

Draft Meeting Notes
CALFED Bay-Delta Program Levee and Channel Technical Team
January 7, 1998 at 9:00 am in room 1142 of the Resources Building

Rob Cooke convened the meeting. The meeting minutes from 12-8-97 CALFED Levee and Channel meeting were reviewed and approved by the group with no comments.

Rob discussed the rewrite of the Levee System Integrity Program's long-term goals that were prepared based on comments from the prior meeting and/or written comments that were submitted separately. Dante noted that the emergency response effort should be led by DWR in goal #5 but DWR is not one of the listed agencies. Goal #1a addresses rehabilitating levees to the PL 84-99 standard and Margit and Ed felt the term "eligible" should precede levees because the project levees surrounding the big cities are not eligible. Chris noted that's because they are in the "secondary zone." There was some discussion by the group on goal #1c and Dante suggested rewriting it to say "implement ecosystem restoration with levee improvements."

Rob began the discussion of assurances that were assembled by the CALFED Levee and Channel Assurances Sub-Team in a meeting on 12-17-97. Rob said Mary Schoonover from the BDAC Assurances Workgroup will collect the group's comments and integrate them into their process. There was much discussion on the "Common Pool Concept." Margit thought there was a link between the first two assurances dealing with the common pool concept and funding streams. Rob asked Margit Aramburu, Dante John Nomellini, Jim Monroe, and Ed Littrell to provide some wording to include in the Assurances for continued discussion at the next meeting. Susan Hatfield asked about the use of the wording "no diversions" as opposed to using "some diversions." It appeared there could be two positions on the "common pool" concept and it was proposed that both positions (one from Delta interests) may be drafted and brought to the group.

B.J. Miller raised the issue that export water interests need an assurance that, in the event of multiple levee failures from a seismic event, they won't end up with a water shortage. B.J. thought there needed to be an assurance that said that and using language that said "fix the levees" was not adequately addressing that problem. Rob noted a Seismic Board was convening and would probably address that problem but B.J. didn't think the Board could conclude there was no risk of levee failure from seismic events. B.J. would write up a paragraph on his concern and float it to the group.

Jim Monroe thought the environmental enhancement assurance needed additional rewording with respect to mitigation banks. Mike Fris noted a 1:1 ratio can't always be accomplished and suggested we wait until Phase 3 to determine the ratio. Dante thought we should pick the safe magnitude and tie it to the funding. Jim Martin thought the word "banking" should be struck entirely and replace the phrase "mitigation banking" with "mitigation component". Some thought the reference to "Delta-wide" implementation had to be brought into paragraph 3 dealing with environmental enhancement and mitigation. Margit said the second sentence dealing with

mitigation banking and the 1:1 ratio should be struck entirely and the last sentence should add the word “environmental” in front of enhancement.

The fourth paragraph dealing with permits will be changed to delete any reference to a “proposed CALFED Delta Ecosystem Authority” as well as deleting any reference to funding for permits and mitigation. With respect to the various sections of the Water Code that were quoted as needing modification, it was noted there could be other sections of the Water Code and other laws that could need changing too. It was decided to simply note that some laws would need changing without referring to specific sections at this time.

The group discussed the paragraph dealing with the Base Level Protection Plan. Rob noted the cost estimate had been lowered to \$1 billion for upgrading all the levees to PL 84-99. There was some discussion on what the figure should be for annual spending. Dante thought the proposed figures should be lowered to \$20 million per year with a 10% mitigation component rather than referring to a fixed number.

For the paragraph dealing with cost sharing, it was proposed to delete the sentence “the Federal government will not participate in levee maintenance.”

There was concern from the group on the paragraph dealing with priorities for work. Chris Neudec noted that priorities in the past were set by available funding rather than a regional work plan. It was felt that we did not need an entity of “local interests.”

For the paragraph dealing with design and construction management, it was noted that the individual districts already go through their own competitive bidding process and do it for cheaper than the State could. It was proposed to delete the paragraph entirely.

Mike Heaton asked for clarification from the group on whether we would be continuing with the Delta Levee Subventions Program in the future when these funds for levee improvements become available and the group unanimously agreed yes we would be continuing with that program as it has been working just fine for 10 years.

Chris Neudeck noted the cash flow situation needed to be improved for the Delta Levee Subventions Program. Chris said his company can float costs for 60 days but not 360 days. The present setup allows progress payments for the Special Projects Program during the year but the Delta Levees Subventions Program pays at the end of a year when the work is completed and a final claim is submitted. Chris said the latter process needed to be changed to be more like the Special Projects Program although he wondered whether the Levee and Channel Technical Team was the group to do it.

Mike Driller gave an update on the progress of the Levee and Channel Seismic Sub-Team. A two-page handout on the group’s progress was distributed. The agenda for the seismic sub-group meeting on 12-19-97 was contained in the packet that was distributed to the Levee and Channel

Technical Team before the meeting. A Phase II chronological list of events was on the first page of the two-page handout that included activities such as the installation of strong motion instruments at sites in the Delta and the actual recording of low amplitude earthquakes in March of 1997. The second page of the two-page handout dealt with the last of the work that had to be done to complete Phase II and all of the activities that will occur in Phase III. Of particular note is the expected completion of a final draft report by March 6, 1998. It is expected that the report will be included in the CALFED Programmatic EIR/EIS.

Michael Norris noted that management from DWR Central District felt the Delta Atlas was in dire need of revision to include descriptions of such programs as SEEMS, IS, RIMS, the DWR web page, and so on. It is proposed that a workplan to revise the Delta Atlas could be prepared. Rob noted that he was preparing budget 1498 forms for district work and he could include the proposed workplan on the list of funding items.

Dante felt that emergency response should be addressed at the next meeting whereas Susan Hatfield thought ERPP concerns should be an agenda item. Rob noted there could be an ERPP presentation in about two or three months but not by the next meeting.

Rob set the next meeting of the CALFED Levee and Channel Technical Team for Wednesday February 4, 1998 from 9-12 in room 1142. That meeting will precede the Delta In-Channel Island meeting that same day from 1-4 at the State Lands Commission building on Howe Avenue and many people are expected to be attending both meetings.

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