

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 7, 2009

From: Mike Chrisman 

To: Participants and Stakeholders

Subject: Bay Delta Conservation Plan Process and the FloodSAFE California Initiative

Governor Schwarzenegger is committed to developing a plan for the future of California's Delta. The Delta Vision process he established, with recommendations from an appointed task force and his Cabinet committee, has been instrumental in helping to address the complex and significant challenges that face the Delta region. There is broad consensus from this process on the "coequal goals" of providing a reliable water supply while ensuring protection for at-risk fish species. There is also strong agreement that updated flood protection in the Central Valley and the Delta must be provided.

The Bay Delta Conservation Plan, BDCP, initiated in October 2006, will establish an NCCP or Natural Communities Conservation Plan for the Delta. The state has also started to develop the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan as required by the Central Valley Flood Protection Act of 2008. Participants in these planning efforts see a need to define how the initiatives are related and to streamline our interactions so that they can provide meaningful input into the studies and programs. This letter is in response to those requests.

Several of the integrated water management initiatives within the Natural Resources Agency include the BDCP, FloodSAFE California, the Integrated Regional Water Management Program, and the Storage Investigation Program. Some related key initiatives that the Army Corps of Engineers is conducting include the Central Valley Integrated Flood Management Study, the Delta Islands Levee Feasibility Study, the Sacramento River Bank Protection Project, and several feasibility studies with local partners and state participation. The U.S. Department of Reclamation (Reclamation) is conducting the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (with assistance from the Department of Water Resources (DWR)), the Shasta Lake Water Resources Study, the Upper San Joaquin River Basin Storage Investigation, and the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project.

1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311, Sacramento, CA 95814 Ph. 916.653.5656 Fax 916.653.8102 <http://resources.ca.gov>



The Natural Resources Agency, DWR, the Corps and Reclamation have taken numerous steps to coordinate these projects and programs. There are quarterly meetings to discuss progress on programs, to explore potential for leveraging efforts, and to plan for coordinated partner and stakeholder engagement where possible. DWR leadership for FloodSAFE, Integrated Water Management, and the San Joaquin River Restoration Program meet monthly to discuss progress and upcoming activities. Furthermore, a principal engineer has been assigned to work between FloodSAFE and BDCP to facilitate timely and productive interactions and to help manage scheduling. In addition, DWR has created a new office called the FloodSAFE Environmental Stewardship and Statewide Resources Office (FESSRO) to administer DWR's Delta Levees Program and provide environmental science support for developing the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan.

The FloodSAFE office staff facilitates opportunities to bridge communication among reclamation districts in the Delta, other DWR programs such as BDCP and FloodSAFE, and federal programs such as the Delta Island Levees Feasibility Study. In addition to our existing internal coordination efforts, the Natural Resources Agency and DWR commit to:

- Engage the public through the BDCP and FloodSAFE Central Valley Flood Protection Plan processes and to share the information gathered through these processes with other programs that have similar goals, or that have the potential to impact the goals of BDCP and FloodSAFE.
- Formulate and implement each of the related projects and programs according to the attached set of Integrated Planning Principles.
- Create and update a document that contains a summary of study and program objectives for related initiatives and describe how any overlapping objectives or potential impacts will be addressed.
- Provide and update an integrated milestone schedule for each major initiative.
- Continue to conduct joint public workshops at least bi-annually with executive and policy representatives of all of the related major initiatives similar to the Delta Town Halls hosted by the Natural Resources Agency in 2008.

Integrated Planning Principles

1. Consider and maintain public safety as a top priority for all projects and programs being developed, formulated and designed.
2. Promote and incorporate environmental stewardship for all projects and programs being developed, formulated and designed.
3. Incorporate local land use planning considerations into all projects and programs relating to flood risk management and the rehabilitation of fish and wildlife habitat.
4. Encourage and fund projects that offer multiple or regional benefits and seek joint-funded projects that accomplish multiple objectives across various programs.

5. Protect and restore natural floodplain functions and processes, including new habitat opportunities for at-risk fish species.
6. Approach flood risk management on a system-wide basis and avoid adverse impacts.
7. Design and build flood protection facilities to avoid unexpected or catastrophic failures.
8. Promote and fund regional planning and implementation within a system-wide perspective.
9. Adapt water and flood management systems and environmental rehabilitation efforts to respond to cope with the impacts of climate change.
10. Provide accurate information about flood risks to help residents and communities make safer decisions.
11. Leverage state investments to provide maximum public benefits.
12. Provide equitable access to decision processes.

I want to express my appreciation for your continued participation in these important planning processes. Your active involvement will ensure Delta prosperity for future generations.