



Central Valley Flood Protection Plan

Meeting Summary FINAL

Lower San Joaquin Regional Conditions Work Group Meeting #1

August 4, 2009, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

**Location: Stewart Eberhardt Building
22 E Weber Ave, Room 166
Stockton, CA 95202**

MEETING ATTENDANCE:

Present:

Name	Organization	Status
Roger Churchwell	San Joaquin Area Flood Agency (SJAFCA)	Member
Susan Dell'Osso	Reclamation District 2602; River Islands at Lathrop	Member
Wes Fujitani	City of Lodi	Member
Jim Giottonini	City of Stockton, SJAFCA	Member
Mary Hildebrand	San Joaquin County Farm Bureau, South Delta Water Agency, California Central Valley Flood Association Board	Member
Koosun Kim	City of Manteca	Member
Scott Miner	US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps)	Member
James Nelson	Stormwater Consulting	Member
Julie Rentner	River Partners, CNPS	Member
John Shelton	California Department of Fish and Game (DFG)	Member
Steve Winkler	San Joaquin County	Member
John Green	Stockton East Water District	Alternate
Alex Hildebrand	South Delta Water Agency, Reclamation District 2075	Alternate
Patrick Koepele	Tuolumne River Trust	Alternate
Lisa Beutler	Center for Collaborative Policy (Center)	Facilitator
Rajaa Hassan	MWH America Inc. (MWH)	Technical Team
Gary Hester	California Department of Water Resources (DWR)	CVFMP Program Manager
Roger Lee	DWR, Central Valley Flood Protection Office (CVFPO)	CVFPO Representative
Sam Magill	Center For Collaborative Policy	Facilitation Support
Mark Nordberg	DWR	DWR Lead
Keith Wallace	MWH	Technical Lead



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Scott Woodland	DWR	Regional Coordinator
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Absent:

Deedee Antypas	RD 2074	Member
Kevin Kaufman	Stockton East Water District	Member
Dave Peterson	SJAFCA	Member
Tony Refuerzo	Stanislaus County Planning Department	Member
Jesse Roseman	Tuolumne River Trust	Member

Observers:

Butch Hodgkins	Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB)	Observer
Edward Thurnbeck	HDR	Observer

WORK GROUP HOMEWORK / ACTION ITEMS (homework requested by 8/11/09):

1. Workgroup additions to the Glossary

- Workgroup members will flag any “problematic” terms that may have conflicting meanings depending on the context.
- Workgroup members will make additions to the Glossary as needed

2. Workgroup members will complete Worksheet #2- References.

- In addition to the instructions for Worksheet #2, Workgroup members will provide any additional references not included in the current list.
- Workgroup members will provide their name on the Worksheet to allow technical staff to follow up as needed.

3. Workgroup members will complete Worksheet #3- Community Success Factors.

4. Workgroup members will provide their perspective on the Lower San Joaquin study area.

- Is the current upper boundary of the Merced River appropriate, or should it be moved to the Merced River *watershed* boundary?
- What is the appropriate downstream boundary between the Lower San Joaquin and Delta regions?

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5. Carolyn Lott, Center, will revisit the issue of how to address parallel processes (such as South Delta Flood Conveyance Plan and EIP actions) at meeting #3.
6. Power Point slides will be printed 2 to a page for future meetings; MWH will reprint slides from meeting #1 and bring copies to meeting #2.
7. Ms. Lott will check in on how to proceed with Chapters 5, 6, and 7 of the RCSR and deliver an update to the Workgroup during meeting #4.
8. DWR/staff will discuss creating an archive for references and report back to Workgroup.
9. Ms. Lott will revisit issue of combining Lower/Upper SJ groups at meeting #2.
10. RD 17 is trying to do an engineering analysis of its levees using grants from EIP. Mr. Woodland will deliver a status report on the grant at Meeting #3. If EIP is not the correct vehicle for the analysis, Mr. Woodland will inform the Workgroup.
11. Roger Churchwell will forward information on the Lower San Joaquin Feasibility to Sam Magill for distribution to the Workgroup as it becomes available.

GROUP RECAP (meeting highlights for use by Work Group partners in their communications)

The Lower San Joaquin Regional Conditions Work Group of the Central Valley Flood Management Planning Program (CVFMP) initiated its work on August 3, 2009 with the following actions:

- An initial review of existing and unique conditions/resources in the area that should be considered in the development of the the first Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) scheduled to be completed by January 1, 2012 for consideration for adoption by the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Board) by July 2012. These include biological, physical, infrastructure, socioeconomic (including agriculture), cultural, and institutional and other considerations.
- An initial review of reference documents/studies that might be used to study and evaluate the Lower San Joaquin region.

The Work Group's purpose is the development of content for the Regional Conditions Summary Report (RCSR), a key component for developing the 2012 CVFPP. The RCSR will identify resources at risk in the absence of an integrated, sustainable statewide flood protection plan as well as the opportunities for the Plan to address flood prevention and protection ways that reflects community priorities. The Lower San Joaquin Work Group is one of five regional Work Groups in the Central Valley.

FUTURE MEETINGS SCHEDULE:

The Center will send out a meeting poll to all Workgroup members to schedule all future Workgroup meetings. Wednesdays and Thursdays were identified by meeting participants as the best days during the week. In addition to the locations listed below, the meeting poll will include a request for additional location suggestions.

The following potential locations were identified for future meetings:

- Stewart Eberhardt Building (same location as Meeting #1)
- Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center
- San Joaquin County Farm Bureau
- Stanislaus County Farm Bureau

MEETING OVERVIEW:

The goal of the first meeting of the Lower San Joaquin Valley Regional Conditions Work Group was to introduce and establish a shared understanding of:

1. The purpose of the RCSR, as the first major milestone in preparing the 2012 CVFPP, is to define existing and likely future resources conditions within the Central Valley, flood and related problems and opportunities, and goals and objectives of the CVFPP. The plan is to develop a system approach for integrated flood management in the Central Valley, with an emphasis on areas currently receiving protection from the facilities of the State Plan of Flood Control.
2. The role of the Lower San Joaquin Regional Conditions Work group to develop content for the Report based on their knowledge and understanding of the regional area and existing conditions as they relate to past, current and potential threats from flooding.
3. The history leading up to and context of the CVFPP and CVFMP.

MEETING OBJECTIVES:

- Confirm group charter, schedule and membership
- Clarify relationship of work group to the larger FloodSAFE effort
- Outline Regional Conditions Summary Report—the main deliverable of this work group
- Provide initial input on “Study Area Descriptions” (Chapter 2)
- Provide initial input on the “Reference List”
- Develop initial identification of Community success factors
- Create some context about the project

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SUMMARY:

****POWERPOINTS AND DOCUMENTS REFERENCED IN THE SUMMARY ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE at www.water.ca.gov/cvfmp or upon request****

Lisa Beutler, facilitator with the Center, opened the meeting and introduced herself. She explained that the Lower San Joaquin Regional Conditions Workgroup (Workgroup) will normally be facilitated by Carolyn Lott, another mediator with the Center. She then asked Mark Nordberg, DWR lead for the Workgroup, to provide opening remarks on behalf of DWR.

WELCOME AND GREETINGS

Mr. Nordberg introduced himself and explained his role as the DWR team lead for the Workgroup. He then reviewed the agenda, meeting purpose, and meeting goals. Ms. Beutler added one additional goal of providing the history and context of the CVFPP/CVFMP effort. She then led the Workgroup in a round of introductions. A full list of meeting participants is available on page 1 of this document.

OPENING REMARKS

Gary Hester, DWR CVFMP program manager, thanked participants for attending. He stressed the importance of the overall CVFMP effort and the Regional Conditions Workgroups, and acknowledged the critical nature of ensuring that this process coordinates and works directly with the other myriad flood-related projects in California.

OVERVIEW: FloodSAFE AND THE CVFPP

Roger Lee, DWR, provided a PowerPoint presentation/overview of the FloodSAFE program, the CVFPP, and the context in which the Workgroup will be working. Mr. Hester drew meeting participants' attention to the schedule portion of the presentation, noting that in addition to the 2012 legislatively mandated deadline for completion of the CVFPP, DWR and its federal and local partners will be working on a number of construction projects with assistance from the early implementation program (EIP). These will move forward independently of the CVFPP, and are slated for near-term action.

Discussion:

- A meeting participant noted that there are other processes underway such as the South Delta Flood Conveyance Plan that must move forward faster than the CVFPP process allows. DWR staff noted that these projects are the types of things EIP funding may be available for. RD 17 is currently looking at EIP funding for an engineering analysis of its levees, and said that he would report his findings on this process at Meeting #3 of the Workgroup (see action items above).
- Another participant noted that the CVFPP process will be iterative. Although the first round of planning will be complete by the start of 2012, DWR will immediately begin work on the next round. As such, it will be essential that the CVFPP process includes an education phase for the Legislature, federal, state, and local partners. *Implementation* of the CVFPP will be continuous.

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- One person commented that this process was essentially born out of a legislative response to the Paterno court decision. He added that the state knew of deficiencies in the flood protection system before then, but did not act on them. In addition to the final work product in the CVFPP process, EIP projects are necessary to fix those deficiencies that are identified now.
- Another person asked for an update on the Lower San Joaquin Feasibility Study sponsored by the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). The Feasibility Study is in the very early stages of a five year process. It is a standard Corps feasibility study; SJAFCA is the local cost sharing partner; the state will sign on once its approval process is complete. Roger Churchwell, SJAFCA, noted that major efforts on the Lower San Joaquin Feasibility Study hydraulic analysis are underway. While the process will take five years, a number of actions will begin sooner. As information becomes available, Workgroup staff will distribute it to the rest of the Workgroup (see action items above).
- A participant asked if there will be a dedicated funding amount with the final CVFPP, or if it will be more of a strategic visioning document. For the first CVFPP in 2012, it will be more of a visioning/planning document. The ultimate goal of the CVFPP will be to create a plan that maps out what a sustainable flood system in California entails. This sustainability will also aim to address the social, economic, and environmental concerns associated with flood control.
- The concern was raised that local and county governments will have to update their general plans to be in compliance with the CVFPP by 2014. The participant added that if the CVFPP is too “nebulous” of a planning document, it will be difficult for local governments to update their plans and ordinances properly.
- Meeting participants raised the issue of CVFPP compliance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)/other environmental regulations. CVFPP management is working to determine the level of compliance required. There will likely be some compliance necessary, but whether this will result in a full Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/S) is unclear at this time. This item will be revisited at future Workgroup meetings when more information is available.
- Meeting participants raised the concern that a number of other efforts like the Comp Study tried to accomplish many of the same goals of the CVFPP but fell short in the end, and asked what differentiates this effort from past projects. Staff acknowledged the importance of this point and noted that a major part of this effort is focused on outreach to the public to ensure that this effort doesn’t end up like the Comp Study. The facilitator asked that Workgroup members wait until the end of the meeting to determine their role in the process, noting that not everyone may wish to take part in the process.
- A participant asked if the “topic workgroups” will be regional or more general in nature. The topic workgroups will be designed to feed information into the regional groups at the topical level.
- Participants noted the importance of looking at the San Joaquin from a system-wide, rather than regional, level. Workgroup study area boundaries may need adjustment to resolve this issue. Additionally, participants noted that it could be useful to hold a joint meeting of the Upper and Lower San Joaquin Workgroups and Delta Workgroup. This issue was flagged for homework and further discussion.
- Participants noted that reservoir reoperation should be a central component of the CVFPP. Staff confirmed that reoperation will be looked at in the CVFPP and RCSR). Participants also noted that EIP money should be available for things like reoperation and forecast-based operation studies, not just construction projects.

CHARTER REVIEW Q&A

Mr. Lee and Ms. Beutler walked meeting participants through the Workgroup Charter. This document is available online at the website listed on page 3. Ms. Beutler noticed that as part of the Workgroup operating rules, DWR management made an executive-level commitment to the process. As such, members of the executive team will attend most meetings and will be on hand to answer questions as necessary. One of the concerns stated earlier in the meeting was that this process won't communicate with other processes; commitment by executive leadership is one way to avoid this. Ms. Beutler also noted that amendments to the Charter require consultation with DWR management.

Discussion:

- A participant asked who will be responsible for cross-Workgroup check in. Specific questions can be asked to other groups at any time. Staff will make the commitment to pull everything from other workgroups applicable to this Workgroup. As previously noted, there may also be a joint meeting as necessary.
- One person asked whether DWR would make the final decision on the RCSR and CVFPP if the Workgroup disagrees about significant items/topics. DWR has a legal requirement to finish the CVFPP by 2012. As such, if disagreements arise, every effort will be made to reconcile the issues and reach consensus. In cases where this isn't possible, accurately capturing the nature of the disagreement will be a great benefit as the CVFPP moves forward.
- A participant asked if the scope of the project will allow the Workgroup to look at both federal and non-federal levees. The study area includes a watershed-based approach that will look at federal/non-federal and urban/non-urban levee systems.

GLOSSARY

To ensure that all meeting goals were reached, Ms. Beutler asked that the Workgroup change the agenda to delete the Glossary. Workgroup participants agreed to make changes or additions to the Glossary as a homework assignment (see page #2).

REGIONAL CONDITIONS SUMMARY REPORT OVERVIEW

Keith Wallace, MWH, gave an overview of the RCSR. Ms. Beutler explained that in addition to the overview, the Workgroup will also look at the geographic scope and conditions outline to make sure that the right items are identified for further analysis. Additionally, she instructed the Workgroup to make any additions as needed, especially if there is a piece of "foundational" information that is missing. Mr. Wallace then began a slideshow walkthrough of the report. This presentation is available online at the website listed on page 3.

Discussion:

- A participant asked if the Workgroup will be able to change the resource areas identified in the outline. The Workgroup can change the resource areas. Although the *structure* of the RCSR is unlikely to change, the Workgroup will be able to change the *content*.
- After the RCSR is completed, Workgroup participants will be asked to remain engaged in the CVFPP process.

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- A participant noted that the RCSR schedule said that the Workgroup will not address chapters 5, 6, and 7 of the RCSR (Supporting Evaluations, Future Actions, and Initial findings), and asked what level of input it will have on these areas. This issue will be elevated to CVFMP management, and the facilitator will revisit the issue during Meeting #4.
- One person asked for a definition of environmental justice. Staff and meeting participants responded that environmental justice typically refers to ensuring that no one community bears a disproportionate environmental impact from a particular project or action. Generally, environmental justice is used to protect low income/underserved communities.
- A participant asked whether each workgroup will work on setting a planning horizon for the CVFPP. DWR is considering 2050. The goal here is to ensure that long term, sustainable planning is central to the CVFPP effort.

Specific suggestions for additions to the outline/RCSR included:

- Social and economic conditions
- A section on laws, jurisdictions, and regulations
- A section on water rights and Delta protection statutes
- Specific reference to non-federal and local flood control facilities as opposed to those covered within the State Plan of Flood Control
- A section on the Kings River
- Reference to the Delta should be holistic and include more than a description of the Primary Zone.
- A section on finances/funding for the CVFPP.
- Information on natural, non-biological resources in the Lower San Joaquin region such as quarries and timber.
- Anything that appears on the NEPA/CEQA compliance checklists should be included in the RCSR.
- Public safety and evacuation information, including evacuation of livestock.
- A section on growth inducement factors: as flood protection levels are improved, this will lead more people to live in the floodplain.
- A map that shows infrastructure affecting the floodplain and natural, non-biological resources.

STUDY AREA DESCRIPTION- Worksheet #1

Workgroup participants were split into small groups and instructed to fill out Worksheet #1 as a team. Please see Worksheet #1 for specific information on the exercise. Workgroup members were also instructed to make any additions to Worksheet #1 as needed offline and submit them to DWR for inclusion in a "master" copy. The result of the small group discussion is included in Attachment A of this document.

Discussion:

- A participant asked if there is an overlap of physical attributes between the Delta and Lower San Joaquin regions. Staff confirmed that there are overlaps between the two regions.
- Staff commented that using words like "natural" when describing physical attributes of a system can lead to misunderstanding. "Natural" should be defined in the glossary and acknowledge the historical, cultural, and physical context in which it is used.

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AVAILABLE INFORMATION: REFERENCES LIST- Worksheet #2

Staff walked participants through the instructions for Worksheet #2, and assigned it as homework. See Worksheet #2 for specific information on the exercise.

Discussion:

- A participant asked how the reference list will be populated if conflicting codes are used among Workgroup members. Staff expects this to happen. If an objection is raised on a specific reference or portion of a reference and a clear explanation is provided, Workgroup members were asked to provide explanation for why the reference in question is unsuitable for the RCSR. This information will be helpful to DWR when it prepares the RCSR.

COMMUNITY SUCCESS FACTORS- Worksheet #3

Ms. Beutler directed the Workgroup's attention to Worksheet #3, and noted that "community success factors" are those things that specific organizations, individuals, or communities, require in a particular topic area for the RCSR and CVFPP to be success. See Worksheet #3 for specific information on the exercise. Workgroup members will provide completed worksheets to staff by August 11th. See "homework" on page 2 for more information.

GROUP RECAP

Ms. Beutler provided a recap of the day's meeting, and asked if there are any groups not currently represented on the Workgroup that should be. She noted that tribal and environmental justice perspectives will be brought to the table. Staff will also determine the best way to get representation of the Mokulumne, Consumnes, and Calaveras watersheds into the Workgroup as needed.

Ms. Beutler then asked meeting participants to consider whether the goals set at the beginning of the meeting were met. The group agreed that the meeting goals and purpose were met.



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ATTACHMENT A: Worksheet 1: Topical Information and Questions for Resources Conditions

RESOURCE AREA	WHAT UNIQUE CONDITIONS WITHIN THIS REGION NEED TO BE SPECIFICALLY FOCUSED ON IN THE CVFPP?	STUDIES AND DATA SOURCES PARTICULARLY RELEVANT TO THIS TOPIC	REGIONAL PRIORITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS RESOURCE AREA
<p>PHYSICAL Conditions. This includes factors such as geology, geomorphology, hydrology, hydraulics, water quality, and water and air quality.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Merced, Tuolumne, and Stanislaus drain into the San Joaquin River. All three have dams that require regional coordination that may have to overcome jurisdictional issues to be successful. • The Lower San Joaquin region is at the bottom of the entire system draining into the Delta. This provides unique challenges not faced in other regions. • There are a number of physically environmentally sensitive areas in the Lower San Joaquin region. • Compressible soils in the region make construction of new flood control structures difficult in some areas within the region. • Flood control structures are physically constrained by urban growth (homes and buildings are built right up to the toe of many levees, especially in Stockton). • Corcoran clay/permeability issues • Water quality/salinity issues • Siltation of the Lower San Joaquin affects flood control, recreation, and the environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRWMPs in the San Joaquin Valley • Regional Board Basin Plans • Consultant reports • Lower San Joaquin Feasibility Study • South Delta Flood Conveyance Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for off stream storage. • Opportunities for new or improved bypasses and flood corridors, including Mormon Slough, Paradise Cut, and within the San Joaquin National Wildlife Refuge. • Integrated Regional Flood Management. • Avoid construction of a peripheral canal to maintain the ability to pass flood flows on the Lower San Joaquin downstream and to the east.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The San Joaquin is the most highly altered river in California. • Lower relief landscape creates problems associated with river “meandering.” • Overdraft of groundwater, especially on the eastern side of the San Joaquin Valley, puts pressure on rivers for recharge. 		
<p>BIOLOGICAL conditions. This includes factors such as vegetation, wetlands, wildlife, fisheries and aquatic resources, and special status species.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reintroducing spring run Chinook salmon. • Reintroducing steelhead on the Calaveras River. • Riparian brush rabbit only occurs on the Lower San Joaquin. • Invasives such as water hyacinth impede flood flows in some areas. • Manure piles for feedlots/dairies are located within the floodway and create water quality challenges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selenium TMDL • CV SALTS • Delta Methyl mercury TMDL • San Joaquin Recovery Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain or improve salmonid populations. • Maintain and improve riparian corridors
<p>SOCIO-ECONOMIC conditions. This consists of a host of topics such as land use, recreation, economic development, governance-regulation, and demographics.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs associated with the Corps levee vegetation removal policy. • The Delta is not homogenous; this should be recognized in the RCSR. • Foreclosure/unemployment is very high in the Lower San Joaquin region; this could affect the ability of local districts to collect assessment fees. • The urban/rural interface puts undue pressure on rural levees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stockton General Plan • San Joaquin County General Plan • Define foreclosure rates in the region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illegal drug production near rivers and the associated hazardous waste. • Confined animal units • SB5 land use constraints place disparate burden on the San Joaquin Valley. Other areas like LA only have to have 100 year protection; anything affected by SB 5 is subject to 200 year requirements. 		
<p>CULTURAL RESOURCES. Cultural resources include prehistoric resources, historic resources, community character (such as heritage towns), Native American traditional use, and Indian Trust Assets.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage towns such as Westley and Patterson. • Tuolumne and Stanislaus Rivers have major cultural significance to local Native American populations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The University of the Pacific and CSU Stanislaus have expertise in local cultural resources. • Barbara Cross, DWR, should be relied on as a resource in this area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<p>INFRASTRUCTURE conditions. Including essential transportation, water and power corridors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Bay MUD pipes • Hetch Hetchy • Highways 12, 4, 5, 120, and 99 • SWP/CVP infrastructure/pumps • Gas lines • Railroad lines • Hydroelectric power generation on all major tributaries. • Modesto Waste Water Treatment Plant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<p>INSTITUTIONAL conditions. Institutional conditions include laws</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FEMA remapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •



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<p>and regulations, management directives and policies, and governance structures and responsibilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESA impacts (especially Delta Smelt) • Large number of reclamation districts with a wide variety of funding amounts and sophistication. • Large number of urban reclamation districts. • The state is not responsible for river bank protection on the San Joaquin River like it is on the Sacramento River. • Wide variety of entities with jurisdiction over water rights on the San Joaquin. • Unique interdependence of project/non-project levees creates difficult legal challenges. 		
<p>OTHER</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited evacuation routes in deep ponding areas. • Livestock evacuation issues. • Depth of flooding much greater than in other parts of the state. • Quarries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •