

**Summary of Meeting**  
**CALFED Bay-Delta Program Levee and Channel Technical Team**  
**October 27, 1998**

**Key Discussion Items:**

- A Category III project on sediment toxicity was discussed.
- Beneficial reuse of dredge materials was discussed.
- The CMARP work product and the use of a common datum in the Delta were discussed.
- A Category III subsidence project on Twitchell Island was discussed.
- Safe Harbor Assurances were discussed.
- The existing AB360 program runs out of money in 8 months

**Action Items:**

- Task Order No 1 and Task Order No 2 for the Category III project on sediment toxicity were reviewed. There was discussion of adding RWQCB involvement in the process.
- Approximately 25 million cubic yards of material will be needed for levee reconstruction in the Delta. However, not all dredged material will be suitable for building up a levee cross section. Rather, some dredged material may likely be more suitable for usage on berms. The notion of disposing of material on-island and the need for a Dredged Material Management Office (DMMO) for the Delta was discussed.
- The final CMARP document is scheduled for release in early February of 1999. There is a new network of 110 nodes and there is a need for someone to come forward and maintain the points and encourage Delta usage of this new datum standard.
- A 15-acre biomass accumulation Category III subsidence project on Twitchell Island expands and carries on what is already occurring with subsidence studies and is scheduled to begin in 1999. Curt Schmutte gave an update on preliminary results from the present subsidence study on Twitchell Island. It was thought that the tules were phosphate deprived and accumulated biomass could result by adding phosphate but that turned out not to be true. Also, the water levels for flooding have not made a significant difference in biomass accumulation.
- A search of vegetation guidelines with regards to levee improvements was done and several references were found.
- A nine-step process for safe harbor type assurances for levee maintenance was presented as well as five examples of levee improvements that are conducive to habitat development.
- It is hoped that CALFED could be the forum to get some short-term Federal monies to keep the AB360 program continuing. Others are working on introducing legislation to provide funding for continuation of the program.
- The next meeting of the CALFED Levee and Channel Technical Team is scheduled for Wednesday December 9, 1998 from 9-12 at the Resources Building.

Draft Meeting Notes  
CALFED Bay-Delta Program Levee and Channel Technical Team  
October 27, 1998 at 9:00 am in room 1412 of the Resources Building

**Attendance List:**

Bill Betchart, private consultant  
Bert Brown, Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas Inc  
Lori Clamurro, Delta Protection Commission  
Robert Clark, CCFVCA  
John Cook, Corps of Engineers Emergency Management  
Rob Cooke, CALFED (chair)  
Gil Cosio, Murray Burns and Kienlen  
Mike Driller, DWR Division of Engineering  
Brian Finlayson, Dept of Fish and Game  
Paul Forsberg, Fish and Game  
Mike Hardesty, Reclamation District 2068  
Chuck Howard, US Bureau of Reclamation  
Kenneth King, private consultant  
Gwen Knittweis, CALFED  
Gil Labrie, DCC Engineering  
Dave Lawson, DWR Central District  
Ed Littrell, Dept of Fish and Game  
Michael Norris, DWR Central District (minutes)  
Lynn O'Leary, Corps of Engineers / CALFED  
Michael Ramsbotham, Corps of Engineers / CALFED  
Curt Schmutte, DWR Central District  
Tom Zuckerman, Central Delta Water Agency

Rob Cooke convened the meeting and had the group introduce themselves. The meeting minutes from 9-9-98 CALFED Levee and Channel meeting were reviewed and approved with no comments.

Brian Finlayson presented the first agenda item that was a discussion on a Category III project on sediment toxicity. The project entails performing a comprehensive study and developing a plan for dredge material management in two separate phases. Brian passed out a "Task Order No 1" and "Task Order No 2" handout which further described Phase 1 and Phase 2, respectively. Rob had a question on RWQCB involvement in the process. Although shown on a comprehensive strategy chart, they haven't in reality been involved in the past to the extent that DFG has been. Brian replied that he's trying to budget for a RWQCB staff person to be assigned half-time to the project.

Bill Betchart asked about impacts from dredging and Brian referred to his handout on the list of deliverables. Bill asked if this is related to the RWQCB issuance of a permit for any dredging

project and Brian concurred. Brian discussed the RWQCB issuance of a permit on a site-specific basis but not on a programmatic basis. In a related matter, Gil Cosio discussed the meetings of the Habitat Advisory Committee since the processing of a dredging General Permit was abandoned in 1992.

Gwen asked about the possibility of funding for RWQCB involvement in the process and Brian said he had received input that it might be best to subcontract with them. It was noted that a natural by-product of the study would be a CEQA document although that isn't noted in the list of deliverables. Ed Littrell noted that we haven't gotten to the first step since the General Permit process was lost in 1992 as Gil had noted because we haven't gotten RWQCB buy-in. Curt Schmutte asked if this matter could be brought up before the CALFED Policy and Management Committee and Rob said that Jerry Johns from the SWRCB is aware of the matter. Bill Betchart said the RWQCB representative should be at least a senior level staff person and not an entry-level person.

Michael Norris asked about linkages with the new EPA Inland Testing Manual and Brian said that would be looked at to see if it could be used.

Gwen Knittweis presented the next agenda item, which was the beneficial reuse of dredged materials. The key points were itemized in a handout that Gwen passed out. Gwen pointed out that approximately 25 million cubic yards of material will be needed for levee upgrades according to the cost estimate in the LTLPP. However, not all dredged material will be suitable for building up levee cross sections but may be more suitable for usage on berms. Also, the ERPP process will need a lot of material for shallow water habitat creation. It was noted that the Corps removes 300,000 to 500,000 cubic yards of material per year and there are disposal sites for this material.

Tom Zuckerman gave an example for McDonald Island where the dredge material was taken from the Stockton Deepwater Channel and pumped over the top of the levee onto the island and the locals were able to use the material after it dried out. Mike Driller gave another example of a suction dredging project where the cost to put it on the island was \$5 to \$10 per cubic yard in comparison to \$20 per cubic yard to dispose of it by barge. Driller said it makes sense to dispose of that material on-island because the districts need the material for structural counter balancing. Tom Zuckerman noted some problems with excess water in the dredge material and having to get rid of it.

Curt Schmutte said we need a Dredge Material Management Office (DMMO) with regards to the reference that was made to the use of a "realtor" to manage and coordinate dredge actions. Gwen said the thinking is to use a "DMMO" although it might not be called that. She envisioned a "web page" for sediment dredge projects. Tom thought the Delta Protection Commission (DPC) could probably perform well at doing this because they act as a Delta clearinghouse already to some extent.

Curt Schmutte noted the following items:

1. Franks Tract is already being worked on by a consultant (Moffet and Nichols) for a Category III project.
2. With respect to the reference to sediment traps, a Category III project on Twitchell Island is already involved in this action.
3. It makes sense to have a DMMO office where we have a levee program.

Tom Zuckerman finished discussion on this topic by noting that turning basins can be a win-win situation because we get the sediment to drop out where we can easily get to it.

Gwen Knittweis presented the next agenda item that was the Comprehensive Monitoring Assessment Research Program (CMARP) work product. According to Gwen, the monitoring serves to gauge how effective the CALFED actions are. Gwen noted we would build on existing programs. For example, monitoring for the Base Level Plan will build on that for the existing AB360 program. Rob noted the goals that he would like to see for CMARP include verifying assurances to stakeholders and facilitating the CALFED management approach (i.e. is this specific project making things better or do we need to throw it out). Rob wants to know exactly what questions we're trying to answer for "assurances" and what new research needs to be done. Gwen noted that CMARP has a steering committee to put the whole thing together but they're not there yet as far as who is going to do the monitoring. The final CMARP document is scheduled to be out in early February of 1999. Tom Zuckerman said that CMARP should not be about "go out and collect the data" but rather "what data is essential" and then we'll fund for that. Chuck Howard thought his CMARP group wasn't trying to say "who was going to do it" but rather "what are the needs".

Rob said he put together a strategy for CALFED after his CMARP meeting the past week in Bodega Bay.

With regards to the section on "linkages", Paul Forsberg had a comment on the Annual Levee Maintenance Inspection item under number 3. Paul said that DFG does an annual inspection that specifically looks at the vegetation component of AB360.

Gwen Knittweis presented the next agenda item that dealt with the Delta common datum issue. There is a new network of 110 nodes as illustrated in the draft meeting packet. There is a need for someone to come forward and maintain the points and encourage Delta usage of this new datum. Chuck Howard discussed what happened and how the effort should be coordinated by a State or Federal agency. Chuck discussed "quality assurances" for using this GPS network. Gil Cosio noted that each district has it's own datum. The districts use the stream gauges for reference. The districts know the levees are subsiding and the benchmarks are moving but the stream gauges are imbedded deep and are not moving. When a stream gauge hits "10" then a district knows it has a problem and its time to start sandbagging at certain places. The local's system isn't sophisticated enough to keep up with all the updates and we need to make the new datum mean something to the locals in terms of flood fighting. Gil asked about the Sacramento - San Joaquin Flood Control Study and whether or not it can be linked with the new datum if a new study had to be done.

Michael Ramsbotham presented the next agenda item which dealt with a Category III subsidence project. The project involves a 15-acre biomass accumulation project on Twitchell Island. A report by Steve Deverel should give us some information. A 1997 Category III project expands and carries on what started on Twitchell Island. The project is scheduled to begin in 1999 and will look at potential water quality impacts.

Curt discussed what's already happened with the Twitchell project and said we missed the growing season for 1997. The question became "what's the competition between the tules and cattails". Curt noted it was thought that tules were phosphate deprived and accumulated biomass could increase by adding phosphate but that turned out not to be true. Also, the water levels for flooding have not made a significant difference in biomass accumulation. Gil Cosio asked if the amount of water to grow the tules would be measured and Curt thought some mass balancing would be done but he'd have to look into that. According to Curt, a new project will be done at Olden Point on Twitchell Island. Curt discussed new techniques that can encourage deposition. It is thought that the reason we're not seeing re-accumulation in the Big Break area is because we get re-suspension from wind action. New techniques may be tried on Twitchell to encourage deposition and accumulation. The consulting firm of Phillip Williams and Associates is part of the team participating on the project.

Michael Ramsbotham presented the next agenda item that dealt with the PL84-99 vs. the HMP standard. Michael pointed out that when we go from HMP to PL84-99 standard, there will be impacts and required mitigation. Michael did a search of vegetation guidelines with regards to levee improvements and found several references including:

1. PL84-99 Title 33
2. PL84-99, ER 500-1-1, 11 March 1991
3. Vegetation Management Guidelines for Local, Non-project Delta Levees
4. Interim Guide For Vegetation on Flood Control Levees, State of California, The Resources Agency, Reclamation Board, September 1988
5. Guidelines for Landscape Planting at Floodwalls, Levees, and Embankment Dams, EM 1102-2-301, 31 March 1993
6. PL 104-303

Michael said we should try and figure out what we do now and noted "what we think is good may not be what the Corps thinks is good".

Rob Cooke presented the next agenda item that dealt with Safe Harbor Assurances and presented two handouts. One handout listed a nine-step process for safe harbor type assurances for levee maintenance. The strategy is to relocate habitat off the levee and put it elsewhere including the corridors. The second handout illustrated five examples of levee improvements that are conducive to habitat development. Rob noted "we need to reduce and eliminate the conflict" and he suggested that new habitat could be developed on-site which would eliminate the local agency having to get permission to do work on the old levee structural section or mitigate for habitat removal from the old section. Such a situation would be win-win for all parties. If there was

insufficient room for habitat to be developed on-site, then habitat corridors could be developed off-site.

Curt Schmutte noted that 3000' of habitat development on Twitchell Island cost roughly \$1.5 million. Rob thought we could find cheaper ways of doing it and we could do a "sprinkling" of it along with off-site mitigation and not necessarily 600-miles of it. Ed Littrell thought there were some cheap fix methods out there that are worth trying.

With respect to "other issues", Curt Schmutte noted the existing AB360 program runs out of money in 8 months and he thought CALFED could be the forum to get some short-term Federal monies to keep the program continuing. Curt asked for an agenda item at the next meeting to explore the possibility of using Dick Daniel's ecosystem program to provide temporary funding to keep the AB360 program going. Tom Zuckerman also noted he is working on legislation to get a funding bill introduced.

Bill Betchart noted his concern about the notion of seismic risk in the Delta being "manageable". He wondered about the basis for the statement and Rob reviewed the menu of choices that are available to manage the risk. Bill also discussed a concern about funding for items such as subsidence and seismic and he wondered if we should differentiate the funding for things such as construction projects in the field and the funding for exploration research that is ongoing.

Rob scheduled the next meeting of the CALFED Levee and Channel Technical Team for Wednesday December 9, 1998 from 9-12.

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