

STATE BOARD COMPREHENSIVE OPERATIONS PLAN AND MONITORING SPECIAL STUDY

Technical Workgroup Meeting #1– Final Draft Notes

June 14, 2021

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Attendees

- Jacob McQuirk/DWR
- Ibraheem Alsufi/DWR
- Karen Tolentino/DWR
- Jared Frantzich/DWR
- Eli Ateljevich/DWR
- Zhenlin Zhang/DWR
- Erin Andrews/DWR
- Brian Urbick/USBR
- Bryant Giorgi/DWR
- Paul Larson/DWR
- Nicky Sandhu/DWR
- Laura Benninger/USBR
- Daniel Deeds/USBR
- Randi Field/USBR
- Lindsay Kammeier/Delta Water Master
- Chandra Chilmakuri/State Water Contractors
- Ching-Fu Chang/Contra Costa Water District
- Tom Boardman/Westlands Water District
- Janis Cook/Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Maureen Martin/Contra Costa Water District
- Thomas Burke/Hydrologic Systems
- Erin Foresman/State Water Resources Control Board
- Stephen Louie/ State Water Resources Control Board
- Erika Britney/ICF
- Jenna O’Neill/ICF

Action Items

- DWR to finalize and distribute notes from the first stakeholder meeting.
- ALL: Let Erika know if you have input on meeting frequency (current idea is every 6 weeks).
- ALL: Send any other ideas for meeting ground rules to Erika.
- ALL: Let Eli know if you would like to be included in SCHISM development.
- Eli: Forward Tom existing emails related to SCHISM and cc Tom on current efforts.
- DWR (Jared/Eli/Ibraheem): Schedule a smaller meeting in July with John Herrick relating to groundwater sampling.
- ALL: Let Erika/DWR know if you would like to be a part of her water quality data integration study update (note: invitation will be sent to everyone).
- DWR: Add Shawn Mayr from DWR to workgroup to address bathymetry questions.
- Erika/DWR: Schedule a breakout session focused on related to the Water Quality Data Integration (Zhenlin study) next technical workgroup meeting.
- DWR: Track down as-built drawings of San Joaquin overflow into Paradise Cut (note: CVFPB/DFM should have as constructed drawings).
- DWR (Ibraheem): Plan a site visit to Paradise Cut.

- ALL: Let Ibraheem know if you are interested in joining the site visit to Paradise Cut.
- DWR (Ibraheem-led): Develop a Paradise Cut conceptual model.
- DWR (Karen) led effort to review the comprehensive operations plan to make sure the hypotheses align with needs and objectives.
- ALL: provide input on Paradise hypothesis / study questions
- Ibraheem & Jared coordinate with Tom Burke to plan/coordinate groundwater data collection, with Tom helping to work with irrigators in the South Delta vicinity.
- Erika will send out a Doodle poll for the next meeting for the week of July 12 or 19. Please let her know if you have any vacations or other conflicts during this time.

Meeting Notes

Welcome & overview (Jacob & Erika)

This technical workgroup will be a regular meeting that allows us to delve deeper into the details on the technical studies, and to get input and advice on the process. The goal is to have agreement when we get to the end of the process.

- These meetings will be planned for approximately every six weeks.
- There may also be smaller discussions based on the topic.
- Meeting notes will be distributed from both the first stakeholder meeting and today's technical meeting.

Ground rules (Erika)

The ground rules are to help us work together. These meetings will be technically focused. Each meeting will go deep on one or two topics. (See handout)

Study Updates

1. Salinity Point Source & Increased Ion Sampling (Jared)
 - Work is underway on a draft study plan. The draft will have some hypotheses and study questions for discussion with the technical work group. An internal team draft study plan review and edit meeting is planned for June 21.
 - *Action Item:* Schedule a small group meeting in July with John Herrick; to see if we can have a collaborative effort relating to groundwater sampling.
2. SCHISM (Eli)
 - Current expectations for SCHISM are to better calibrate the gates, and to refine bathymetry and the mesh.
 - Eli will be including Maureen on study development to ensure agreement.
 - *Action Item:* If others want to be part of the discussion and/or provide input on location that needs to be refined, etc. let Eli know.
 - *Note:* Tom wants to be involved.

- *Action Item:* Eli will forward Tom existing emails on this subject and cc Tom on current efforts.
 - *Action Item:* Use meeting with John Herrick (and others) to discuss integration of groundwater data in this study, too.
3. Water Quality Data Integration
- Zhenlin will be working with Ching-Fu and Maureen to address their questions.
 - *Action Item:* Let Zhenlin know if you would like to be a part of this.
 - Tom and Eli both expressed interest.
 - *Action Item:* Paul Larson suggested adding Shawn Mayr in future meetings to address bathymetry needs and capabilities.
 - *Action Item:* Erika: set-up a separate meeting for this. A breakout room as part of the next larger group meeting was suggested as an option that could work.
 - Ching-Fu wants to be part of this.

Paradise Cut (Ibraheem):

(See handout for overview)

Tom Burke, Hydraulic Systems

- Do we have any as-built drawings for the San Joaquin overflow into Paradise Cut?
 - *Response (Eli):* Tom do you mean elevations of the weir? I believe this is captured correctly in lidar. The flood analysis folks may also have designs
 - *Response (Jacob):* It is a Corps facility, so CVFPB/DFM should have as-constructed drawings. No low flow section.
 - *Action Item:* Track down these drawings.

Maureen Martin, Contra Costa Water District

- Was there an estimate of the flood flows in 2017 (volume or cfs of the spill) that resulted in the flush shown in the graphics?
 - *Response (Jacob):* anything over 20,000 cfs activates the weir



- Other factors to take into account in study design and data collection:
 - whether landowners in the vicinity of Paradise Cut are irrigating when the flushing study and monitoring is conducted
 - direction of flows when the flushing is applied

Jacob McQuirk, DWR

- *Action Item:* Ibraheem: organize a site visit to Paradise Cut (do not schedule around Jacob). If you're interested in joining this, let us know.
 - Note: Jared wants to be part of the tour

Hypotheses discussion:

- Janis: The last clause of the hypothesis as written is not completely clear to me.
- Jacob: Study needs to show the interaction of groundwater. It likely plays a significant role. My hypothesis is that salinity rebounds quickly due to the contribution of saline shallow groundwater moving back into the channel after weir flows end.
- Ching-fu: Given that the first hypothesis is known and the second is hard to test with the study, I'd appreciate clarification on why the study is needed and what we'll get out of it. Maureen: Study needs to account for direction of flow and whether landowners in the vicinity are applying irrigation water.
- Jacob: If we send water over the weir, can we flush all the way downstream?
- Chandra: have you considered using a dye tracer to validate whether flushing is reaching OMR.

- Nicky: Maybe we need a conceptual model. Is there a net flow INTO or OUT OF Paradise Cut for most of the year?
 - *Action Item:* Develop a Paradise Cut conceptual model.
- Karen: *Action Item:* Review the comprehensive operations plan to make sure the hypothesis aligns?
- Stephen: Can we use Tom Payne slough as a non-action control area to help test this hypothesis?
- Does it make sense to flush Paradise Cut if we don't know the source of the salinity? This study could provide an opportunity to figure out where the salt is coming from.
- *Action Item:* ALL: Send any other hypothesis ideas to Ibraheem.

Ibraheem Alsufi, DWR

- DWR doesn't have much groundwater data; perhaps we can coordinate with Tom and others for this data.
 - *Action Item:* Tom replied that they can work with irrigators in the vicinity to get this data.

Closing & Next Steps

Next meeting: Erika will send another Doodle Poll for the week of 7/12 and/or 7/19. Please let Erika know if you have a vacation planned during this time.