



Update on Delta Special Projects Programs

Background

The Delta Levees Special Flood Control Projects provide engineering, environmental, and financial assistance to local levee maintaining agencies for repair and rehabilitation of levees in the Delta. The program was established by the California Legislature under SB 34 (1988) and subsequently amended by SB 1065 (1991) and AB 360 (1996). The Commission was last updated on Delta Special Projects Program activities during their October 2012 Meeting.

The Commission will be updated on three main topics:

- The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has prepared a draft policy document, *FloodSAFE, A Framework for Department of Water Resources Integrated Flood Management Investments in the Delta and Suisun Marsh* (Framework). The Framework and its companion document, the Background/Reference Memorandum, detail the programs, goals, objectives, and statewide interests, and include some of the State law which governs the use of public funds for accomplishing Integrated Flood Management (IFM) in the Delta.
- Improvements in the Delta's levee system have been achieved through DWR's partnerships with local Reclamation Districts using the Delta Special Flood Control Projects Program (Special Projects). To obtain proposals, which will be evaluated according to published criteria, the Department is preparing Guidelines and a Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP). In the recent past the Guidelines and PSPs have emphasized the need to bring the Delta's levees up to a minimum level of flood protection, Delta-wide. That objective is, largely, accomplished; the next PSP will focus on achieving levee modifications that improve stability on levees that contribute to water supply reliability, and include significant habitat benefits.
- Section 85306 of the California Water Code requires the Delta Stewardship Council (DSC) to recommend priorities for State investments in all aspects of Delta levees. DWR has prepared an Interagency Agreement (IA) with the DSC to provide limited guidance and funding for work necessary to develop a prioritization method. The IA includes three tasks. The first, to develop methods for prioritizing structures, will be peer reviewed to assure that data and methods proposed are reasonable, supportable, and effective. Task two involves using the peer reviewed methods to develop several sets of priorities based on State and local goals. The third task is

Agenda Item: 8
Meeting Date: November 20, 2013
Page 2

quality control over the process. Staff believes the IA will be signed early in 2014, and the priorities will be completed by January 1, 2015.

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