Summary of Meeting
CALFED Bay-Delta Program Levee and Channel Technical Team
November 12, 1996

Key Discussion Items

- A draft Programmatic EIR/EIS is scheduled to be published by CALFED in September of 1997 according to the latest schedule.
- Each sub-team of the Levee and Channel Technical Team gave an update on their progress since the last meeting.
- The Draft Delta Island Prioritization Criteria handout was discussed.

Action Items

- The levee-associated habitat, land subsidence, seismic susceptibility, in-channel island, beneficial reuse of dredge materials, and emergency response sub-teams have already started some work and reports/handouts regarding their progress were presented to the tech team.
- Some written comments on the Draft Delta Island Prioritization Criteria had been received ahead of time and they were presented to the group. Other comments were taken during the meeting. The comments will be used to prepare a revised Draft Delta Island Prioritization Criteria.
- An Information Matrix will be developed from the Draft Delta Island Prioritization Criteria. A draft Information Matrix spreadsheet was handed out.
- A public workshop for the CALFED Levee and Channel Technical Team has been scheduled for December 17, 1996.

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Draft Meeting Notes
CALFED Bay-Delta Program Levee and Channel Technical Team
November 12, 1996 at 1:00 pm in room 1142 of the Resources Building

Attendance List:
Technical Team:
Curt Schmutte (chair), DWR
Gilbert Cosio, MBK consultants
Alex Hildebrand, South Delta Water Agency
Tom Zuckerman, Central Delta Water Agency
Chris Neudeck, KSN consultants
Ed Littrell, Fish and Game
Steve Deverel, private consultant to DWR
AnnMarie Parkin, DWR
Bill Forsythe, DWR
Ralph Torres, DWR
Kent Nelson, DWR
Matt Vandenberg, USFWS
Karl Winkler, DWR
Lynn O'Leary, Corps of Engineers
Jim Monroe, Corps of Engineers
Jim Goodwin, US Bureau of Reclamation
Steve Goldbeck, Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC)
Brian Ross, EPA
CALFED Staff/Consulting Team:
Victor Pacheco
Michael Norris (minutes)
Jim Martin
Ray McDowell
Niall McCarten, Jones and Stokes
Don Wagenet, Tetra Tech
Loren Bottorff, CH2MHill
Ken Casaday, Jones and Stokes
Aimee Dour, Jones and Stokes (minutes)
Ulrich Luschen, Woodward Clyde
Dale Flowers, CALFED Consulting Team
Guests:
Bill Betchart, private consultant

Curt convened the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves since there were some new faces.

There were no comments on the minutes for the 9-10-96 meeting of the Levee and Channel

Technical Team.

Curt Schmutte mentioned all the different groups that now exist in CALFED to demonstrate the level of sophistication in the CALFED process. Curt attended CALFED Program Managers and Policy meetings where he gave a presentation on the beneficial reuse of dredge materials.

Curt reported that the latest CALFED schedule calls for the Component Refinement to end on February 10, 1997. A draft EIR/EIS is scheduled for publication in September of 1997. Curt stated that the schedule means that the Levee and Channel Technical Team will have to finish their "prioritization analysis" by January in order for that work to be included in the EIR/EIS process.

Curt presented a list of draft "issues" for the Levee and Channel Technical Team. The issues include:

- Priorities (flood control, subsidence, habitat, etc.)
- Acceptable Seismic Risk
- Controlling Urbanization
- Controlling Boat Wakes
- Level of Cost Sharing
- Endangered Species Concerns (dredging windows, shallow water habitat, etc)
- Greater Corps of Engineers Involvement and Cost Sharing in Beneficial Reuse of Dredge Materials
- How Federal Dollars Will Be Spent (subventions or Corps projects)

Tom Zuckerman thought a separate issue should be "Permit Streamlining". Tom also noted the configuration of the Delta might change depending on which alternative is implemented and we need an issue for the "Linkage Between the Final Alternative and the Levee/Habitat Program".

Alex Hildebrand thought the issue for Acceptable Seismic Risk should include a "Linkage With Conveyance and Emergency Response".

Steve Deverel gave a presentation on the progress of the land subsidence sub-team. Steve referred to a handout entitled "Development of Subsidence Mitigation Options for the Delta". Page 2 of the four-page handout compares a typical drained agricultural field, where there is a net carbon loss from organics being oxidized, to a permanently shallow flooded area, where a net accumulation of plant biomass can result in a net carbon gain which could potentially reverse subsidence. Another example is the use of inorganic capping materials and Alex had a question on how much material would be necessary to use as a cap. Further, Alex didn't feel it was always necessary to cap an entire island. It was also discussed that regular tilling practices from agricultural production could disrupt the inorganic cap. Ray McDowell asked if the plotting points for subsidence and thickness of peat soil on the maps for Jersey Island on pages 3 and 4 of the handout were sampling points and Steve said they were actually interpolations between bore hole data logs. Gil Cosio asked about tracking long-term subsidence rates and Steve said he is

co-author of a paper on that subject. Steve's paper looked at farming practices as it relates to subsidence and Steve couldn't find a relationship between viable agricultural practices and subsidence rates. Tom Zuckerman felt that old crop reports should be investigated to see if there is a relationship between the crop that were grown in the past and subsidence. Some in the group could remember crops like potatoes being grown in the past in the Delta. Also, the old practice of burning fields in the Delta was discussed.

Gil Cosio and Chris Neudeck gave a presentation on the progress of the emergency response sub-team. There was a handout to go along with the discussion. Chris said he felt that a large annuity needs to be set up because of the funding lag times. Chris said the Dutra now requires funds to be put on deposit before proceeding with work. Chris also feels that local reclamation districts should develop their own local emergency response plans separate from the State's plan. Karl Winkler finished the discussion by noting that the procedures need to be clearly defined and the framework needs to be clearly outlined, the latter in response to the recent passage of Assembly Bill 360 which outlines what DWR is supposed to start doing.

Ralph Torres gave a presentation on the progress of the seismic susceptibility sub-team. There was a handout to go along with the discussion. Ralph reports that the sub-team met for a meeting on October 21st and the field testing by UC Davis is continuing. Ralph indicated that a more technical presentation could be given if the group was interested in that. Bill Betchart asked if there was a move to gather information on thickness of peat and Ralph said two studies were done on that subject in the 1930s and 1970s and that information was used by Ralph. Gil felt that the existing maps on peat thickness were pretty good based on some checks that had been done.

Niall McCarten gave a presentation on the progress of the levee-associated habitat sub-team. Niall said the Ecosystem Restoration Team is defing "goals" and "targets" for habitat restoration. The goals and targets will be used to define what should be done although it is expected to be increases in habitat. Niall summarized by saying the goals are to continue to coordinate with the Ecosystem Restoration Team, expand our understanding of constraints, and use categorization to develop conceptual designs. Steve Goldbeck wondered about the difference between the two teams and gave examples of teams working together in his work with BCDC. Niall said the levee-associated habitat sub-team is focused on improving habitat on Delta levees and channels whereas the Ecosystem Restoration Team has a much more broad scope and is looking at an overall vision.

Kent Nelson gave a presentation on the progress of the in-channel island sub-team. There was a handout on the workplan for 1996-1997 to go along with the discussion. Kent said the group started as an offshoot of the CCMP process. The San Francisco Estuary Project decided to coordinate the group. Kent said a "Coordination of Efforts" type of document is being prepared for restoration of channel islands. Kent said a "recipe/guide book" will be developed to show how to develop habitat on channel islands. This will be done in parallel with actual demonstration projects. A demonstration project sub-team will recommend one to three sites and

the sites will be submitted for possible Category III funding. Professor Kjeldsen from Sonoma State has agreed to become active with the group as well as with the creation of a guide book. Also, the sub-team is looking for a "cooperative agreement" to be signed by various State and Federal agencies.

There was no formal presentation on the progress of the beneficial reuse of dredge materials sub-team although a handout was distributed.

Curt gave an overview of the prioritization process. He said prioritization deals with the Special Projects element of the overall Delta Levee Program and prioritizing should not be meant to infer that certain projects will be left out. Rather, Curt said that prioritizing deals with "timing" of projects and it will affect the order in which projects are constructed rather that eliminating projects from consideration. Curt referred to a "consensus" handout to make it clear to the group what is meant by consensus.

According to Ken Casaday, the Island/Tract Prioritization process will use the following sequence:

- Adopt Criteria
- Develop Information Matrix
- Adopt Alternative Objectives
- Prioritize By Objectives

Ken and Aimee Dour went over the Draft Delta Island Prioritization Criteria handout. Curt said the results of the prioritization process will go to both CALFED and the California Water Commission because of the different control entities. Curt said this prioritization is being based on a "cost-share" concept with the locals. Therefore, if the locals can't or won't cost-share, it could affect the prioritization results. The proposed objectives to be looked at include water quality, agricultural production, ecosystems, life and property, and recreation. Ken referred to a written comment from John Winther, who could not attend the meeting, that indicated the technical team should be using "financial impact criteria" approach rather than the approach being taken. Lynn O'Leary said this concept is similar to the Corps cost/benefit analysis. The "probability of levee failure" is harder to come up with so John's approach is hard to use according to Ken. Brian Ross asked if any data from the Mississippi River flooding had been used as far as restoration costs and Ken said it had not although he would consider it.

Ken and Aimee took comments on the Draft Delta Island Prioritization Criteria handout and asked the group to submit other comments ASAP. The Draft Delta Island Prioritization Criteria is being used to prepare an "Information Matrix". A draft Information Matrix spreadsheet was passed out for the group to become familiar with.

Curt closed the meeting and said the next Levee and Channel Technical Team meeting would be held on 12-10-96 from 1 to 4 pm in room 1601 of the Resources Building. A public workshop has been tentatively scheduled for 12-17-96. [Note: The public workshop has been confirmed

for 12-17-96 at the Jean Harvie Community Center Auditorium at 14273 River Road in Walnut Grove from 9am-1pm. The facility is the same site as the regular board meetings of the Delta Protection Commission.]

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