

Agency Revision Team Meeting
June 2-3, 1998

Elevated Issues

Water Use Efficiency

- There is disagreement over the current program approach, which emphasizes incentives and markets more than a regulatory framework. (Penny Howard lead)

Water Transfers

- Should CALFED facilitate Cross-Delta water transfers? (Patrick Leonard lead)
- CALFED should determine whether water other than real water (i.e. water made available through conservation) can be transferred? (Carolyn Yale lead)
- SWP and CVP operators are concerned that, without reservoir refill criteria, vacated storage space will be filled with water which would otherwise be available to the project. In the absence of the transfer, there would be more water in the system in the subsequent year to meet project obligations (contract deliveries, Delta outflow or water quality requirements). The transfer might also cause the reservoir refill to be delayed, with a possible impact on conditions in the Delta. (Kathy Kelly lead)
- Generally there is no reliable capacity in CVP and SWP conveyance or pumping facilities for water transfers, in other than dry years. (Kathy Kelly lead)

Ecosystem Restoration

- The ERP does not adequately address the "ecosystem". It is too narrowly focused and should be expanded beyond the riparian corridor. (Patrick Leonard lead)
- Habitat restoration actions require significant agricultural land conversion, particularly in the Delta. Efforts to reduce and avoid impacts should be included at the Program and subsequently at the project level. Specific mitigation for agricultural impacts due to land conversion should also be included within the Program. (Robin Reynolds lead)

Levees

- Should the current configuration of the Delta be maintained, and under what constraints (at any cost)? (Gary Stern lead)
- Some stakeholders feel that the Suisun Marsh levees should be included in the levee program. DFG feels they should be included in the Emergency Response element of the Program. (Frank Wernette lead)
- CALFED is not planning to address inter-island subsidence beyond those efforts for levee integrity and ecosystem restoration. (Frank Wernette lead)

Water Quality

- There is disagreement over whether CALFED should support completing the San Luis Drain and other out-of-valley discharge options. (Carolyn Yale lead)
- There is disagreement over whether the Program should include dilution oriented actions. (Carolyn Yale lead)

Watershed Management

- There is disagreement over what constitutes an appropriate action in the upper watersheds in terms of nexus with the Bay-Delta. (Julie Tupper lead)

Implementation Planning

- There is a need to resolve issues related to CALFED structure and role including: organization size, staffing, responsibilities, oversight and budgetary support. (John Lowrie lead)

Levee System Integrity Issues--Page 1	When			Elevate	Type		Workplan Efforts	Agency Participants
	Prof. Alt.	Final	Phase III		Decision	Process		
There is concern that the cost of implementation may exceed the benefits; Program goals must be clear and alternative forms of risk management should be considered.			x	no		x	Levees and Channels Technical Team is working on setting the local cost share to a level that controls marginal investments. L&CTT meet monthly. All agencies are encouraged to attend.	DWR, DPC, USACOE, DFG
Proper integration of the Levee, Water Quality, and Ecosystem program elements is essential and may require a specific management entity to assure integration. In particular, levee and ecosystem restoration objectives may be challenging to achieve simultaneously.			x	no			The CALFED program managers are developing an integration plan. The plan will be coordinated with L&CTT, Conservation Strategy, and BDAC.	DWR, DPC, USACOE, DFG
Levee strengthening and the proposed design of setback levees results in the conversion of productive agricultural land. Government land acquisition and continued private land ownership must be evaluated.		x		no	?	?	As part of the eco/levee/conveyance integration, CALFED will coordinate with landowners on this issue. Ideas?-Establish a policy to minimize the impacts to Ag land and work with the owners to establish acceptable uses on levee berms. Acquire an easement, not fee title ?	?
There is concern that support for the levee restoration program would wane if an isolated facility were built.	x			Not Yet?		x	CALFED staff is planning to draft an assurance agreement that addresses this issue.	None

Levee System Integrity Issues--Page 2	When			Elevate	Type		Workplan Efforts	Agency Participants
	Pref. Alt.	Final	Phase III		Decision	Process		
There is concern that levee system integrity cannot be sustained if Delta land uses continue to cause subsidence; subsidence reversal should be a more prominent part of this program element.			X	no		X	The Subsidence Subteam of the L&CTT is working on this issue. The Levee Program will address levee integrity including subsidence near the levee.	DWR, DPC, USACOE
A major levee improvement program may require substantial dredging in the Delta and rivers, and this dredging may adversely affect water quality and sensitive fish and wildlife resources.			X	no		X	CALFED is coordinating with the CVRWQCB, DFG, USFWS, USACOE and NMFS at the Delta Levees and Habitat Advisory Committee meetings and the L&CTT. Progress has been very slow. Have \$500,000 in Category III funding to study dredging in the Delta and the reuse of dredged material.	CVRWQCB, DFG, USFWS, USACOE and NMFS
The long term sustainability of levee maintenance and associated agricultural activities needs to be evaluated with particular emphasis on areas with peat soils and identification of financial and policy incentives and disincentives to maintain levees.			X	Not Yet ?		X	The L&CTT will work on this issue. Idea?-Set the local cost share to a level that controls marginal investments. Same issue as #1 issue above? ?CALFED has indicated that the Delta should remain in its present form?	None

Levee System Integrity Issues--Page 3	When			Elevate	Type		Workplan Efforts	Agency Participants
	Pref. Alt.	Final	Phase III		Decision	Process		
<p>Some stakeholders feel that the Suisun marsh levees should be included in the levee program. DFG feels that they should be included in the Emergency Response element of the Levee Program.</p> <p>Note: Scope of project component is not well defined. Cost estimate not available. However, depending on what is included it could be a very significant cost.</p>	x			yes	x		<p>The L&CTT has discussed this issue.</p> <p>CALFED staff can refine project component and cost and send to Management Team and Policy Group for a decision.</p>	DWR, DPC, USACOE, DFG
<p>Some stakeholders feel strongly that the environmental regulatory process is confrontational, non-responsive, and a very low level of trust exists. They routinely refuse to have regulators survey their property because they feel it will be used against them. They feel the system is not working.</p> <p>Controlling levee and channel vegetation is routinely delayed or precluded due to impacts to endangered species. Vegetation is often removed in the cover of night. Levees and channels are kept striped of vegetation to avoid the delay of environmental documentation and mitigation.</p> <p>To improve the system a certain level of synergy must be developed.</p> <p>Stakeholders want an assurance that this issue will be resolved before they buy into the Solution.</p>	x			no		x	<p>Levees and Channels Technical Team feels that the resources need to be separated wherever possible to avoid future conflicts. CALFED has contracted with DFG to develop an environmental documentation and permit coordination process for all CALFED implementation actions.</p> <p>Ideas-?Set baseline values, institute HCP, encourage landowner revegetation with safe harbor agreements, build better working relationships based on trust and goodwill?</p>	DWR, DPC, USACOE, DFG

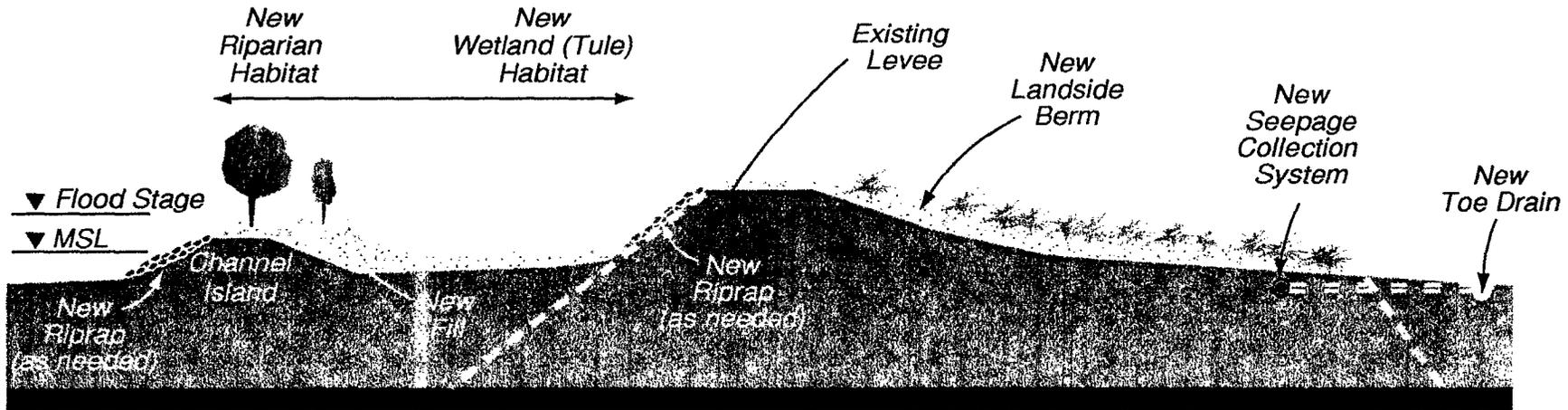
Levee System Integrity Issues--Page 4	When			Elevate	Type		Workplan Efforts	Agency Participants
	Pref. Alt.	Final	Phase III		Decision	Process		
<p>The levee Program will address Subsidence that affects <u>levee integrity</u>. The ERP will address subsidence <u>where opportunities exist for habitat restoration</u>. However, there isn't a CALFED program that addresses subsidence on inter-island areas that don't fit the cases listed above. The Natural Heritage Institute voiced concern with this issue at a L&CTT meeting.</p> <p>Note: There are significant stakeholder concerns with subsidence control if inter-island areas because it would take a lot of prime Ag. land out of production. Most islands aren't subsiding at a rate that would take them out of production in 100 years. Subsidence stops when peat soils are oxidized and gone.</p>	x			yes	x		<p>Frame issue for Management Team and Policy Group for a decision.</p> <p>Note: The L&CTT has a Subsidence Subteam that works on levee integrity subsidence issues.</p>	DWR, DPC, USACOE, DFG

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Figure B - 2

Examples of Levee and Habitat Improvements

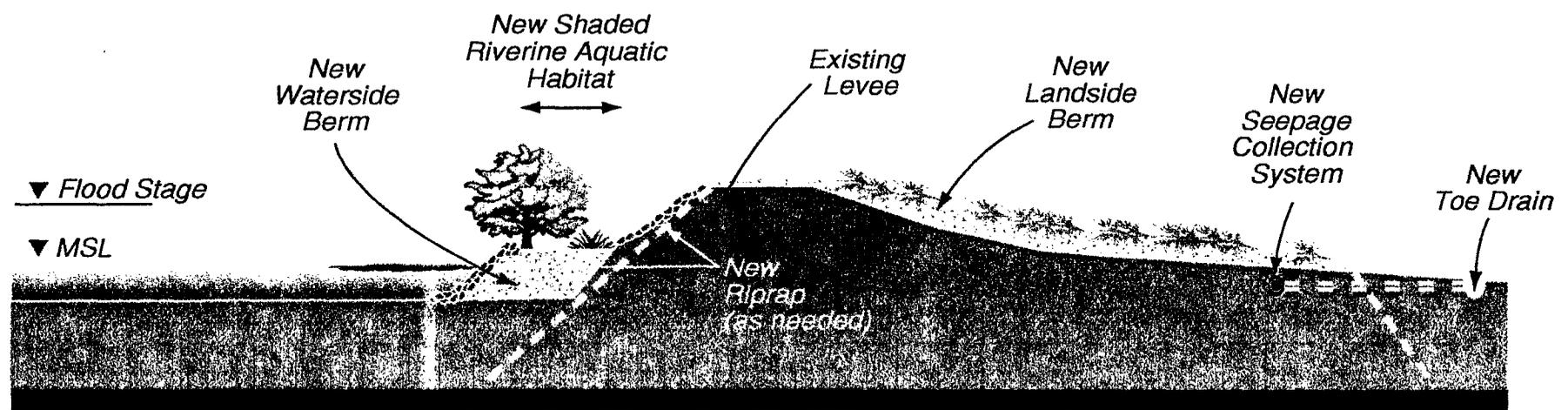


Levee Enlargement, Waterside Berm with New Riparian Habitat

#2

Figure B - 2

Examples of Levee and Habitat Improvements



Levee Enlargement, Waterside Berm with New (SRA) Habitat

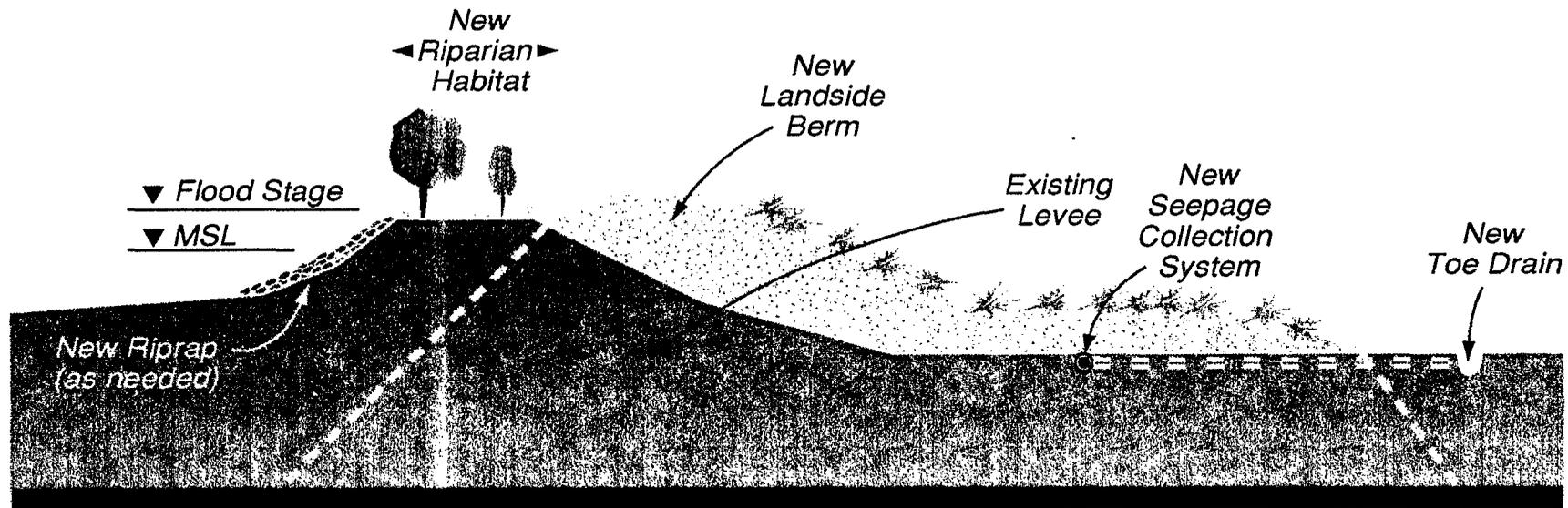
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Figure B - 3

Examples of Levee and Habitat Improvements

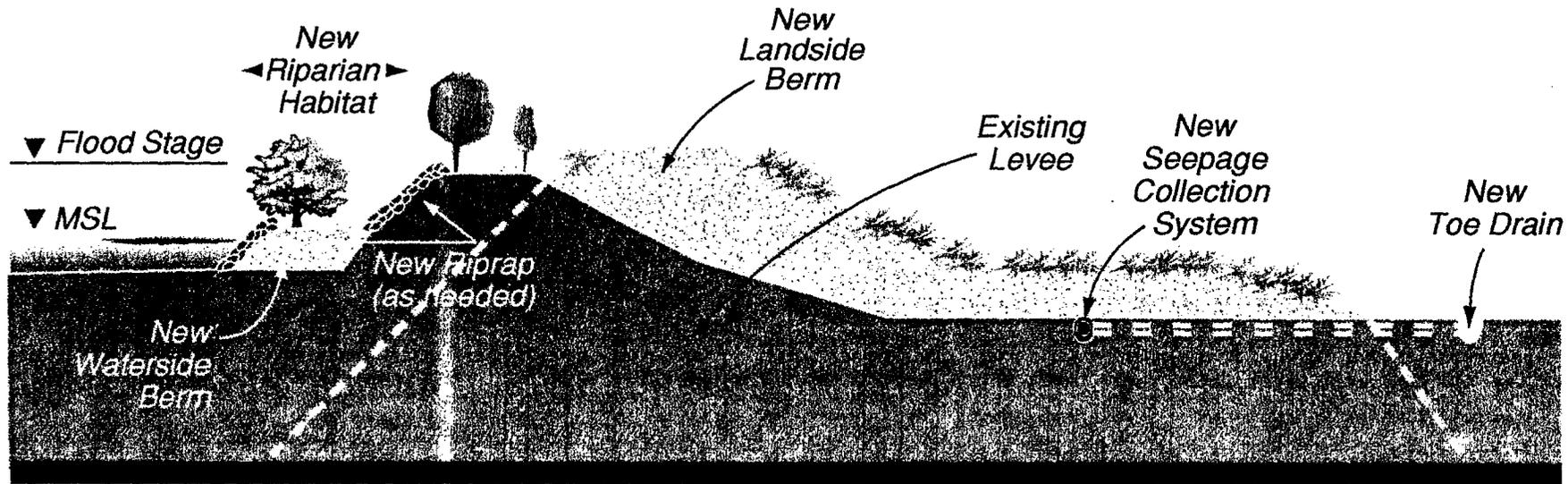


Raised Levee with New Riparian Habitat

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Figure B - 3

Examples of Levee and Habitat Improvements

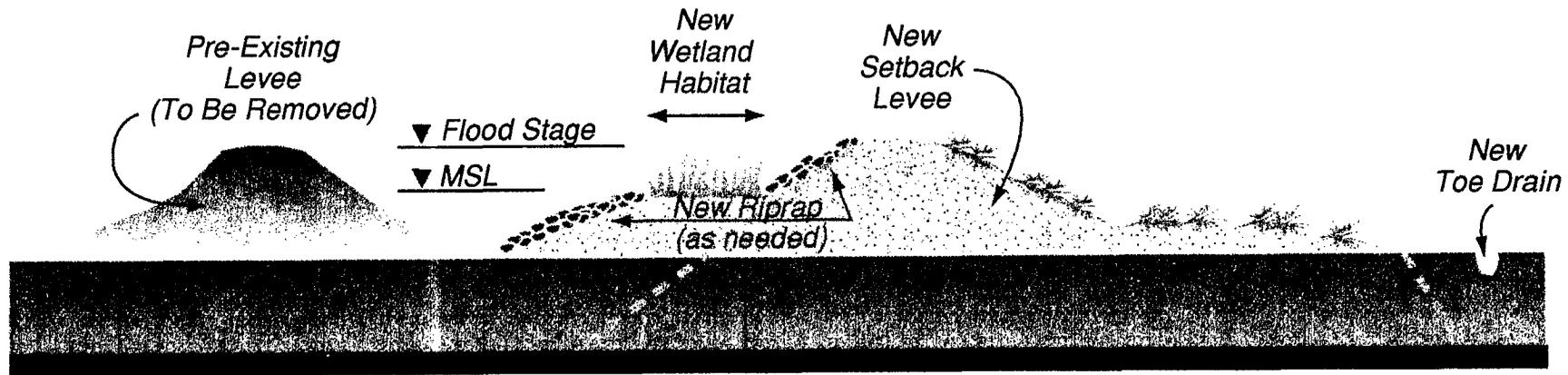


Raised Levee with New Riparian Wetland Habitat

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Figure B - 4

Examples of Levee and Habitat Improvements



Setback Levee with Habitat Improvements