California Department of Water Resources
Small Communities Flood Risk Reduction Program
Public Workshop Summary

DATE: Wednesday, November 12, 2015
WORKSHOP: 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Sacramento National Wildlife Area
752 County Road 99W, Willows, CA 95988

Workshop Overview and Participant Introductions

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) held a public workshop on November 12, 2015, focused on the Small Communities Flood Risk Reduction Program (Program).

DWR staff provided information about the Program application process, an overview of the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) process, and topic-specific options for flood risk reduction projects including multi-benefit projects, non-structural actions, and emergency response actions. Staff also provided expert advice on filling out applications for Program grants. The stated objectives of the workshop included:

- Develop shared understanding of the Program, including the grant application, feasibility study, and project implementation process
- Discuss range of projects/project types eligible for Program grant funding
- Provide overview of the Program's role in the larger CVFPP development process
- Collect public input on the Program draft Guidelines

Over 40 participants attended the workshop, including members of the public, federal agency staff, Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) members, and DWR staff/ supporting consultants. A full list of participants is provided in Appendix B.

This document summarizes the presentations made during the workshop, as well as questions and comments received and responses provided. It is not intended to serve as a detailed transcript of all comments made.

CVFPP Overview and Update

Mary Jimenez provided an overview of the 2017 CVFPP update process. The CVFPP serves as a comprehensive vision for sustainable flood management and investment in California's Central Valley. While the primary goal of the CVFPP is to improve flood risk management, supporting goals include improving operations and maintenance of the existing system, promoting ecosystem functions, improving institutional support for flood risk management, and promoting multi-benefit projects (i.e., flood projects that also improve the ecosystem, increase recreation, or other beneficial outcomes).

Ms. Jimenez explained that the 2017 CVFPP Update uses "outcomes-based planning" to focus on intended outcomes tied to societal values such as improved public safety, a stable and growing economy, enhancement of vital ecosystem functions, and enriching experiences. The desired results are

used as the foundation for planning, and planning activities emphasize the concrete measurement of results.

The 2017 Update is based on supporting documents including Basin-Wide Feasibility Studies for the Sacramento and San Joaquin basins, the Conservation Strategy, and Regional Flood Management Plans (RFMPs), and it informs state flood management/implementation programs including the Communities Program, Delta Levee Subventions, Flood System Repair, Urban Flood Risk Reduction, and many others.

Small Communities Program Overview

Greg Farley delivered an overview of the Program. The Program was created as a result of the 2012 CVFPP, and it continues to be refined through the RFMP process. It is designed to provide assistance to help small *non-urbanizing* communities of less than 10,000 people protected by the State Plan of Flood Control (SPFC) (within the Levee Flood Protection Zones (LFPZ)) achieve a 100-year level of flood protection. During the 2012 CVFPP work, DWR identified 27 small communities within the LFPZ that are eligible for Program grants. With the current outreach, additional communities have been identified. $50 million in Proposition 1E funding is available for projects; DWR will contribute up to $500,000 for local feasibility studies (phase 1) and additional funding for project design and implementation (phase 2).

Phase 1 funding is for project feasibility studies only. Applicants must be cities or counties with land use authority. All submissions should be consistent with DWR's Small Communities Guidelines, the Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP), support the state's interest in multi-benefit projects, and incorporate adaptive management for changing physical and societal conditions. To ensure consistency and assist grant applicants, DWR will work with small communities to develop scopes of work.

Mr. Farley explained that the Program was still very early in Phase 1 (Feasibility Study application). Comments on the Draft Program Guidelines are due[1] December 11, 2015, at 5:00 pm. Applications are due in January 2016, and Phase 1 agreements *should* be executed in early 2016. The Guidelines and additional Program information is available online at: http://www.water.ca.gov/floodmgmt/funding/small-communities.cfm.

Summary of Clarifying Questions and Responses on the Small Communities Program Overview

- **Question**: Staff explained that project applications should include evidence of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance. What does this mean? Confusion may exist on where CEQA compliance fits into the application and overall project process.
  - **Answer**: The PSP is very clear on page 20 that, prior to the execution of the funding agreement, the Grantee will need to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE) as Feasibility Studies are statutorily exempt from the requirements of CEQA. DWR will clarify that CEQA compliance (i.e., a negative declaration, categorical exemption, full Environmental Impact Report, etc.) will occur in Phase 2: design and implementation.
- **Question**: Are the Program's feasibility study requirements the same as federal feasibility study requirements?
  - **Answer**: No. Program feasibility study requirements are designed to be flexible enough to adequately analyze the proposed project while acknowledge local conditions. DWR will work with project applicants to develop scopes of work for their feasibility studies.

[1] After the November 12 workshop, the deadline to submit comments was extended to December 28, 2015.

- **Question**: Section 8.2 of the Program Guidelines includes indemnification language. Does this mean the state will require local project proponents to assume all liability for any modifications made to the SPFC? This has been a substantial issue with the Flood System Repair Project (FSRP), initiated in 2006.
  - **Answer**: As noted, Section 8.2 of the Program Guidelines states, "As part of the funding agreement, applicants shall indemnify and hold harmless the State, its officers, agents, and employees free and harmless from any and all liability from any claims and damages arising from the planning, design, construction, repair, replacement or rehabilitation, maintenance, and operation of the project and any breach of the funding agreement."
- **Question**: What is the total likely amount available for Phase 1 and Phase 2?
  - **Answer**: There is currently $50 million available. It is DWR's hope that additional funds can be added during Phase 2 from the potential federal partners and from Prop 1.
- **Question**: Are there only 27 communities eligible for Program funding?
  - **Answer**: Although 27 communities were called out in the 2012 CVFPP, DWR believes there may be more, and requests stakeholders contact staff to identify additional communities as needed.

Feasibility Study Guidance Document Overview

Mr. Farley provided an overview of the DWR-developed, "Guidance for Development of State-Led Feasibility Study." This document is intended to provide guidance on feasibility study processes. As noted above, the feasibility studies are intended to be flexible enough to meet the needs of project applicants while still providing rigorous analysis of the project in question. This is accomplished through a five-step process:

- Step 1: Identify problems and opportunities
- Step 2: Establish goals and objectives
- Step 3: Explore options to alleviate problems (formulate alternatives)
- Step 4: Evaluate options or alternatives
- Step 5: Conduct tradeoff analysis and recommend options/alternatives

The full Guidance document is available online at: http://www.water.ca.gov/floodmgmt/funding/docs/Final-Draft-Feasibility-Study-Guidance-wAppendices-2014.pdf.

Conservation Strategy Overview

Sara Denzler provided an overview of the CVFPP Conservation Strategy. The 2012 CVFPP called on all flood risk management projects to promote ecosystem functions whenever possible. The CVFPB strengthened this language in a resolution. As a result, the Conservation Strategy was developed for the 2017 CVFPP Update as a supporting document to:

- Provide a comprehensive, long-term approach to improving riverine habitat and floodplains
- Outline how to improve ecosystems beyond mitigation and contribute the recovery of species
- Help DWR and other agencies plan, design, and implement *multi-benefit* flood improvement actions
- Improve project delivery, reduce long-term costs, and attract funding (for flood risk management projects) from other sources

The Conservation Strategy identifies five conservation planning areas, including three in the Sacramento Valley/Delta and two in the San Joaquin Valley, and identifies guidance/approaches for multi-benefit flood management in these areas. If properly implemented, the Conservation Strategy lays out a framework for advanced mitigation (i.e., 1:1 replacement of habitat affected by flood risk management actions) and regional permitting. As Program applicants develop their projects, DWR staff can assist small communities with floodplain and flood damage reduction analyses, identify restoration opportunities, and provide species/habitat analysis for project areas to meet the goals of the Conservation Strategy.

After providing an overview of the Conservation Strategy, Ms. Denzler discussed a case study for conservation planning: the Hamilton City Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Project. The Hamilton City project constructed 6.8 miles of setback levee to increase flood protection, increase protection for the local waste water treatment facility, and restore approximately 1,500 acres of native habitats. A wide range of partners from local, state, and federal agencies, as well as private citizens and NGOs, ensured the success of the project.

Summary of Clarifying Questions and Responses on the Conservation Strategy Overview

- **Question**: How can Program applicants calculate the amount of geotech required for their projects?
    - **Answer**: DWR will work with small communities on their overall Geotechnical needs. The Non-Urban Levee Evaluation (NULE) program provides some tools that can assist with evaluating the levee stability.

Non-Structural Options Overview

Brian Walker provided an overview of non-structural actions for flood risk reduction that could be funded through the Program. Structural actions are defined by changing the characteristics (i.e., either state, frequency, or duration) of a flood event. Non-structural actions reduce damage/risk to a structure or area without changing the overall characteristics. DWR has found that non-structural approaches are effective at reducing residual risk when structural system improvements alone can't remove risk entirely.

DWR and federal partners (FEMA/USACE) provide a range of non-structural action resources, including the Non-Structural Action "Master List" of available actions, the Handbook for Assessing Value of State Management Investments (available online at http://www.water.ca.gov/economics/downloads/HAV_June2014_FINAL.pdf), HAZUS-MH (http://www.fema.gov/hazus), and HEC-FDA software (http://www.hec.usace.army.mil/software/hec-fda/).

Mr. Walker noted that participants should provide their contact information to him directly to get hard copies of the materials discussed above, as well as historical flood maps of various areas throughout the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys.

Emergency Response Options Overview

Brian Smith delivered an overview of emergency response tools/projects that could be funded by the Program. The 2012 CVFPP and RFMPs highlight the need for emergency response planning, and stress the importance of consistency between the state, regions, and local agencies on flood fight and public

safety issues. Flood safety plans can be developed with Program funding and should include a flood history narrative (i.e., the historical characteristics of floods on the small community in question), current response procedures, and breach/floodwater containment options. In addition to flood safety plans, funding can also be used to identify critical facilities, develop debris removal plans, and for floodwater removal planning. Written evacuation plans can also be developed.

In addition to planning activities, Program funds could also be used for flood emergency response training/exercises such as SEMS/ICS/NIMS training, participation in local/regional flood emergency response exercises, to purchase of flood fight materials, and to develop mutual aid agreements with nearby agencies/jurisdictions. The key to the needed emergency response work is that every feasibility study should include these elements and DWR can help with connecting to the various other ER programs.

DWR can also provide a range of emergency response assistance in addition to the Program, including technical assistance from the regional RFMP group, technical assistance from DWR itself, and funding from DWR Flood Emergency Response Projects Grant Programs.

Small Communities Program Next Steps

Next steps for the Program include:

- December 11, 2015: 60-day public comment period on draft guidelines closes [2]
- November/December 2015: Public workshops
- January 2016: Program applications due
- Early 2016: Execute Phase I agreements
- Fall 2016: Complete feasibility studies
- 2016-2019: Phase II: Design & Implementation

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[2] After the November 12 workshop, the deadline to submit comments was extended to December 28, 2015.

Appendix A - CVFPP Public Workshop Agenda

FLOOD MANAGEMENT PLANNING

California Department of Water Resources

Small Communities Flood Risk Reduction Program

Public Workshop

DATE: Thursday, Nov. 12, 2015
CHECK-IN: 2:45 to 3:00 p.m.
WORKSHOP: 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, Fire Training Room
752 County Road 99W, Willows, CA 95988

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES:

- Develop shared understanding of the Small Communities Flood Risk Reduction Program (Small Communities Program), including the grant application, feasibility study, and project implementation process
- Discuss range of projects/project types eligible for Small Communities Program grant funding
- Provide overview of the Small Communities Program's role in the larger Central Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) development process
- Collect public input on the Small Communities Program draft Guidelines

AGENDA:

#	Min.	Item	Presenter
1.	10 min	***Introduction and Call to Order*** • Call to order • Agenda and logistics review	Mary Jimenez, DWR Sam Magill, Kearns & West
2.	10 min	***Presentation: CVFPP Overview*** • CVFPP background • 2017 CVFPP status • Supporting Document Status	Mary Jimenez, DWR
3.	25 min	***Presentation: Small Communities Program Overview*** • Small Communities Program background • Small Communities protected by the State Plan of Flood Control	Greg Farley, DWR

		• Proposal Solicitation Package/Guidelines overview • Coordination with other agencies	
4.	25 min	***Presentation: State-Led Feasibility Study Guidance Document*** • Guidance document overview • Feasibility study purpose and need	Greg Farley, DWR
5.	10 min	***BREAK***	
6.	30 min	***Presentation: Conservation Strategy*** • Conservation Strategy Overview • Application of Conservation Strategy to Small Communities Program	Sara Denzler, DWR
7.	20 min	***Presentation: Non-Structural Actions*** • Residual Risk Actions	Brian Walker, DWR
8.	20 min	***Presentation: Emergency Response Actions*** • Residual Risk Actions • Emergency Preparedness in Small Communities	Brian Smith, DWR
9.	20 min	***Expert Advice: Filling Out the Small Communities Program Grant Application*** • Overview of application documents (scenarios) • Audience Q&A on application process	Susan Carroll, DWR
10.	10 min	***Wrap Up, Action Item Review and Adjourn*** • Action Items from workshop • Small Communities Program next steps and future workshops • Adjourn	Greg Farley, DWR Sam Magill, Kearns & West

Appendix B – List of CVFPP Public Workshop Participants[3]

CVFPP Public Workshop Participants		
Last Name	**First Name**	**Organization**
Barba	Raul	DWR
Buscy	Bryan	Reclamation District 108
Carter	Kristin	Grant Management Associates
Ellis	Rose Ann	Stakeholder/Property Owner
Ellis	Tom	Stakeholder/Property Owner
Eto	Jim	DWR
Fossum	Tom	Butte County
Fritz	Chris	PBI Engineers
Gomes	Matt	Glenn County
Hayes	Jessica	Michael Baker International
Henderson	Adam	Department of Water Resources (DWR)
Hillaire	Todd	DWR
Kasza	John	Stakeholder/Property Owner
Kasza	Kerry	Stakeholder/Property Owner
Leep	Ken	Atkins Global
Linton	Shirley	Stakeholder/Property Owner
Martin	Andrew	Mid/Upper Sacramento RFMP
Money	Becky	Kleinfelder
Nirmazaheri	Mike	GEI Consultants
O'Regan	Barry	Mid/Upper Sacramento RFMP
Orellana	Rachel	US Army Corps of Engineers
Peterson	Dave	PBI
Popper	Andy	Glenn County
Pritchard	John	Wood Rodgers
Punia	Jay	Wood Rodgers
Rolen	Matt	Stakeholder/Property Owner
Sakato	Max	Reclamation District 1500
Sankey	Paul	
Thach	Bichhien	DWR
Twitchell	Jeff	GEI Consultants

[3] Note that not all participants signed in. Total headcount was 44 participants and staff.