

Joint Meeting Notes
CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM
NORTH DELTA IMPROVEMENTS GROUP & NORTH DELTA AGENCY TEAM
Thursday, November 5, 2002 at 9:30 am at Jones & Stokes

ATTENDANCE LIST:

Mike Archer	MBK Engineers
Jeannie Blakeslee	DOC
Brad Burkholder	DFG
Gilbert Cosio	MBK Engineers
Bill Darsie	KSN, Inc.
Suzanne DeLeon	DFG CVBDB
Aimee Dour-Smith	Jones and Stokes
Mike Eaton	The Nature Conservancy
Sam Garcia	Jones & Stokes
Dan Gwaltney	County of Sacramento
Lauren Hastings	CALFED ERP
Walter Hoppe	Point Pleasant
Chris Kimball	DWR
Gwen Knittweis	DWR North Delta
Grant Kreinberg	SAFCA
Roger Lee	DWR / Rec. Board
Sara Martin	Jones & Stokes
Bob Nozuka	DWR
Ryan Olah	USFWS
Curt Schmutte	DWR
Sam Sharideh	San Joaquin County Public Works
Steve Sinnock	KSN
Craig Stevens	Jones & Stokes
John Stroh	San Joaquin County Mosquito & Vector Control Dist.
Don Trieu	MBK Engineers
Ken Trotter	Department of Food & Ag
Topper Van Loeben Sels	NDWA, DPC
Chuck Voglesang	CALFED
Carl Werder	USBR
Keith Whitener	The Nature Conservancy
Daniel Wilson	DPC
Collette Zemitis	DWR

HANDOUTS

- Meeting Agenda
- Map: North Delta EIR/EIS HEC-RAS Hydraulic Model
- List of Critical Uncertainties
- CALFED Grants Related to the North Delta Improvements Program
- Collette Zemitis' Abstract for CALFED Science Conference 2003

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME – Aimee Dour-Smith and Sam Garcia, Jones & Stokes

Aimee Dour-Smith opened the meeting and, after a round of introductions, explained that she will be taking maternity leave from November 8, 2002 to April 6, 2003. She then introduced Sam Garcia, the interim Jones & Stokes project manager and new contact person.

2. OVERALL PROJECT AND SCHEDULE UPDATE – Aimee Dour-Smith, Jones & Stokes

Aimee announced that MBK has completed the calibration of the hydraulic model. The next step is to run some coarse screening analyses of the flood control alternatives and refine the model through January. Public scoping is scheduled for mid-January through February.

3. PRESENTATION ON HYDRAULIC MODEL RESULTS AND CALIBRATION – Gilbert Cosio and Don Trieu, MBK

Gilbert Cosio of MBK Engineers gave a brief summary of the hydraulic modeling process; explaining that a hydraulic model is a mathematical representation of a physical system. This model is a quite expansive *regional* model, covering the North Delta, Franklin Pond, and Cosumnes River, created out of a joint effort between CALFED, SAFCA, and Sacramento County. Throughout an eight-month process, MBK created a preliminary model, received local input, and presented the model to a review panel of modeling experts for fine-tuning.

Don Trieu then gave a PowerPoint Presentation on the “North Delta HEC-RAS Model”. The purpose of the model is to simulate proposed flood control alternatives in the North Delta area for CALFED/DWR (setback levees, flood storage on Staten Island and McCormack-Williamson Tract), Sacramento County (new levees in Franklin Pond), and SAFCA (upper Cosumnes flood bypass, lower Cosumnes setback levees). The model itself covers 170 miles of rivers and 120 square miles of flood plain, and uses geometric data (cross sections, storage areas, hydraulic connections, and bridges) and hydrologic data (flow hydrographs and stage hydrographs).

The purpose of calibrating a model is to adjust the model parameters to reproduce observed data at gage locations and surveyed high water marks. The observed event used in calibrating the North Delta model was the January 1997 flood. Don showed a series of stage hydrographs showing the calibrated model results versus the observed data. Overall, the model’s results matched the observed data very closely.

Don explained that the next step was model verification, the purpose of which is to confirm that the model can simulate other flood events. The event used for verification of the North Delta model was the March 1995 flood. The verification results were also very close to the observed data, so the next steps are to document the model’s development, send the documentation and model to be peer reviewed, and then run some coarse screening of flood control alternative components.

4. DISCUSSION OF SCIENTIFIC UNCERTAINTIES AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT – Gwen Knittweis and Collette Zemitis, DWR

Gwen Knittweis showed the group a PowerPoint Presentation that demonstrated the importance of basing the proposed improvements in the North Delta project on the best possible science. The following issues have been identified by North Delta Planning as key critical scientific uncertainties needing solutions:

- Mercury Methylation
- Exotic Species Control
- Sedimentation Processes
- Dendritic Channel Creation and Function

These critical uncertainties, as well as those listed on the handout “Critical Uncertainties”, will be addressed through studies and demonstration projects, the results of which will be used to shape North Delta project development. Uncertainties that cannot be resolved prior to project implementation will be addressed through adaptive management.

Gwen then turned the presentation over to Collette Zemitis, who described a proposed McCormack-Williamson Tract demonstration project, the concept for which will be presented by Collette at the CALFED Watershed Science Conference. The proposed project would entail restoration of dendritic channels, which historically formed in the delta as a result of tidal action, in order to benefit native at-risk species (delta smelt, splittail, chinook salmon and steelhead).

Visit “Science” on the North Delta website at <http://ndelta.water.ca.gov/> for more information.

5. OTHER PROJECT NEWS

One of the meeting attendees asked who would be deciding which flood control alternatives get screened. Cure Schmutte explained that at the present time, the hydraulic model is being used to refine alternative components, not to formulate actual alternatives. That will come later, and will be open to public input during the scoping process, which is expected to begin in mid- to late January.

6. NEXT MEETINGS:

The next **NDIG** meeting is scheduled for 9:30-11:30 a.m. on **Thursday, January 9, 2003**, in room 1142 at the Resources Building.

The Next **NDAT** meeting is tentatively scheduled for March. A finalized date will be announced later.

ACTION ITEMS:

Item No.	Action Item	Responsibility	Timeframe
1	Review list of Critical Uncertainties and provide input to Gwen Knittweis.	Everyone	By Jan. 9, 2003