

***** DRAFT *****

February 20, 1997

Revised : February 26, 1997

Organizational Charter

*Interagency Task Force
(Levee and Associated Restoration Projects)*

1. Authority:

This Charter is established under the authority of OMB memorandum dated 18 February 1997; subject: Floodplain Management and Procedures for Evaluation and Review of Levee and Associated Restoration Projects.

2. Purpose:

The purpose of the Interagency Task Force is: a) to ensure that agencies fully consider relevant options, including non-structural alternatives, during evaluation and review of levee repair and reconstruction projects; and b) to assist in the rapid and effective recovery of the damaged flood control systems in a way that will minimize risk to life and property, while ensuring a cost-effective approach to flood damage mitigation and floodplain management, and the protection of important environmental and natural resource values that are inherent to the floodplain and adjacent lands.

3. Goals:

The Task Force will achieve its purpose by accomplishing the following goals:

a. Ensuring that full consideration is given to all agency authorities and programs, alternatives for flood damage reduction, including permanent evacuation of floodprone areas, flood warning, creation of additional natural and artificial storage, adequately sized and maintained levees, and environmental restoration and ecosystem management alternatives when there are willing sellers of the lands required for such alternatives;

b. The Task Force will complete its work in a timely manner to assure that the damaged flood control systems are restored and fully operational by the start of the next flood season;

c. The Task Force shall not deny any member agency from commenting on existing programs for levee repair and associated restoration projects, where that is in accord with sound financial and environmental practices, nor to create unnecessary or avoidable delays.

4. Applicability: This Charter is applicable to those agencies identified as members and will serve as the authority for the task force to meet and act on matters assigned to it.

5. Period: The requirement for the continuation of the task force will be dependent upon the disaster activity during any given year and at the discretion of the lead agency.

6. References:

a. *OMB Memorandum, 18 February 1997, Subject: Floodplain Management and Procedures for Evaluation and Review of Levee and Associated Restoration Projects.*

b. *Executive Order 11988, May 24, 1977.*

c. *Water Resources Development Act of 1996.*

d. *Agency references.*

7. Direction and Control: *The interagency task force works under the leadership of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.*

8. Membership:

a. *The Task Force will include a multi-disciplinary and interagency group of experts in fields relevant to levee rehabilitation, floodplain management and the environment, with member representatives from each involved Federal agency and appropriate State and local agencies.*

b. *The Task Force will be chaired by a Senior Representative of the impacted Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Other Federal member representatives will include: Department of Interior (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation), FEMA, U.S. Department of Agriculture (Natural Resources Conservation Service), EPA, U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban*

Development, U.S. Department of Transportation, U.S. Small Business Administration and other members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

c. State member representatives will include: Reclamation Boards or Levee Districts, Departments of Fish and Game, State Land Commissions, State EPA Offices, and State Councils on Environmental Quality and other agencies.

d. Local member representatives will include: Reclamation Boards or Levee Districts, other State-Fed organizations and the Project Sponsors.

9. Funding: Funding for agency representatives shall be furnished by those participating agencies. The Federal Emergency Management Agency will fund space requirements for the group as part of the FEMA Mitigation Program.

10. Administration:

a. Chairperson is responsible to ensure preparation of a summary of each meeting.

b. Administrative support will be provided by the lead agency in coordination with FEMA and the DFO staff.

c. The Task Force will meet on a monthly basis (or more frequently if necessary) to review all proposals for repair and restoration of flood damaged levees and associated systems.

d. Meetings will be run informally by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Chair to allow all member representatives to comment on the repair and restoration reports.

While informal, these meetings will operate professionally (like a River Commission) in order to facilitate a timely transfer of comments to the responsible U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Office, NRCS, etc.

11. Procedures:

a. Agencies should establish an internal progress review process to resolve problems to preclude last minute showstoppers prior to Final Reports being prepared.

b. Upon receipt of Final Repair/Restoration Report (through e-mail if possible), each Task Force representative will thoroughly review the report with consideration to applicable State and Federal laws and regulations. In addition, each representative shall consider, to the extent appropriate and practicable to include the availability of willing sellers of any required lands, nonstructural alternatives, environmental restoration alternatives, and design modifications that could:

- reduce future flood damages to the applicant and adjacent upstream and downstream localities,*
- lower long-term cost to the taxpayers,*
- improve environmental conditions, including water quality, and*
- assist public and private landowners in fulfilling their conservation objectives or obligations related to protected species, wetland restoration and riparian habitat*

protection.

c. Within 24 hours of receipt of the report the Task Force shall meet to discuss any comments they may have on the levee report(s). A group discussion shall be held and comments shall be received from all agencies. In addition, at this time, all agencies shall discuss, and take full advantage of, opportunities to use their authorities, in cooperation with the other participating agencies, to conduct work supportive of the overall health of the watersheds in the upland areas draining into the streams and tributaries subject to flood restoration work.

d. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Chair will coordinate all the comments and the Task Force will agree on a recommendation regarding the report. Any Task Force recommendation which proposes a modification to the recommendation contained in a Final Repair/Restoration Report shall include sufficient information and a proposed strategy for implementation to assure that the damaged flood control system is restored and operational by the start of the next flood season.

e. (Other Agencies input)

f. Continuing through August 1997, each agency shall report on a monthly basis through the appropriate Assistant Secretary level office to the Office of Management and Budget on the status of levee repair and associated restoration, including: applications received, comments received, actions taken and dollars spent. In addition, the Task Force, as a whole, shall prepare and deliver a monthly report to the ASA (CW) for inclusion in the report of the Secretary of the Army.