



Meeting Summary
Agricultural Stewardship Scope Definition
Joint Subcommittee Meeting #2

November 5, 2009, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Location: MWH Americas

3321 Power Inn Road, Suite 300

Sacramento, CA 95826

Bay Delta Room

ATTENDED:

Name	Organization	Status
Anderson, Ray	Retired Farmer	Member
Capuchino, S. Leo	City of Mendota	Member
Carey, Phil	DWR, Sacramento Maintenance Yard, DFM	Alternate (Eckman)
Chang, Joseph	DWR, Flood Maintenance Office, DFM	Member
Ellis, Tom	Sacramento West Side Levee District, Land owners in the Colusa Basin, Member of the Board of Directors of Colusa County Farm Bureau	Member
Fredrickson, Justin	California Farm Bureau Federation	Member
Lasko, Gena	California Department of Fish and Game	Alternate (Roscoe)
Sakato, Max	Reclamation District No. 1500	Member
Sevelius, Pia	Butte County RCD	Member
Sutton, Susan	SAS Strategies, rice farming	Member
Tatayon, Susan	The Nature Conservancy	Member
Taylor, William J.	Bureau of Reclamation	Member
Kirby, Ken	Kirby Consulting Group	CVFMP Executive Sponsor
Ng, Michele	DWR	CVFPO
Bartlett, Joe	DWR	CVFPO Alternate
McManus, Dan	DWR	DWR Lead
Moyle, Craig	MWH Americas	Facilitation Lead
Bishop, Erica	MWH Americas	Team
Tollette, Alexandra	MWH Americas	Team
Putty, Roger	MWH Americas	Technical Lead

ABSENT:

Name	Organization	Status
Berry, Julia D.	Madera Farm Bureau	Member
Blodgett, Bruce	San Joaquin County Farm Bureau	Member
Bonea, Ryan P.	Sutter County RCD; Yuba County RCD	Member
Bruce, Todd William	Dutra Group, Solano/Yolo Air Resources Control Board	Member
Canevari, Mick	University of California Cooperative Extension	Member
Eckman, Russell	DWR, Sacramento Maintenance Yard, DFM	Member

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Fisher, Kari	California Farm Bureau Federation	Member
Hildebrand, Mary	San Joaquin Farm Bureau, South Delta Water Agency Board, and California Central Valley Flood Association Board	Member
Lang, Kent	RD 537, RD 1000 O&M	Member
Martin, Mari	Resource Management Coalition	Member
Medders, Karen	North Delta CARES	Member
Miramontes, Tim	Yolo County Farm Bureau; California Rice Commission; California Farm Bureau Rice Advisory Committee; Yolo County (Yolo Bypass and District 108 areas)	Member
Pedrozo, Diana Westmoreland	Merced County Farm Bureau, California Women for Agriculture, East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition, San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy organization, Merced Council for the Central Valley Farmland Trust	Member
Pegos, David	California Department of Food and Agriculture	Member
Perrone, Michael	DWR	Member
Rabone, Geoff	Merced Irrigation District	Member
Richter, David	Sutter Basin grower	Member
Scheuring, Chris	California Farm Bureau Federation	Member
Van Ruiten, Anthony	Van Ruiten Brothers	Member
Wallace, William Jr.	Landowner	Member
Zezulak, David	California Department of Fish and Game	Member
Hester, Gary	DWR	CVFPO

OBSERVED:

Eto, Jim	DWR
Hardesty, Mike	California Central Valley Flood Control Association

ACTION ITEMS:

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

1. Send any additional comments or major concerns regarding the draft “Key Considerations” paper, “Problems and Opportunities”, or “Goals” to mcmanus@water.ca.gov or to roger.g.putty@mwhglobal.com.
2. Work with program/technical team to schedule next subcommittee meeting.

PROGRAM TEAM

1. Integrate the Sacramento Valley Control Action Workgroup’s (SVFCAW) talking point discussion items into the draft “Key Considerations” paper and distribute to subcommittee members.
2. Integrate t SVFCAW’s talking point discussion items into the draft “Problems and Opportunities” and “Goals” and distribute them to subcommittee members.
3. Add terms and definitions to the CVFPP Glossary: “structural,” “non-structural,” and agricultural stewardship.”

4. Schedule next meeting.

MEETING OVERVIEW

During this second meeting of the Agricultural Stewardship Scope Definition (AGSD) Joint Subcommittee, members discussed the new format for the Regional Conditions Summary Report; reviewed SVFCAW's draft "Sacramento Valley Flood Control Agricultural Issues Talking Points" paper; discussed future development of the "Key Considerations" paper as the subcommittee's primary deliverable (the handout was provided to members as "Important Considerations for the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan Related to Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Agriculture"); settled on a definition of "agricultural stewardship" for the CVFPP Glossary; reviewed the draft CVFPP "Problems and Opportunities" and "Goals" with relevance for agriculture; considered draft "principles" developed for the CVFPP and by the Sacramento Valley Flood Control Action Workgroup (SVFCAW); and began the process of scheduling the subcommittee's next meeting.

MEETING GOALS

1. Define agricultural stewardship
2. Outline document that describes key considerations for agriculture and the CVFPP
3. Review and discuss revised Problems and Opportunities, Goals and Objectives
4. Develop potential Principles related to agriculture for RCS/R

SUMMARY

Welcome, Greetings, and Introductions

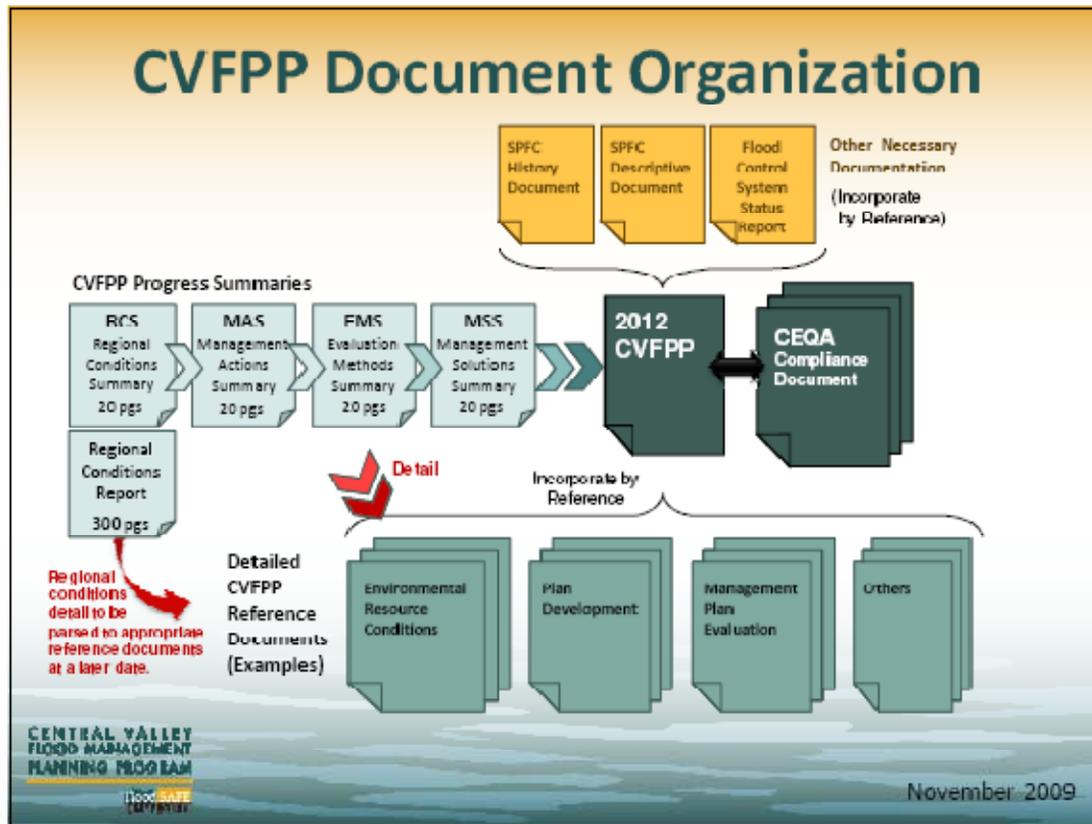
Craig Moyle welcomed the group and provided an overview of the meeting agenda and handouts, and introduced Roger Putty to give a short presentation on the recent reorganization of the Regional Conditions Summary/Report (RCS/R).

Status update of RCS/R Development, Action Items from AGSD Meeting #1

Mr. Putty gave a presentation on the Regional Conditions Work Group timeline and how it relates to the agricultural stewardship scope definition joint subcommittee. The work groups completed their fifth meetings last week and will hold their sixth meetings the week of November 16. The groups are currently reviewing Chapter 3 of the RCS/R. The CVFPO team at DWR is reviewing the second draft of chapters 1 and 2, which will then be distributed to work groups for another round of review. The second draft of chapter 3 will be made available for review between work group meetings 6 and 7. Chapter 4 is currently under development; the first draft will be made available for review by work group meeting 7.

Mr. Putty introduced a diagram that displayed a revised document structure that lead to publishing of the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan for 2012 (see figure below). Previously, the program team was to develop a "Regional Conditions Summary Report." Contributions of the various work groups and staff work was leading this to a document of at least 300 pages (Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4). Under the revised structure, the program will produce a 300 page "Regional Conditions Report" and a 20-30 page "Regional Conditions Summary." The latter will be condensed, executive summary-style document that summarizes the Regional Conditions Report.

Other documents slated for development include summary versions for Management Actions, Evaluation Methods, and Management Solutions, CEQA documentation, State Plan of Flood Control (SPFC) History Document, the SPFC Descriptive Document, and the Flood Control System Status Report (FCSSR).



Mr. Putty reviewed the status of other topic work groups, all of which have completed their meetings and are in process of compiling reports of their work.

Mr. Moyle reviewed action items from the last meeting and introduced the Sacramento Valley Flood Control Action Workgroup (SVFCAW) handouts from Max Sakato.

Questions

Q: If CEQA compliance is required, does that mean this plan will result in a project?

A: It could result in actions that require CEQA coverage. We still have to have conversations about the scope and type of the CEQA documents needed. We definitely plan to include alternatives. Formal scoping will start in February or March and will begin by looking at the “no-action” alternative. The CVFPP feels CEQA documentation is needed to adopt a long term vision for this plan. The CEQA documents will be completed concurrent with the plan.

Presentation: SVFCAW Sacramento Valley Flood Control Agricultural Issues Talking Points paper

With assistance from Mr. Sakato, Ken Kirby gave a presentation on the “Agricultural Issues Talking Points” paper developed by the Sacramento Valley Flood Control Action Workgroup. SVFCAW is a coalition of 37 different Sacramento Valley groups (see Attachment B) or entities that was formed in March 2008 by the California Central Valley Flood Control Association. The group met twice per week initially, and produced a draft white paper submitted to DWR (“Guiding Principles” from this draft white paper are appended to this summary in Attachment A).

Subcommittee Recommendations: SVFCAW Talking Points as categories/concepts for further refinement

Mr. Kirby and subcommittee members discussed whether the points raised in this document accurately reflect the agricultural community’s concerns regarding flood protection. He confirmed that the document captures the bulk of the agricultural community’s sentiments, and suggested that editing duties be expanded to the whole group and the underlying concepts and ideas be integrated into the subcommittee’s final deliverables.

Comment: Agriculture is unfamiliar with FEMA requirements and in general unfamiliar with how to work with FEMA.

Response: For everyone’s benefit, Mr. Kirby provided some background on FEMA’s 100-year flood protection standard: If FEMA decertifies your levee for 100-year flood protection, it doesn’t change your flood risk. Your risk is the same, but now you just know about it. The FEMA standard affects structures/residences and thus land use opportunities. People also must recognize that FEMA’s certification is tied to an insurance program. The 100-year standard is a moving target. FEMA has said they’re not going to move toward a 200-year flood protection standard, but the 100-year protection standard miss-communicates flood risk.

A number of members had specific comments or revisions regarding particular statements in the talking points; these are summarized below with the original talking point sentence included for reference in *Italic*. Suggested corrections or changes to the text are shown in ~~striketrough~~ (deletions) or underline (insertions).

The current level of flood protection to agricultural areas needs attention and improvement and the existing management plans for levees and channels is not sustainable. (p.1)

Comment: This sentence is an accurate description of what the plan needs to do with regard to agriculture.

Comment: There is a diversity of perspectives within the agricultural community regarding satisfaction with current levels of flood protection. However, many across the board are unhappy with the requirements of maintaining levees to the expected levels of protection.

Comment: There are concerns that agriculture will be relegated to the bottom of the priority list for flood protection, and that improving urban levees will occur at the expense of rural communities. At one time, we all operated under a reasonable, simple geometric standard for levees; rural and urban played with relatively equal footing. Since the 1960s, urban understanding has become more sophisticated and moved the standard away from what

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farmers have been trying to maintain. The underlying idea is that the urban levee will never fail until the ag. levee has failed, and this dichotomy didn't exist 40 years ago.

How do we develop a CVFPP that does not: (p.1)

- adversely affect farmers' ability to secure loans for land purchase, operating, and capital expenses

Comments: If the banks perceive that our risk of flooding has increased, this may reduce our borrowing capacity. Banks will be less likely to lend money to farmers. The plan needs to not reduce the confidence of the banking industry in the flood protection that agriculture receives so as to imperil the community's ability to obtain loans.

Response: Your flood risk is what it is and will not be changed by the plan, so this is an issue of perception.

- *increase the cost to operate farms and produce crops*

Comments: The CVFPP has to consider potential unintended economic consequences of transitory storage and other programs to landowners who would be affected.

Response: Those are the type of economic considerations which would be taken into account when enrolling landowners in these programs.

- ~~does not~~ *lead to critical ecosystem degradation or conflicts*

- adversely affect the ability to meet qualifications and requirements for Federal Farm Program benefits

Comment: These qualifications and requirements are available from the USDA and farm service centers, and possibly the NCRS.

- adversely affect the primary consideration by buyers and marketers for the area's crop production and supply reliability to meet their demands and needs.

Comment: Water supply reliability is key. If there's a perception of unreliability of water supply, agricultural production may move out of the state.

... These programs should include assistance to rural communities and agricultural areas for emergency preparedness, emergency response, communications, evacuation, and recovery. (p. 1/2)

Central Valley agriculture, including the Sacramento Valley provides and supports reliable and ~~inexpensive~~ affordable food and fiber production at the State, National, and global levels. (p.1)

Agricultural communities and production areas should be valued more comprehensively and accurately in determining Benefit/Cost considerations for flood protection funding and assistance programs and levee maintenance, repair, and improvement considerations. (p.2)

Comment: It is important to look at the true economic benefits of agriculture. Benefit-cost analyses rarely capture the full range of the industry's benefits, and thus value agriculture "lower" than it is in reality.

The SRFCP was authorized to provide an equal level of protection in the system (originally designed to pass 1907 and 1909 floods). The system has become dichotomous between urban and non-urban areas as:. (p.2)

Ken Kirby's comments on specific portions of the talking points document:

...[T]he agricultural community is willing to consider innovative multi-objective floodplain management techniques...We believe that flood protection and risk management for agricultural areas, rural communities and urban areas should "get better together". (p.1)

Comment: DWR concurs with these sentiments.

Programs should be developed that provide incentives for rural communities and agricultural areas that voluntarily choose not to urbanize. ... If rural communities decide to urbanize, however, they should be subject to the more stringent requirements for such areas. (p.1-2)

Comment: One of the difficult things we want to take on as part of the planning effort is determining how to deal with small rural communities that are urbanizing.

This Program should include an element for compensating property owners for losses such as residences, crops, pumps, machinery, equipment, ancillary buildings, and support infrastructure. (p.3)

Comment: This is describing flood insurance programs. If you're in a floodplain, FEMA will sell you flood insurance. Some urban areas in California are paying for rural flood insurance in exchange for allowing floodwaters to go on to agricultural land.

Response (Members): We know agriculture will be on the lower priority level relative to urban areas; given this, we need a way to recover quickly, economically, following a flood. It's an equity issue. If under this plan we're having parts of the system operate at a lower level of flood protection in order to protect urban areas, you need to ensure this is taken into consideration when you determine recovery for the entire system.

The magnitude and extent of ecosystem enhancement should not compromise flood management, public safety, or existing agricultural land uses and benefits (e.g.; unreasonable restrictions or requirements affecting existing conditions). (p.3)

Comment: This could be a principle but it would need to be made more general and not only related to ecosystem enhancement.

Additional Comments/Questions

Q: Is agriculture going to be brought along in this plan? There needs to be robust protection for agriculture, or else it won't work.

A: This is different from what we've heard from others in the agricultural community. They tell us the desired end is a robust agricultural economy and industry, but not robust flood protection. We're not going to be able to go back to a constant, consistent level of protection valley-wide. The type protection will look different than what protection has looked like before.

Comment: Maintaining the current system would be a lot more practical and efficient if we could do something about the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Response: That’s unlikely to change. It’s probably going to get harder with ESA, not easier. Given this, to make it work better for all involved requires first focusing on what we’re trying to accomplish, not how we’re going to do it.

Subcommittee Discussion: Direction for the Key Considerations Paper

Mr. Moyle introduced the “Key Considerations for Agriculture and the CVFPP” draft document the technical team is producing and explained its purpose: to describe the concerns members of the agricultural community have regarding the CVFPP and to highlight agriculture’s value to the state and to the Central Valley’s flood system/flood management. Mr. Moyle reviewed the data sources (NCRS, USDA, county agriculture managers, the California Chapter of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers) used to compile the preliminary text, and asked members for direction on the document and its content. The final draft of this paper will become the subcommittee’s primary deliverable.

Mr. Kirby suggested that SVFCAW’s talking points paper be folded into this document and the result circulated for review. William Taylor recommend changes to the section on land values based on information he could provide.

Revised “Agricultural Stewardship” Definition

Mr. Kirby requested that the group look at the newly-proposed definition of agricultural stewardship: *A shared commitment to manage the resources and support the conditions necessary for a robust and sustainable agricultural industry in California.*

A number of members felt that this better captured their concerns about ensuring agricultural production can continue as it has. Ray Anderson read aloud a comprehensive alternative definition he drafted that provides a high level of detail and has the same essence as the definition above.

Comments/Questions:

- Add “manage and preserve resources”
- Replace “shared” with “public and private” to clarify a government and non-government roles

Q: Why do we have to use the word “sustainability”? I don’t like it

A: We have a definition of that in the CVFPP glossary and we refer to it throughout the program. Something “sustainable” is socially, environmentally, and financially feasible for an enduring period.

Incorporating subcommittee member changes, the new definition of “agricultural stewardship” is: *A ~~shared~~ public and private commitment to manage and preserve the resources and support the conditions necessary for a robust and sustainable agricultural industry in California.*

Subcommittee Recommendation: Revised CVFPP Problems and Opportunities, CVFPP Goals

Mr. Putty reviewed the planning definitions for “problems and opportunities,” “goals,” “objectives,” and “principles.” He introduced a chart showing the relationships between CVFPP

“Problems and Opportunities,” “Goals,” “Objectives.” Mr. Kirby explained that the “goals” identify issues the CVFPP will address; these goals will point to more specific “objectives” that describe accomplishments which contribute to reaching these goals. “Opportunities” are the flip-sides of “Problems.” Mr. Kirby recommended that the technical team to fold in the group’s comments from the morning’s SVFCAW talking points discussion into this problems and opportunities document and then redistribute it to the group.

Comments/Questions on “Problems and Opportunities”:

- What is meant by “difficult and costly due to original system design characteristics” in the second problem/opportunity?

Response: The system originally built to remove mining debris, but this is expensive to maintain.

Comments/Questions on “Goals”:

- I don’t see “rural” or “agriculture” in this.
Response: Nor do you see “urban” in this document.
- Saying “flood risk management” in the first goal loses something that is expressed when you use the term “flood protection.”
- What are examples of the “non-structural” projects referenced in the first goal?
Response: An old, unused barn that gets flooded all the time might not be worth building protection for, so you could be paid to move or dismantle it. There’s a definition of structural and non-structural in the water code and it should also be in our glossary.
- Insert “...by...” in second goal (related to operations and maintenance) to give greater specificity.
- The last goal about multi-benefit projects is confusing. Unclear what is meant by ‘. . . water resources benefits’ Suggest adding similar language from contributing factor #15 from the Probs/Opps table. For example, make it ‘. . . water resources benefits, including water supply, power generation, the environment, and recreation.’

Preliminary Discussion: Principles Related to Agriculture in the CVFPP

Mr. Kirby presented the draft CVFPP “Principles” and asked the group for suggested changes or additional principles to consider. The group also reviewed handouts of the “Guiding Principles” contained in SVFCAW’s “Flood Protection and Risk Management in the Sacramento Valley” draft white paper from 2008, included as an addendum to this summary (Attachment A).

Comments/Questions on CVFPP Draft Principles:

Q: Are these the same as the FloodSAFE principles?

A: They’re similar. Some are the same as the FloodSAFE principles and all are consistent with them.

Comments/Questions on SVFCAW Draft Guiding Principles:

Comment: I don’t agree with section d regarding different levels of flood protection for urban, rural, and agricultural areas.

Response: If the same level of protection was given across the board, you would have to provide a 200-year flood protection level and all it requires. You can still have high public safety in areas that have low or high protection.

Group Recap and Action Items

Mr. Moyle announced that a valley-wide forum will be held February 3, 2010 at San Joaquin Delta College. The purpose of the forum will be to discuss RCS, RCR, and other documents available for public review, and to recruit new work group members (ideally, many will be current members). Currently the team is looking at ways to stream/webcast the forum for those who can't attend and find ways for them to participate and add comments live. The program is interested in having at least one member from each work group participate in a panel on the documents produced.

Mr. Moyle also began scheduling the subcommittee's next meeting, which will likely be held December 14, 2009.

Action items are summarized on page 2 of this document.

Attachments:

- A. "Guiding Principles" from SVFCAW's "Flood Protection and Risk Management in the Sacramento Valley" draft white paper**
- B. SVFCAW participating agencies map**

For more information and copies of meeting materials, see the CVFMP website at:
<http://www.water.ca.gov/cvfmp>.

Attachment A

FLOOD PROTECTION AND RISK MANAGEMENT IN THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY – First Step White Paper
FINAL 11-06-2008

Corps of Engineers (Corps). Each partner should seek opportunities to apply permit and approval processes appropriate for the complexity and risk associated with each project. While it is recognized that projects may be implemented in stages, the whole system should be considered through implementation.

4. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Based on the Workgroup's review of the goals identified in FloodSAFE California and the Draft Strategic Plan the Workgroup has further developed the following guiding principles to augment or refine these goals identified by these documents:

- a. We believe the paramount duty of the State of California in developing and implementing the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan is to provide for the protection of public safety and welfare.
- b. The Sacramento River flood protection system should be recognized, evaluated, and improved as a system and not split into individual components. It shall further be designed, maintained, and operated to work as a whole.
- c. Flood protection in one part of the Sacramento Valley should not rely on levee failures in other portions of the system.
- d. There are and should be differential levels of flood protection for urban and rural communities and agricultural areas.
- e. Programs should be developed that provide incentives for rural communities and agricultural areas that voluntarily choose not to urbanize. These programs should reflect the value to the State's economy of keeping large portions of the system in agriculture. These programs should include assistance to rural communities and agricultural areas for emergency preparedness, communications, evacuation, and recovery.
- f. Existing rural communities and agricultural areas should be allowed to grow in a manner sufficient to sustain the economic viability of agriculture in the

Attachment A

FLOOD PROTECTION AND RISK MANAGEMENT IN THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY – First Step White Paper
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Sacramento Valley. If rural communities decide to urbanize, however, they should be subject to the more stringent requirements for such areas.

- g. No party will use eminent domain in connection with flood protection projects outside its area of responsibility.
- h. The implementation of flood protection improvements should be planned, designed, and constructed through partnerships with local agencies. A sustainable funding plan should be developed for implementation of levee repairs and improvements as well as on-going operation and maintenance of the system and individual levee districts.

The Workgroup strongly supports the State and Corps in cooperatively developing a new coordinated Central Valley Flood Protection Plan consistent with these principles; and all parties should jointly confer, develop, and provide a unified effort to legislatively and politically advance these principles.

6. REGIONAL INTEREST

The Workgroup was formed in March 2008 as a subcommittee of the California Central Valley Flood Control Association (CCVFCA) for the benefit of engaging local expertise, a broad range of interests, and resources to assist in the formulation of a regional flood protection and risk management plan for the Sacramento Valley. The Workgroup includes the following participating agencies:

- Knights Landing Ridge Drainage District
- Levee District 1, 3, and 9
- Marysville Levee Commission
- Reclamation Districts 10, 70, 108, 521, 777, 784, 803, 817, 823, 833, 1001, 1500, 1600, 1660, 2035, 2054, 2056, 2068, 2098, 2103, and 2106
- Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA)
- Sacramento River Westside Levee District
- Sutter-Butte Flood Control Agency
- Three River Levee Improvement Authority
- West Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (WSAFCA)

Attachment B

