

**Draft Meeting Notes**  
**CALFED Bay-Delta Program Levee and Channel Technical Team**  
**June 10, 1999 at 9:00 am in Room 1142 of the Resources Building**

Attendance List:

Margit Aramburu, Delta Protection Commission  
Bill Betchart, private consultant  
Brian Campbell, East Bay Municipal Utility District  
Robert Clark, Central Valley Flood Control Association  
Rob Cooke, CALFED (chair)  
Kristen Cooper-Carter, CSU Chico  
Gil Cosio, Murray Burns and Kienlen  
Dennis Fox, private citizen  
Richard Holman, CSU Chico  
Walt Hoppe, private citizen  
Chuck Howard, US Bureau of Reclamation  
Gwen Knittweis, CALFED  
Dave Lawson, DWR Central District  
Ed Littrell, Dept of Fish and Game  
Chris Neudeck, Kjeldsen Sinnock and Neudeck Inc.  
Michael Norris, DWR Central District (minutes)  
Ann Marie Parkin, Metropolitan Water District Southern California  
Michael Ramsbotham, Corps of Engineers / CALFED  
Stan Soliday, CALFED  
Karl Winkler, DWR Central District

Rob Cooke convened the meeting and had the group introduce themselves. The meeting minutes from 3-31-99 CALFED Levee and Channel meeting were reviewed and approved with no changes.

Ed Littrell presented a discussion of habitat on levees. A draft Habitat Assessment has been prepared by DFG. Ed showed an example of a wall map showing the different habitat types that have been mapped for Grand Island. Both the individual Reclamation Districts (RDs) and DFG are doing some mapping efforts. Dennis Fox asked about mapping of Arundo and whether there is overlap with the work being done by the Department of Food and Agriculture. Richard Holman noted he is affiliated with the "Arundo del Norte" group and it's attempted eradication of Arundo habitat. Ed summarized by noting that DFG encourages RDs to eradicate Arundo and replace it with native species.

Ed also showed a Category III grant display for Rhode Island (adjacent to Little Mandeville Island) that shows satellite colored infrared mapping. Since the island was flooded in 1971, the mapping shows the elevation has changed from -6 feet to -2 feet and there are questions concerning whether or not fill material should be brought in.

Gwen Knittweis led the discussion on the agenda item dealing with the North Delta flood control issues. There was a separate handout available. There has been a lot of effort in the last few months to coordinate all the different study efforts. Gwen discussed efforts including the South Sacramento County Streams Project, the Sacramento County Planning Efforts, the Mokelumne River Feasibility Study, the Cosumnes River Feasibility Study, and CALFED Program Actions. In addition to these efforts, Margit Aramburu was aware of efforts under CVPIA where easements and acquisitions are being secured to preserve fish habitat and passage. A coordination entity will be formed for all these different efforts according to Gwen.

Stan Soliday gave a technical presentation on the North Delta flood control problem. The main problem is that the current system cannot adequately handle flood flows and continued development compounds the problem. One issue of concern is that the surveys that have been done are not comprehensive enough. Of the surveys, the 1995 DWR survey is probably the most comprehensive of the bunch. Stan showed a display of areas that have been surveyed adequately and areas needing more detailed mapping. There are concerns that bridge constrictions may not be reflected in the "DWOPER" modeling. High velocities are undercutting the bridge piers and there are estimates of 58,000 cfs at one bridge.

Stan explained one concept that he has discussed with Walt Hoppe that would use setbacks along the South Fork of the Mokelumne River. The project could be very expensive with a potential price tag of \$200 million. Richard Holman discussed a unique project his CSU Chico group is involved with where shredded tires are used in levee slurry cutoff walls along the Feather River but it was noted the problem in the North Delta is sheer volume and not so much levee instability. The setback levees are expected to perform like a "bypass system". There were questions about how proposed work on McCormack Williamson Tract would link with these actions.

Stan showed overheads for a variety of studied actions such as the Staten East Bypass, Staten West Bypass, Dredging, Staten Island Floodway, Staten Island Peak Storage, and so on. There was a question about whether or not fish would get stranded in flooded tracts such as Staten and McCormack Williamson.

Stan showed an example of synthetic fabric that is used to protect side slopes. Chris Neudeck discussed the consequences of using matting without using rock. It doesn't work in some cases. Dennis Fox asked about permeable and impermeable fabrics and its use on levee slopes. Chris noted there are examples where it doesn't work although not all alternatives have been fully explored because of cost. Some fabrics aren't permeable enough to release water fast enough according to Chris.

Chuck Howard noted some flood storage alternatives that were discussed a long time ago but have since been forgotten such as the "Clay Station Reservoir" which would have been south of the Cosumnes River.

Gwen Knittweis led the discussion on the agenda item dealing with the Suisun Marsh. Gwen showed figures of CALFED Levee Breach Impact Analysis. Worsened water quality was expected from the breaching action but the modeling showed water quality improvements in some cases. Gwen said that RMA Engineering is doing modeling for six scenarios for 100-foot breaches and 5,000-foot breaches. Rob Cooke noted that modeling shows water quality improvements if the breaches are between 100 to 200 feet. According to Gwen, RMA Engineering will have preliminary results in several months. The Suisun Marsh Levee Investigation will produce a cost estimate for the optimal alternatives.

Bill Betchart asked whether water quality improvements were verified for the marsh in the 1998 floods and Gwen replied that she would look into it. Karl Winkler thought some people were looking at water quality during the 1998 floods although they were not actually performing measurements. Karl thought the modeling needs to go further than just "flooding" and look at whether or not CALFED objectives are being met. Karl thought this had to be done before we sink big dollars into the Marsh.

Rob Cooke led the discussion on the agenda item dealing with levee program funding. There is no Budget Change Proposal (BCP) presently in the budget and proposed Assembly Bill 1521 is dead. A \$50 million bond measure is still being discussed for March of 2000 but that's not a done deal. Dave Lawson discussed some budget actions "not in conference" which means they may still find their way into the budget. Chris Neudeck noted he and Tom Zuckerman's staff met staff from Assemblymen Machado and Pat Johnson's offices about the levee funding issue. The problem is the Governor will not fund ongoing programs with budget surplus monies. The proposed measure for \$25 million is no longer being discussed so an alternative action for \$12 to \$15 million was being floated for discussion.

Gwen Knittweis led the discussion on the agenda item dealing with Permit Coordination. Rob Cooke noted they are still working with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) on dredging actions. Gwen discussed three different contracts that are being funded with Category III grant monies. Margit Aramburu is putting together a technical advisory committee for permit coordination and noted there are 13 slots that will be filled.

Rob Cooke led the discussion on the agenda item dealing with the sea level rise topic. It is estimated that 3" to 6" of sea level rise could occur in the next 50 years. There was a handout in the agenda packet and Rob is accepting comments on the issue. Chris Neudeck thought a place in the Delta should be selected for the "zero point" and not the H Street Bridge in Sacramento. Stan Soliday said 2-3 mm/year of sea level rise is actively discussed on Internet web sites. According to Stan, the consequence of sea level rise really occurring as it is estimated to occur will be that any CALFED project constructed for the Delta will face a 3-6" increase in water surface elevation.

Rob scheduled the next meeting of the CALFED Levee and Channel Technical Team for Thursday July 29, 1999 from 9-12.