

**SUMMARY NOTES
CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM
LEVEE AND CHANNEL TECHNICAL TEAM MEETING
NOVEMBER 12, 1996**

CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM UPDATE

Curt Schmutte of the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) presented a brief update on the CALFED Bay-Delta Program (CALFED). The revised CALFED schedule for the Phase II Programmatic Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) is to complete conducting impact analysis between now and June 1997, and produce an administrative draft EIR/EIS in September 1997 and a public draft EIR/EIS in November 1997. By February 1997, the levee and channel technical team should submit information on the levee component of CALFED to CALFED staff for impact evaluation.

The following draft list of issues for the levee and channel component of CALFED was discussed.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| ■ priorities | ■ permit streamlining |
| ■ acceptable seismic risk | ■ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers involvement and cost sharing |
| ■ controlling urbanization | ■ federal funding |
| ■ controlling boat wakes | ■ influence of conveyance alternatives on flood control needs |
| ■ level of cost sharing | |
| ■ Endangered Species Act(s) concerns | |

LAND SUBSIDENCE SUBTEAM

The subsidence subteam is working to identify options to stop or reverse subsidence and determine the primary factors that influence subsidence. The options include managing flooding and shallow vegetation, capping, modifying agricultural practices, establishing deepwater areas (i.e., island reservoirs) and managing wetland habitats. The team is working to evaluate where these options should be implemented. It is collecting subsidence information by comparing 1908 and 1978 topographic maps and from results of demonstration projects and site-specific data on depth of peat soils and percent organic matter. There was some discussion on looking at how historical

agricultural practices influenced subsidence rates and whether or not agricultural management is feasible on capped soils.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE SUBTEAM

The emergency response subteam is working on a recommended emergency response plan for CALFED. The subteam is reviewing existing plans, making recommendations for changes in those plans, and defining the responsibilities and duties of the reclamation districts and the role of CALFED and DWR in emergency response. Participants discussed the terms "emergency", "quick response", "disaster recovery", "threatening disaster", "alert conditions", and "catastrophic conditions". The subteam will more clearly define the terms used in its plan and distinguish roles between the local, State, and federal emergency response providers. The participants also discussed how the emergency response plan could ensure receipt of funds and the availability of equipment and trained operators under emergency conditions.

SEISMIC SUSCEPTIBILITY SUBTEAM

Research on the response of peat soils to seismic activity is ongoing. The team received preliminary results from lab tests describing the dynamic properties of peat soils from the University of California investigation; a technical presentation of those results will be made at the next subteam meeting (November 15). Participants discussed how the results of this research may be used to evaluate the susceptibility of levees throughout the Delta using data on the thickness of peat soils and the problems (i.e., imprecision) with existing data on peak thickness in the Delta. The seismic susceptibility subteam is also evaluating emergency preparedness for earthquake damage and multiple island failures; this effort will most likely be combined with the emergency response subteam work.

LEVEE-ASSOCIATED HABITAT SUBTEAM

The work of the levee-associated habitat subteam is dependent on CALFED's ecosystem restoration technical review team work and goals and targets for different habitats in the Delta. The subteam is looking for opportunities to link habitat restoration with flood control activities. When CALFED staff determines the goals and targets under the ecosystem restoration program, the subteam will evaluate constraints on habitat improvements and establish demonstration projects to evaluate the effectiveness of linking habitat projects with flood control.