CENTRAL VALLEY FLOOD MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROGRAM

FloodSAFE CALIFORNIA

Central Valley Flood Protection Plan

Meeting Summary

Agricultural Stewardship Scope Definition Joint Subcommittee Meeting #3

December 14, 2009, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
Location: California Farm Bureau Federation
2300 River Plaza Drive
Sacramento, CA 95833
First Floor Conference Room

ATTENDED:

Name	Organization	Status
Anderson, Ray	Retired Farmer	Member
Canevari, Mick	University of California Cooperative Extension	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)
Lang, Kent	RD 537, RD 1000 O&M	Member
Martin, Mari	Resource Management Coalition	Member
Medders, Karen	North Delta CARES	Member
Pegos, David	California Department of Food and Agriculture	Member
Richter, David	Sutter Basin grower	Member
Sakato, Max	Reclamation District No. 1500	Member
Sutton, Susan	SAS Strategies, rice farming	Member
Tatayon, Susan	The Nature Conservancy	Member
Taylor, William J.	Bureau of Reclamation	Member
Van Ruiten, Anthony	Van Ruiten Brothers	Member
Wallace, William Jr.	Landowner	Member
Kirby, Ken	Kirby Consulting Group	CVFMP Executive Sponsor
Ng, Michele	DWR	CVFPO
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
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
Perrone, Michael	DWR	Member
Rabone, Geoff	Merced Irrigation District	Member
Scheuring, Chris	California Farm Bureau Federation	Member
Sevelius, Pia	Butte County RCD	Member
Zezulak, David	California Department of Fish and Game	Member
Hester, Gary	DWR	CVFPO
Bartlett, Joe	DWR	CVFPO Alternate

OBSERVED:

Bair, Lewis	RD 108
Heringer, Les	M&T/ Sac Valley Landowners Association

ACTION ITEMS:

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

1. Send any additional comments or major concerns regarding the draft "Important Considerations" document (white paper) to mcmanus@water.ca.gov or to roger.g.putty@mwhglobal.com.
2. Review next white paper draft to ensure it accurately reflects your views and concerns.
3. Work with program/technical team to determine necessity for and to schedule tentatively the last Subcommittee meeting.

PROGRAM TEAM

1. Send CVFPP legislative requirements document to the group.
2. Follow up with Mick Canevari and Bill Taylor about water quality benefits and farm loans, respectively.
3. Insert into the white paper problem statements from the Regional Conditions Report (RCR) which correspond with the problems identified by the group in meeting 3.
4. Develop a set of Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) "measures of success" related to agricultural stewardship for the white paper as content and add into document.
5. Ensure all prior Subcommittee comments are integrated in the white paper.
6. Determine whether the Butte system is included in the FCSSR and/or in the CVFPP.
7. Schedule next meeting.

MEETING OVERVIEW

During this third meeting of the Agricultural Stewardship Scope Definition (AGSD) Joint Subcommittee, members discussed how their content will be integrated into the Regional Conditions Report; reviewed the first draft of the "Important Considerations" paper, the subcommittee's primary deliverable; agreed on a number of agriculture-specific "Problems and Opportunities" and "Goals" to be contained in the paper; brainstormed additional ideas for the Management Actions planning phase; discussed the February 3 Valley Wide Forum; and, began the process of scheduling the subcommittee's next meeting. The subcommittee will only meet a fourth time if more work is needed for the "Important Considerations" paper.

MEETING GOALS

1. Review paper that captures agricultural considerations for the CVFPP
2. Agree on metrics of success for agricultural concerns in the CVFPP
3. Gain conditional approval on the paper's content/perspective
4. Obtain feedback on Subcommittee process and usefulness

SUMMARY

Welcome, Action Items from AGSD Meeting #2, and Meeting #3 Overview

Dan McManus welcomed meeting attendees, invited them to introduce themselves, and reviewed action items from meeting two. Craig Moyle explained the meeting goals, agenda items, and handouts for today's meeting. Mr. Moyle requested additions to the CVFPP glossary or to the agenda, but none were offered. At the suggestion of Subcommittee members, the CVFPP team has added "nonstructural improvement" and "structural improvements" to the glossary, along with other new additions: "agricultural stewardship", "annual pass rate", "design discharge (flow)" and "design standard".

Status update of RCS/R Development

Roger Putty updated the subcommittee on the process to develop and review the Regional Conditions Report (RCR) and Regional Conditions Summary (RCS). The regional conditions work groups (RCWGs) will deliver their comments on the first draft of RCR chapters 4 (Goals and Principles) and 5 (Objectives) next week, and then a full draft of the RCR (five chapters) and the RCS will be distributed to all work groups in early January for review. This revised draft will address all comments received from RCWG members.

Mr. Putty reviewed the process for developing CVFPP to help group understand how their work now helps support RCR/S and the CVFPP, and Ken Kirby helped describe why the process is proceeding as it has. Many of the subcommittee's suggestions have been incorporated into the revised draft chapters of the RCR. The RCWG members requested that the revised draft chapters of the RCR be made available at the same time so they can be reviewed together. This review will occur in early January. Subcommittee members will see their contributions in the document at that point. Content and input from the subcommittee has been, and will continue to be, captured in the RCR through early January. Mr. Kirby reminded the subcommittee members that the

process requires input from different workgroups and perspectives, and the product must capture many viewpoints. He encouraged Subcommittee members to review the documents and provide feedback to assure their input is accurately documented.

The last RCWG meetings will occur between January 21 and 27, just before the Valley Wide Forum on February 3.The next CVFPP planning phase—development of Potential Management Actions—will begin in February and March, and new work groups will be formed to support it.

Focused Subcommittee Review of the "Important Considerations" Paper

Mr. Moyle explained the purpose of the extensive background information in the paper: to ensure readers unfamiliar with California agriculture will have a basic understanding of the industry and its importance to the state. Alex Tollette provided an overview of the paper's sections and introduced the "multipurpose benefits" and "principles" sections of the document. Subcommittee members and observers then provided feedback on these sections. Ken Kirby discussed his recommended changes to the paper's problem/opportunity statements and goals. These suggestions and feedback are summarized below.

Suggestions for the "Multipurpose Benefits of Agriculture" Section

Subcommittee members discussed ways in which agriculture can benefit water quality:

- Through the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program
- Watershed coalitions with landowners to monitor agricultural runoff
- Crops that help remove sediment through the irrigation process (e.g., alfalfa)
- Sediment removal:
    - Crops that mitigate for soil erosion or reduce soil erosion from runoff
    - Spreading of flood flows across agricultural lands can reduce water quality load on surface water bodies
- Dissolved organic carbons in water can be reduced by various cropping patterns to benefit the urban population
- Recycling of brackish water for irrigation use (Westlands WD)
- Reclaimed water for irrigation use

Potential language for the "water quality" bullet in the white paper: "Implementing and funding water quality monitoring programs through the state of California."

Subcommittee Member comment regarding water quality: Detection limits are now at the parts per trillion. It is becoming increasingly difficult to implement measures that can respond to this level of detection.

Suggestions for the "Principles" Section

To clarify, "Principles" are similar to constraints; they shape the available domain of things you are willing to do to satisfy the goals and objectives of the CVFPP. The principles in this section of the paper originated as bullets in the Sacramento Valley Flood Control Action Workgroup (SVFCAW) agricultural issues "talking points" paper. Subcommittee members suggested two additional principles:

- Maintain functionality of the current flood protection system while making improvements
- Develop alternative FEMA policy for rural communities that may not be able to sustain themselves if mapped into the regulatory floodplain

Review of "Problems/Opportunities" Statements
Mr. Kirby reminded the Subcommittee that the CVFPP will emphasize policy, and reviewed his changes to the problem statements, which appear below, with deletions in ~~strikethrough~~ and insertions underlined.

Levee Performance Dichotomy – The Central Valley flood management system once provided a relatively equal ~~playing field~~ level of flood protection between urban and non-urban ~~flood protection~~ areas. Over the past few decades, the level of protection has changed in parts of the system ~~but has now become dichotomous~~, particularly as communities have urbanized and made incremental levee improvements. Also, our collective understanding of levee failure mechanisms has improved, and the system hydrology and hydraulics have been updated. As a result, ~~consistency in levee performance within the system has been lost~~ not all areas throughout the system receive the same level of flood protection. While the differing levels of flood protection will likely continue, non-urban areas must not be left without adequate flood protection.

The group confirmed that the above statement accurately captured their concerns with regard to this subject.

~~**Flood Management Inequity**~~ **Agricultural Economies Vulnerable to Flooding** – ~~Agricultural areas are often shoulder the burden of receiving floodwaters in order to protect urban communities, and the~~ When floods occur in agricultural areas, resulting damages to crops and infrastructure can hinder rural communities' economic growth and stability long after waters have receded.

The group confirmed that this also accurately captured their concerns with regard to this subject.

Risk Exposure – Farmers' ability to borrow capital and obtain adequate insurance is connected to the perceived risk of flooding for areas being used for agriculture. Changes in the associated flood management ~~operations and flood risk~~ system can ~~result in~~ have positive, negative, or neutral ~~effects~~ affects on lending ~~institutions~~ and ~~crop~~ insurance programs.

The group confirmed that this statement reflects their concerns with regard to this subject, but that the "perception" component of this problem needs to be further highlighted in the first clause of the statement.

Habitat and Ecosystem Equity – Depending upon the magnitude and extent, ecosystem enhancements within flood corridors have the potential to ~~significantly~~ negatively impact the flood management system, public safety, and the existing agricultural land uses and benefits

Mr. Kirby and others agree that this title does not yet precisely reflect Subcommittee members' comments and that the problem statement needs to be reworked to reflect their concerns that vegetation in bypass channels can negatively affect flood protection.

Suggestions for Additional Problems/Opportunities

- Difficulty with ongoing maintenance is inhibited by environmental regulations
- Lack of adequate channel maintenance, such as removing snags, etc., imperils flood protection and may violate legally-binding easements
- Concern of vegetation management on levees. (It was noted that there are interim guidelines for this, so the topic is being addressed, but Subcommittee members expressed concerns that there is still a great deal of uncertainty as to what local maintaining agencies can and should be doing to manage vegetation on levees and the subcommittee agreed it is an important topic to list in the paper.)
- Institutional fragmentation on levee maintenance responsibilities
- Reduced channel carrying capacity
- Conflicting state and federal laws
- Land use encroachments up to the toe of levees

The issues identified above are contained within a number of the longer problem statements in the RCR, and these corresponding problem statements will be added to the paper.

Comment: Many locals have concerns regarding certain elements of the Comp Study, such as ring levees and meander zones, and their potential for consideration in this process.

Review of "Goals" Section

In contrast to "objectives," which are specific and measurable actions, goals set the general desired direction of the plan and future actions, but they are not described in ways that can be measured specifically.

Mr. Kirby reviewed his recommended changes to the goals, which appear below, with deletions in ~~strikethrough~~ and insertions <u>underlined</u>.

Manage Levee Performance Systemwide – ~~Improve~~ <u>Evaluate</u> levee performance ~~systemwide~~ <u>throughout the system and improve as needed to provide appropriate levels of flood protection for the land uses at risk.</u> ~~by establishing an agricultural and rural community levee standard and funding projects that will improve non-urban levees concurrent with urban levee improvements.~~

~~**Ensure Flood Recovery Parity**~~ <u>**Provide Appropriate Level of Flood Protection and Improve Flood Recovery**</u> – Reduce adverse economic effects to agricultural and rural communities that result from ~~these communities providing assistance in managing floodwaters in the system~~ <u>deficiencies in the existing flood protection system and improve ability of communities and agricultural areas to recover from floods when they occur.</u>

Mr. Kirby also suggested removing the goals titled "Effective Risk Communication", as this is captured in the paper's "Principles", and "Agriculture Preservation Commitment", as this sentiment is also captured in the paper's "Principles" and is something that should be considered for the Management Actions planning phase.

Suggested Changes or Comments on the "Goals" Section

- The "getting better together" sentiment from the SVFCAW "talking points" isn't reflected enough here.
- Substitute the phrase "flood control" for "flood management" or "flood protection."
- Title the first goal "Manage System-wide Performance" instead of "Improve Levee Performance System-wide" or "Manage Levee Performance Systemwide."

Question: Will this study follow not just the project levees, but others such as the Butte system that directly affect the project levees?
Answer: The CVFPP will describe how other flood management facilities potentially affect the performance of the Sacramento-San Joaquin flood management system. The project team will look into how other flood management facilities are addressed in the Flood Control System Status Report (FCSSR).

Suggestions for Section 2.5
Include more detailed discussion of private loans. Subcommittee member Bill Taylor offered to assist the planning team with this.

Suggested Potential Management Actions

As many Subcommittee members were interested in the next planning phase focused on Management Actions, several contributed ideas for consideration:

- Mitigation banking so each project doesn't have to stand on its own
- Permit streamlining
- Dredging and removal of snags
- Easing of ESA requirements

The SVFCAW "problems and opportunities list" may have additional potential management actions.

CVFPP Planning Areas

Mr. Putty clarified the concepts developed by DWR's Central Valley Flood Planning Office (CVFPO) for the different geographic areas and boundaries intended for use in the CVFPP. Mr. Kirby explained that this is an attempt to provide a clearer definition for all of the planning areas and what the plan will include for each of those areas. A map delineating these areas is included with these notes as "Attachment A."

- State Plan of Flood Control[1] Planning Area (SPFCPA) – the geographic area includes the lands currently receiving protection from the SPFC.
- Systemwide Planning Area (SPA) – the geographic area includes the lands that are subject to flooding associated with the current facilities and operation of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Flood Management System.[2] The SPFCPA is completely contained within the SPA.
- Watershed Planning Area (WPA) – the geographic area includes the entire Sacramento and San Joaquin River watersheds. The SPFCPA and the SPA are completely contained within the WPA.

Question: Does the watershed boundary go to the Kings River?
Answer: No. The Watershed Planning Area extends to the hydrologic boundary between the San Joaquin River watershed and the Kings River watershed. However, this is a definition used for the CVFPP and differs from the boundaries DWR uses for the Water Plan.

Question: In regards to the Water Code Section 9611 footnote, does the Central Valley Flood Protection Board have to approve these areas?
Answer: No. They have been given authority to add or remove facilities from the SPFC but they don't have to approve these planning areas. DWR is working closely with the Board to get their review and comment on these early planning documents.

Question: If the southern boundary changes, will the CVFPP still take into account all the water that flows into the San Joaquin River from the James Bypass?
Answer: Yes. If water flows into the watershed the CVFPP will be considering it.

Metrics to Evaluate CVFPP Effectiveness

Each topic work group has developed "measurements of success" that will function like a checklist members believe should be used to evaluate whether the CVFPP is "successful" in addressing their perspectives, concerns or interests. The discussion about the subcommittee's "measurements of success" for the CVFPP will be postponed until the subcommittee's technical team develops metrics for members to review as part of the white paper.

Valley Wide Forum

Mr. Moyle provided an overview of the forum's agenda items and panels, and announced that Tom Ellis will be representing the Agricultural Stewardship Scope Definition Joint Subcommittee on the topic work group panel. The Valley Wide Forum will be on February 3, 2010, in Stockton.

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[1] Please see CVFPP Glossary for the definition of "State Plan of Flood Control".

[2] Water Code Section 9611 defines the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Flood Management System as the system that includes the facilities of the State Plan of Flood Control, as amended, and any existing dam, levee, or other flood management facility that is not part of the State Plan of Flood Control if the board determines, upon recommendation of the department, that the facility does one or more of the following: (1) Provides significant systemwide benefits for managing flood risks within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley; (2) Protects urban areas within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley (where urban area herein is defined as "*any contiguous area in which more than 10,000 residents are protected by project levees*").

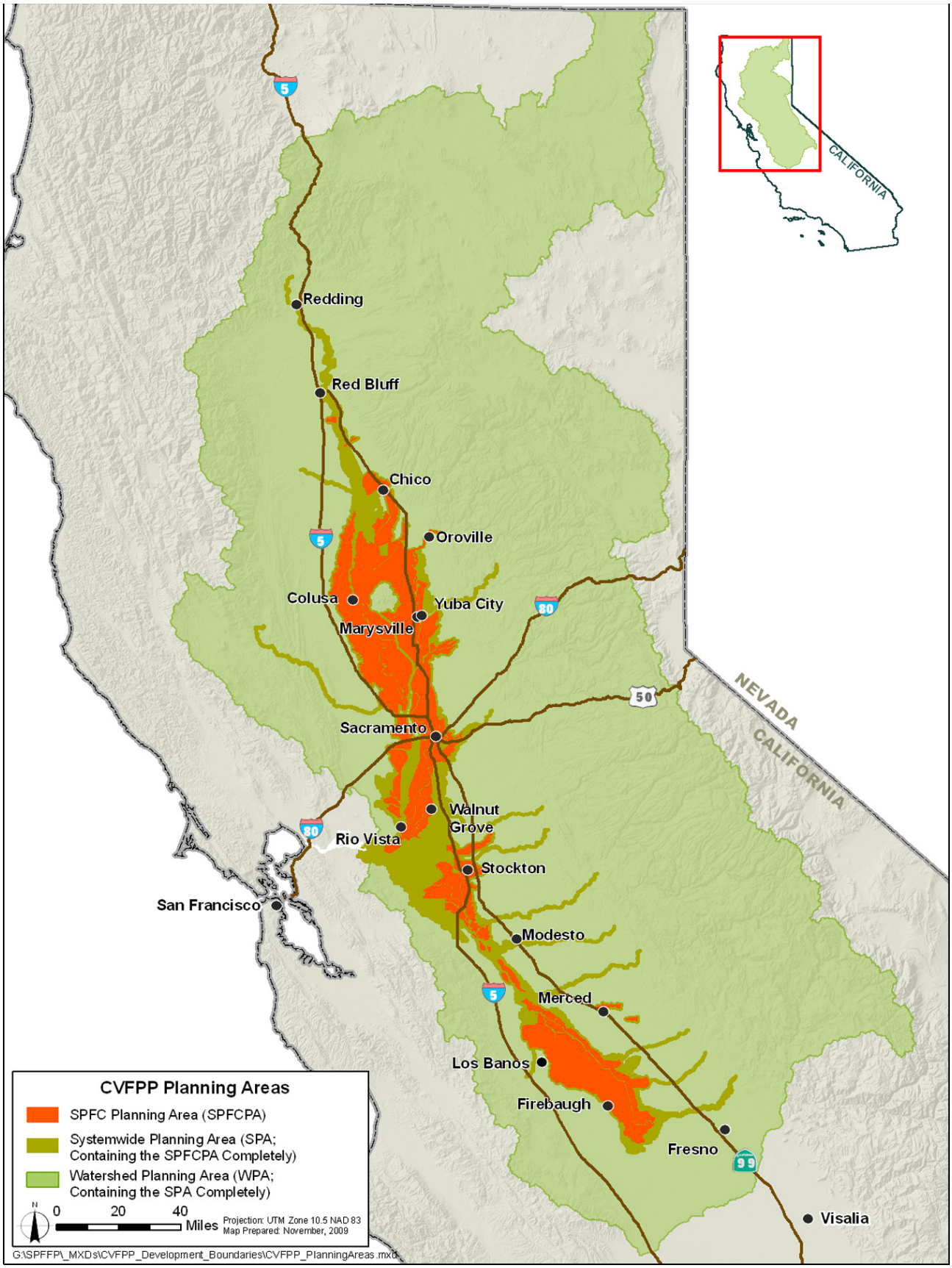
The format will be a series of discussion panels with representatives from each work group and subcommittee to represent work group accomplishments thus far. The US Army Corps of Engineers has been invited to join a panel in the afternoon. Attendees can ask questions or give feedback to panelists. The program team is working to set up a webcast that will also allow people to participate and may be able to ask questions remotely. A flyer describing the event components is expected to be distributed in the next few weeks.

Group Recap and Action Items

Once Subcommittee members receive the next draft of the white paper for review, they will determine whether another meeting in early January is warranted. The tentative time frame for this next meeting is the week of January 11, 2010. A request for availability for specific days during that week will be sent out once it's determined if another meeting is needed.

Action items are summarized on page 2 of this document.

Attachments:
Current CVFPP Planning Areas Map

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

Attachment A: Current CVFPP Planning Areas Map