



CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN, UPDATE 2013

SEPTEMBER 13, 2012

FLOOD FUTURE REPORT

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Session Goals and Purpose:

- Update on the status of the Flood Future Report

MEETING SUMMARY

Welcome and Greetings:

Jason Sidley (DWR) welcomed the participants to the update on the Flood Future Report, and provided background on the document. Key recommendations of the Report were shared with the group during the presentation:

1. Conduct regional flood risk assessments to understand statewide flood risk
2. Increase public and policymaker awareness about flood risks to facilitate informed decisions
3. Increase support for flood emergency preparedness, response, and recovery programs to reduce flood impacts
4. Encourage land-use planning practices that reduce the consequences of flooding
5. Conduct flood management from regional, systemwide, and statewide perspectives to provide multiple benefits
6. Increase collaboration among public agencies to improve flood management planning, policies, and investments
7. Establish sufficient and stable funding mechanisms to reduce flood risk

The scheduled deadlines shared with the group included:

- Technical memorandums and California Flood Future Report Highlights document to be released in early 2013
- California Flood Future Report to be released in spring 2013.

Questions and Answers:

Following Mr. Sidley's presentation, the floor was opened up for discussion with the audience:

Q: What is your methodology for prioritizing projects, is it a cost/benefit analysis or will it include things like environmental benefits?

A: It will not be a straight cost/benefit analysis; there will be an IWM approach as well.

Comment: (USACE) The U.S Corps of Engineers Strategic Plan recommends an Integrated Water Management (IWM) approach. Special budgets will be based on a regional approach. When comes down to funding, we are still using traditional approach (by business line). The trend is to go to more towards an integrated approach.

Q: Does the swoosh logo represent co-equal goals?

A: Yes, they are co-equal values (Public Safety, Environmental Stewardship, Economic Stability)

Comment: I'm hoping that public draft materials will have plenty of time for public comment and review, and that the Corps will be involved in the comment process.

A: Yes and the USACE is a partner in producing the Flood Future Report.



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Q: You mentioned FEMA and the USACE several times. Have any discussions been had with Corps about money to help the people in agricultural flooded areas? No one wants to take on responsibility for repairing river banks. Does the report contain any provisions/discussions for recovery for farmers in a given area?

A: I'm not aware of any discussions about this, but I know we haven't heard from everyone yet. As far as issues to include in report, there are no recommendations made for specific projects. Discussions with FEMA have been general and about how their products can be beneficial to our effort. It is anticipated that the next phase will involve more collaboration with FEMA.

Comment: No one wants to make repairs to those channels. Those levee breaks are still in place because they haven't been maintained or repaired.

Q: How does this document link up to IRWM plans? Floodplain management seems to be a forefront of land use proposals—what is role of Corps in that? That seems to be a gaping hole there, and we need to equip floodplain managers with authority on land use.

A: Integrated Regional Management Plans (IRWMPs); we did a lot of information gathering on plans and an exposure analysis. We anticipate more alignment and collaboration going forward with the IRWMP regions.

Q: What about Land use? The State tries to stay out of telling locals about their land use decisions. We try to develop BMPs for land use.

A (USACE) FEMA has a lot of goals. 1% chance of flood is a common one. The Corps doesn't limit to 1% flood. Locals should determine their level of tolerable flood risk. We follow executive order 1198.

Q: Does the plan consider the full watershed in a holistic approach to flood control? Does the Statewide Flood Management Planning Program have the ability to review proposals to link them together to provide watershed approach? Do you anticipate cooperation among multiple entities?

A: We envision that is what the process will look like, but it will have to be done properly with everyone on board. DWR will be integral to the process.

Q: Do we have regional collaboration in watersheds? No external mechanism to ensure that continues into the future, and the barrier is partly financial. Would there be functions/mechanisms in the Flood Future Report to help local escrow accounts for local sponsors or incentives from DWR?

A: Yes, some sort of fiscal incentives are planned as part of the Statewide Flood Management Planning Program; one possibility is looking at ways in which we can help smaller or rural projects get off the ground.

Meeting Close