

SACRAMENTO AND SAN JOAQUIN RIVER BASINS COMPREHENSIVE STUDY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 5, 1998

1. **Call to Order and Welcome.** Ms. Susan Ramos called the Executive Committee meeting to order at 10:40 a.m on March 5, 1998, in the Corps District Office in Sacramento. The agenda and attendance list are attached. Colonel Dorothy Klasse and Messrs. Frank Dal Gallo (The Reclamation Board) and Ray Hart (California Department of Water Resources) welcomed meeting participants and provided opening remarks.

2. **Study Accomplishments.** In January 1998, the Corps received approval of the Hydraulic Engineering Management Plan, Post Flood Assessment Plan of Action, Project Study Plan, and Planning Services Contractor Selection. In February, the study team initiated work on baseline mapping (GIS) and the Corps and The Rec Bd signed the Federal Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA). The FCSA addresses the entire 4-year, \$21M, study. In March, we held a Partnering Agreement Signing Ceremony on the steps of the State Capitol.

4. **Public Involvement Program (PIP).** Key to the success of the Study will be developing and implementing a PIP that effectively reaches the various concerned publics, constructively engages those publics in the planning process, and carefully ensures that concerns expressed by these publics are addressed during the problem identification and plan formulation processes. The following elements are being considered for inclusion in the PIP: Internet web site; written status reports; informational brochures; use of interactive computerized models to develop a shared-vision/consensus about historic, current, and/or future conditions and opportunities; technical support groups; participation in existing public involvement efforts, for example SB 10-86; and general public workshops and meetings. Personal outreach to County Boards of Supervisors and landowners is particularly important.

5. **STELLA Model.** The Study Team attended a demonstration of the STELLA model (interactive computer planning model) conducted by Jones and Stokes Associates. This model was used by the Corps and the State of Florida for the Florida Everglades comprehensive study. Representatives from the Corps' Institute for Water Resources recommended the evaluation of the usefulness of this model as a PIP tool.

6. **Sacramento River Basin Technical Support Group.** Mr. Rick Dreher summarized meetings held on February 23 and 26 to identify flooding and related environmental problems on the Sacramento River. The Technical Support Group identified 3 primary problems: (1) floodplain development; (2) erosion, and (3) declining quality and extent of riparian habitats and associated species.

7. **San Joaquin River Basin Technical Support Group.** Mr. Ron Milligan summarized meetings held on 24 and 27 to identify flooding and environmental problems on the San Joaquin River. The Technical Support Group identified 5 key problems on the San Joaquin River system: (1) inadequate channel capacity, (2) deficiencies in some levee construction, (3) independent reservoir management, (4) impacts of abandoned gavel pits, and (5) institutional issues related to levee and channel maintenance. The Technical Support Groups will next meet to discuss the problems identified by each group and to draft preliminary study objectives.

8. **Group Discussion.** To achieve a long-term solution to flood damage reduction and interrelated ecosystem restoration it will be essential to: openly discuss criteria for evaluating alternatives; acknowledge the value of agricultural lands; address concerns of the agricultural community; recognize private property rights; and objectively negotiate a balance of values.

9. **Next Executive Committee Meeting.** The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for April, 30 1998 at 10:00 a.m. in the Corps' Sacramento District office, 1325 J Street, Room 1840.