

File: Comments on Problems & Objectives *SY*

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Subject: Notes on Vulnerability
from 9/14/95 Workshop
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Notes on Vulnerability from 9/14/95 Public Workshop *Comments*

The following are my notes on the subject of vulnerability, based on public comments at the second CalFed Public Workshop on September 14, 1995. Where possible, I have included the name of the person making the comment. Unfortunately, there were a number of people who commented with whom I am not familiar.

Problems

1. Levees are not a static entity — millions of dollars have already been pumped into levees to maintain and improve them. Existing system for maintaining levees is running out — need new system for funding and maintenance of levees. (Stein Buer)
2. Dredging is essential to the maintenance of levees and is not a cause or a problem as stated in the handout material. (Tom Zuckerman?)
3. People in the Delta make significant efforts to maintain levees, but the handout materials say that the levees are poorly maintained.
4. The cause of levee problems is land use (agriculture) that leads to subsidence of the islands.
5. We need to focus more on the objectives and not just the problems and causes. (Bruce ?)
6. Levee failure in the west Delta may cause a permanent problem with salinity intrusion, not just a temporary one as stated in the handout materials. (Stein Buer)
7. Where did the toxic spill problem come from in B? It doesn't belong there — not sure where it goes, but should probably be in water supply quality or reliability. (Lynn O'Leary)

8. Do we want to add more "mays" instead of "woulds" to the problem statements so that the statements aren't quite so definite and final? (Kathy Kelly)
9. Don't use "may," use "can." (Ken Lentz)

Objectives

1. Dredging doesn't reduce levee stability.
2. There is often a conflict between levee maintenance and habitat maintenance — can't maintain the levee because it may destroy the habitat that has become established on or near the levee.
3. We need to address subsidence and/or raising the islands back to their original levels.
4. We need to rank the relative risk of levee failure as a result of earthquake, overtopping, and structural failure. Some rankings have been done previously based on various criteria.
5. Studies have shown that it is possible to raise the islands by maintaining water and vegetation on the island. This can result in fairly rapid accretion of organic soils. (Stein Buer)
6. Maybe we should talk of managing rather than reducing risks. This could be accomplished with insurance or other non-structural means.
7. We need to remember that flood control storage has a cost too, not just levees.
8. Work done previously by BDOC indicated that no matter what you do you will still have a resultant risk of levee failure. We need to have financial contingency plans to handle the results of a levee failure. (Alex Hildebrandt)