

**DELTA LEVEE AND CHANNEL
MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

**PERSPECTIVES AND ISSUES
OF CONCERN TO RECLAMATION
DISTRICTS**

CALIFORNIA CENTRAL VALLEY FLOOD CONTROL ASSOCIATION

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Mr. Steve Yaeger
Deputy Executive Officer
Bay Delta Oversight Council
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Subject: Peer Review of Draft Bay Delta Oversight Council Briefing
Paper on Delta Levees

Dear Mr. Yaeger:

On behalf of the California Central Valley Flood Control Association, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on your Briefing Paper on Delta Levees. The document adequately introduces the reader to problems associated with delta levees. However, as described below, we would caution against the manner in which the cost of recent levee rehabilitation projects compare to the Corps of Engineers 1982 Draft Feasibility Report on Delta Levees.

In several instances within the Briefing Paper it is stated that the Corps of Engineers estimated in 1982 that rehabilitation of delta levees would cost about 1 billion dollars or about \$2.06 million per levee mile. This figure is compared to the recent levee work on western delta islands which equated to a total cost less than the Corps estimates. One should be cautious when comparing the 1982 Corps estimates with recent levee work. The Corps of Engineers Draft Feasibility Report estimates included recreation and fish and wildlife enhancement features in addition to work performed on the levees. Levee work included flood walls and setback levees which are not typical of the recent western delta levee work. Levee costs also included increased freeboard due to wind fetch and ship wake, levee patrol roads and extensive bank protection. Land acquisition, damages and relocation of roads and bridges are also included. The Corps report also included

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staged construction where levee work is continually performed up to 90 years in the future. Stages subsequent to the initial stage are required to compensate for long-term subsidence due to foundation consolidation.

We agree that use of on-island borrow material and bay-delta dredge material would be less costly than potential borrow considered in the Corps report, such as the Peripheral Canal, Los Vaqueros Reservoir and Montezuma Hills. If the new innovative design suggested in the paper indeed reduces the fill required to rehabilitate and maintain levees to the standards used by the Corps, then there will certainly be a cost savings.

The Briefing Paper does a good job of introducing the reader to delta levees. We would encourage that Council members continue to educate themselves on delta levees. The complexities and uniqueness of delta levees are as varied as the number of reclamation districts in the delta. Further investigation by Council members would be beneficial in understanding the complexity of the delta and its levee system.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on your Briefing Paper. At this time the Central Valley Flood Control Association does not choose to write or submit a perspectives paper. We feel that the amount of data digestible at one time is limited, however, we would be happy to offer a perspective in the future as the Bay-Delta Oversight Council continues its work.

Sincerely yours,



Billy E. Martin
Manager