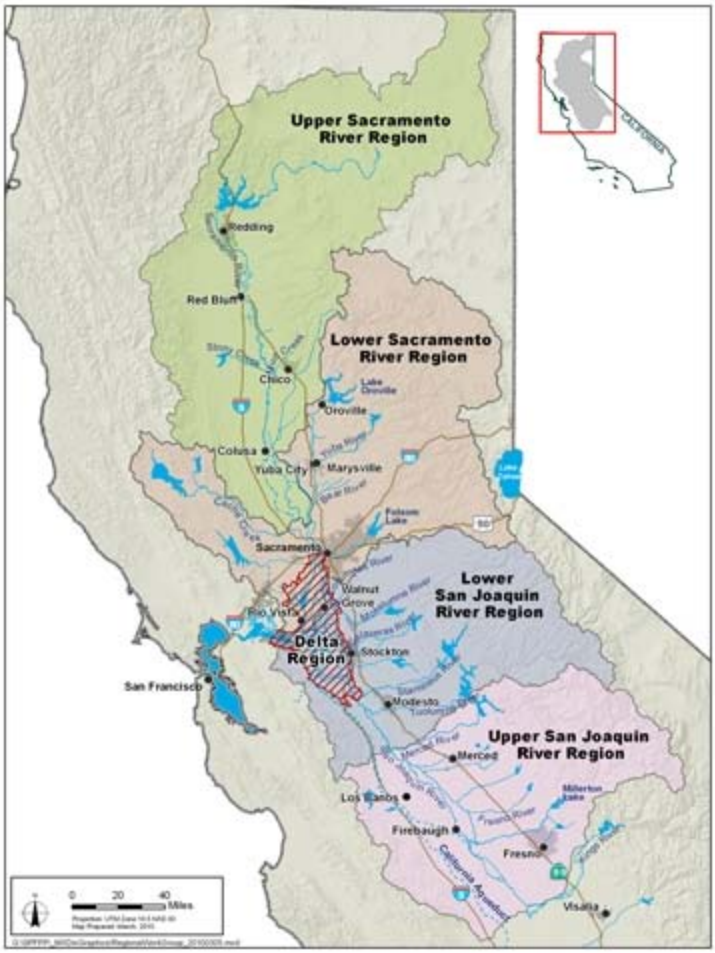
In addition, the Lower Sacramento River RMAWG will focus on what coordination should occur with Lower Sacramento River Region programs and projects as the CVFPP is developed (including rationale and recommendations how to achieve coordination).

C. Mission & Deliverables

The mission of the Phase 2 Lower Sacramento River RMAWG is to assist DWR in preparing content for 2012 CVFPP. Work will focus on identifying CVFPP management actions warranting further development or analysis, for potential inclusion in solution sets to be presented in the 2012 CVFPP.

Specific RMAWG deliverables include:

1. Assessment of management actions framework (categories of management actions, completeness, and economic, environmental, and social considerations used to compare and describe management actions)



2. Grouping of management actions into groups that should be further evaluated and considered, based on regional priorities and applicability.
3. Assessment of management actions as they fit/comply with the intended scope of the CVFPP.

It is expected that the topic work groups will interact with and provide information to the Lower Sacramento River RMAWG throughout the period. In addition, public workshops will also be conducted during Phase 2 that will inform RMAWG discussions.

D. Importance

The Lower Sacramento River RMAWG will provide a venue for multiple agencies, interest groups, and individuals to develop draft content for the 2012 CVFPP. The content is to capture and document various

perspectives, including state, federal, tribal, local, regional, and other interests. Later Lower Sacramento River Regional Work Groups are expected to consider the potential impacts of CVFPP recommendations in the Central Valley on Lower Sacramento River Region conditions.

The regions identified for RMAWGs are depicted in the map on the previous page and described as follows:

- Upper Sacramento River Region (Sacramento River above Fremont Weir, including the Sutter Bypass)
- Lower Sacramento River Region (Sacramento River downstream of Fremont Weir, including Feather, Yuba, and American River watersheds)
- Upper San Joaquin River Region (San Joaquin River upstream of Merced River confluence)
- Lower San Joaquin River Region (San Joaquin River downstream of Merced River confluence)
- Delta Region

E. Membership

Members are selected by DWR based on application. Individuals serving on previous work groups will be given priority. The RMAWG size will be limited to a maximum of 25 people to allow for facilitated dialogue and interaction. DWR seeks group members who will represent a broad range of interests and perspectives. All members will be expected to have sufficient knowledge to help develop the desired information outlined in Charter Section C (Regional Management Actions Work Group Focus).

Regular attendance will be essential to the continuity of the group. DWR may permit alternates on a case-by-case basis. If alternates are permitted, they are expected to act on behalf the member. The member and alternate must remain fully briefed and able to work without causing the group to revisit items previously considered.

F. Participants

Executive Sponsor: Noel Lerner
DWR Central Valley Flood Planning Office (CVFPO) Representative: Erin Mullen

CVFMP Partners: Board, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, California Natural Resources Agency

RMAWG members:

1. Xx
2. Xx
3. Xx
4. Xx
5. Xx
6. Xx
7. Xx
8. Xx

9. Xx

Other DWR Resource Personnel: FloodSAFE Environmental Stewardship and Statewide Resources Office (FESSRO) Staff, Regional Coordinators

Other Key Technical Support: DWR has assembled a team consisting of DWR staff, additional subject-matter experts (as needed), consultant support.

Collaboration/Facilitation Team: Kearns & West and Sacramento State, Center for Collaborative Policy.

H. Roles and Responsibilities

Executive Sponsor: Provides leadership to and serves as a resource for policy guidance on an as-needed basis for development and completion of RMAWG deliverables.

Central Valley Flood Planning Office Representative: Serves as DWR staff lead and helps ensure that all relevant perspectives related to the chartered topics are being discussed and captured in written documents. Helps ensure that appropriate people from DWR Divisions and other partner organizations are invited and given opportunity to participate. Responsible for executing the RMAWG Charter. Maintains consistency and integration of RMAWG functions and deliverables within the context of the CVFPP and FloodSAFE California. Responsible for reporting to the Executive Sponsor and other DWR management functions, as appropriate.

DWR Regional Coordinator: Attends RMAWG meetings as appropriate. Serves as a resource to RMAWGs for information and resources for local, regional, state and federal projects and programs as necessary for successful completion of the CVFPP.

DWR FloodSAFE Environmental Stewardship and Statewide Resources Office (FESSRO) Staff – Serves as resource to RMAWGs on FloodSAFE and systemwide environmental stewardship integration considerations.

Key Technical Team Staff: Consists of topic-specific subject matter experts from DWR, and outside expertise as needed. Staff will communicate and convene as needed to meet with, plan, and support the RMAWG on specific work assignments.

Facilitation Team Staff: Provides neutral leadership to the dialogue process and meeting management. The facilitators are content neutral, which means they will not try to promote a particular outcome for the group but instead work with the group to develop the best findings the group is able to produce. The facilitators are not process neutral, which means they will work to help the group stay within scope and follow the terms of the charter. They will also actively suggest methods to accomplish tasks and oversee preparation of meeting notes.

RMAWG Members: Serve as the liaison to communicate information to and from their organizations; act in a manner that will enhance trust among all partners and interested parties; and contribute expertise, data and information to clarify discussions, eliminate false assumptions, and advance innovation in creating recommended content. CVFMP partner representatives are RMAWG members.

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Sub-Committee Members: Convened to address specific topics or questions, members' work will be bounded by specific timeframes and specific technical or policy questions to be considered. Sub-committee members are those with expertise necessary to address the questions under consideration.

I. Other Related Projects

The CVFPP will be informed by numerous ongoing FloodSAFE projects and programs and similarly RMAWG activities are an integral part of FloodSAFE. Additional information on the FloodSAFE Initiative may be found at www.water.ca.gov/floodsafe.

Other State of California public processes that intersect with this element of flood planning include:

- Delta Levee Improvements Program (Delta Special Projects, Delta Subventions)
- Bay Delta Conservation Plan/Delta Habitat Conservation and Conveyance Program
- Delta Vision DWR Climate Change Studies
- DWR Emergency Response Planning Activities
- DWR Flood Project Inspection and Reporting Activities
- DWR Flood Project Maintenance Activities
- FloodSAFE Central Valley Floodplain Evaluation and Delineation Program
- FloodSAFE Statewide Flood Management Planning Program
- FloodSAFE Urban and Non-Urban Levee Evaluation Programs
- DWR Integrated Regional Water Management Planning Program
- DWR Reservoir Reoperation Studies
- CALFED Surface Storage Investigation Program
- Various ongoing U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plans and projects in the Central Valley, including the Central Valley Integrated Flood Management Study

J. Products Review Process

Work products of the RMAWG will be used to develop the Interim Progress Summary No. 2 and a more detailed management actions technical memorandum, to be prepared by the Product Delivery Team that includes DWR, the Board, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers staff and consultants. RMAWG members and partners will have the opportunity to review and comments on these products prior to release to the public.

The Board is responsible for adopting a plan that will meet the requirements of the authorizing legislation and provide direction for broadly supported actions to improve integrated flood management.

K. Schedule and Work Plan

DWR and this RMAWG operate under specific, legislatively directed time lines. The Lower Sacramento River RMAWG will be convened in June 2010, and is expected to complete its work by August 2010. The frequency of RMAWG meetings is expected to be three times total, with more frequent meetings possible

based on need to accomplish the RMAWG mission.

Depending on need, one or more sub-committees (see Section H, Roles and Responsibilities) may be formed. Sub-committee meetings will be scheduled as required.

L. Decision Making within Regional Management Actions Work Group

The RMAWG will operate as a body seeking broad agreement about the management actions approach for the CVFPP. If various perspectives offered do not agree, the differences will be recorded as part of the draft content.

Input is used to assist the Sponsors and project staff in understanding the extent to which there is shared perspective or meaning about the items being considered. Items moved forward as a group product will be considered by the full RMAWG. Items before the body will be presented in writing and members allowed sufficient time to consider them. Members will be permitted to note their level of support for an item under discussion as ranging from Unqualified Support, General Support, Qualified Support, Qualified Disagreement, to Fundamental Disagreement. The level of support for various items will be recorded. If an item receives a level of disagreement, the group will be asked to continue working to reach agreement or until it appears a resolution is not necessary or attainable. At that time, the facilitation team will note the nature of the disagreement, and in consultation with the RMAWG and sponsors, make a determination as to the best way to proceed in the particular topic area. Straw polls or requests for general preferences may also be conducted. These types of inquiries are for the purpose of refining ideas, providing direction to the project staff, or both.

M. Protocols, & Standing Group Rules

Protocols

- Outside of RMAWG meetings, people will represent comments made in these meetings as organizational or general group comments. Personal references should be avoided.
- All members agree to act in good faith in all aspects of this process and to communicate their interests.
- 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.
- Members agree to make a concerted effort to provide requested information to other members 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.

Standing Ground Rules

- Use common conversational courtesy. (Don't interrupt, use appropriate language, avoid third party discussions, etc.)
- Humor is welcome and important, but humor should never be at someone else's expense.
- All ideas and points have value - You may hear something you do not agree with. Please remember that the purpose of the RMAWG is to share ideas and capture various perspectives. All ideas have

value in this setting. You are not required to defend or promote your perspective, but you are asked to share it. 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.
- Cell Phone/ PDA Courtesy - Most of the participants have demanding responsibilities outside of the meeting room. We ask for your attention during the full meeting. Please turn cell phones, or any other communication item with an on/off switch to "silent." If you do not believe you will be able to participate fully, please discuss your situation with one of the facilitators.
- Be comfortable - Please help yourself to refreshments or take personal breaks.
- Spelling doesn't count
- Honor time
- We have ambitious meeting agendas, in order to meet our goals it will be important to follow the time guidelines provided by the facilitator.

N. Amendments

The RMAWG may amend the charter in consultation with the Executive Sponsors and project staff.

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