

**Draft Meeting Notes CALFED Bay-Delta Program
Suisun Marsh Levee Investigation Sub-Team
November 4, 1999 at 9:00 am in Room 1142 of the Resources Building**

Attendance List:

Dennis Becker, Fish and Game, Grizzly Island
Tracie Billington, CALFED
Steven Chappell, Suisun RCD
Rob Cooke, CALFED
Gilbert Cosio, MBK Engineers
John DeGeorge, RMA Consultants
Chris Enright, DWR Environmental Services Office
Ralph Finch, CALFED
Stacie Grinbergs, RMA Consultants
Kamyar Guivetchi, DWR Environmental Services Office
Gwen Knittweis, CALFED (chair)
Arnold Lenk, RD 2127 (Wheeler)
Terry Mills, CALFED
Michael Norris, DWR Central District (minutes)
Richard Rachiele, RMA Consultants
Curt Schmutte, DWR Central District
Dave Showers, DWR Central District
Jim Starr, Fish and Game, Stockton

Gwen Knittweis convened the meeting and had the group introduce themselves. There were no comments on the previous 9-30-99 meeting minutes from the sub-team.

John DeGeorge presented the first agenda item dealing with an update of the RMA modeling process. The model is two-dimensional as opposed to the one-dimensional model used by DWR Environmental Services Office. John noted that a massive rebuilding of the front-end model was done as previous studies of the San Francisco bay didn't focus on the delta. The model is good for trend analysis but isn't quite there yet for fine predictive analysis. (There were different configurations for narrow and wide levee breaches and salinity results depend on the breach conditions). There was a question from Rob Cooke as to whether or not more than one scenario would be implemented and if the water quality benefits would be additive. John noted that one probably wouldn't do all of the breaches although it was within the realm of possibilities to do some of the breaches and that the benefits would not be directly additive. There was a reminder that the breach scenarios were designed around acreage goals according to the ERP. The wider breaches generally showed higher salinity. There was a question about whether the levee breaches were similar to levee breaks but John didn't think so. He emphasized the model breached but did not break the levee for the analysis. Changes occur in the modeling results as breaches are made from Morrow Island to Grizzly Island to Van Sickle Island. In general, more salt is getting into the system with the wider breaches and the peak flows are a little lower with the narrow breaches. Curt Schmutte

wondered how higher salinity could result when more fresh water is being let into the system and John DeGeorge and Richard Rachiele felt it was due to more mixing. The preliminary conclusions of the work were as follows:

- The RMA model was significantly improved to meet the needs of this study
- First level calibration for flow and salinity is reasonable but further calibration is necessary
- Salinity impacts for levee breaches for two-dimensional modeling are comparable to one-dimensional modeling except for the results for Van Sickle Island
- Reduction in tidal stage and flow tends to reduce mixing of salt into the Delta
- Tidal trapping tends to increase mixing of salt into the Delta

Kamyar Guivetchi asked about whether or not the time series files could be provided to the team for more detailed viewing and the RMA consultants said it was possible to do this for some of the files that could be put on CDs.

There was a question about using the model for an analysis of Franks Tract except that it would be the reverse of what the model had been used for. Instead of failing a levee on Franks Tract (which is already underwater), the underwater levees would be restored and the model would be used to predict the salinity changes from this action. It wasn't clear whether or not the model would be used for that sort of analysis.

Chris Enright noted the plan is to run the same way that RMA did their analysis. Of note, the assumptions and same four-month cycle would have to be used for a reasonable comparison to be made between the two models.

Curt thought the modeling showed that it was wise to spend monies in the Marsh to maintain the levees because the modeling is showing that an unmanaged system could create tidal marsh but at the expense of higher Delta salinity.

Gwen thought that the results of the modeling done by the DWR Environmental Services Office were corroborated by the later results of the RMA modeling. Jim Starr wondered whether we could make this statement when two of three results were corroborated but one was different. The RMA consultants attempted to explain why they believe the results were different.

Kamyar also wondered about the level of confidence of the one-dimensional modeling results. If RMA does any more modeling, Kamyar would want it done the same way as the one-dimensional modeling was done.

Chris Enright wondered if we are prepared to answer the question from CALFED, which asked, "should Suisun Marsh levees be included with the Delta levees for the CALFED plan"? It was thought by the group that we know a lot more now than we used to know to comfortably answer the question although the sentiment was for the Marsh levees to be included in the CALFED plan.

Gwen Knittweis and Chris Enright presented the next agenda item dealing with the sub-

team activities. A matrix had been developed for the "wide breach" scenario with results presented for Shallow Water Habitat and Tidal Marsh. Another matrix will be developed for the "small" or "controlled" breach. Kamyar discussed "Tidal Range Difference" and there were opinions about what the matrix should show. Rob Cooke and Steve Chappell thought the matrix needed to be digested by the sub-team so that something else could be put together for the CALFED Policy Team for a recommendation to be made. Kamyar wondered if CALFED is asking "yes" for inclusion of some Marsh levees and "no" to others or a blanket "yes" or "no" for inclusion or deletion of all the Marsh levees. Rob thought that CALFED would be looking at the impacts of leaving the levees out as opposed to bringing them in.

Arnold Lenk wondered about whether or not sea level rise from global warming should be added to the analysis. There is an 8-inch to 10-inch rise in sea level predicted by experts to occur by the year 2030.

Gwen Knittweis presented the next agenda item dealing with the Proposed Investigation Report Format. A handout was presented for discussion. Section I dealing with "Summary and Findings" was thought to be the most important section and the one where the sub-team should focus most of their energy. Section I and Section II (Background) should be covered by CALFED according to Gwen. Kamyar noted there is a Suisun Ecological Workgroup report coming out soon which could provide reference material for Section III dealing with "The Suisun Marsh". Sections IV and V dealing with "Investigation Considerations" and "Modeling Results" could be split between the DWR ESO unit and the RMA consulting team. Steve Chappell and Arnold Lenk could do section VI dealing with "Public Outreach and Other Research". Section VII dealing with "Analysis of Modeling and Research Results" could be done by CALFED. Lastly, Gil Cosio of the MBK consulting firm could do Section VIII dealing with "Cost Estimate for Selected Scenarios".

Steve Chappell and Arnold Lenk presented the next agenda item dealing with a Discussion of Plans for Landowner Outreach. It was thought that this task would be a Suisun Resource Conservation District (SRCD) undertaking because they are the lead organization in charge of the Marsh. At this time, SRCD wants more of a conclusion about what is coming out of the group. Arnold didn't think much would happen before the end of January or February because of the upcoming holidays and absentee landowners. A newsletter is being done using the SRCD newsletter and this should help. Arnold also thought those newspapers from Suisun/Fairfield and Vacaville should be brought in for involvement too. Steve thought that if a meeting was held then a larger facility such as one at Solano College would be needed. Rob noted that we are working with willing sellers so that if the landowners aren't willing then it just won't happen. It was thought that a half-day workshop would be required at a minimum. Steve thought that we needed a dredging component for the Marsh but mention of the word "dredging" worried Rob and Gil. Steve thought there could be an absence of willing landowners if there was no dredging component but Kamyar thought dredging was one possible option and import material is another. Gwen wondered if landowner review of our report was necessary. Rob didn't think you could rush the landowner component. Steve thought we

would need two mailings between now and the proposed public workshop to the "full" mailing list.

The next meeting of the sub-team will be on Tuesday November 30, 1999 from 9-11 in room 1118-30.

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