

Upper San Joaquin River Regional Flood Management Plan Kick-off Meeting Summary

ATTENDEES: Full list is attached to the end of this meeting summary

FROM: San Joaquin River Flood Control Project Agency

DATE: May 8, 2013

This meeting summary was prepared to document action items and key decisions affecting the Regional Flood Management Plan (RFMP).

An introduction, project overview, and key ground rules were reviewed. The power point slides from the presentation are available for download from the website at <http://usjrflood.org/>.

A question and answer session was held to review project process. Key questions included:

- **Will all the stakeholders/agencies need to attend every meeting?** If the information is pertinent to a given stakeholder, it is useful if that stakeholder attends that meeting. The drafts will be placed on the website to review ahead of time. Stakeholders are welcome to attend all meetings, but attendance is not required.
Have all the stakeholders been engaged, including small communities and tribal communities? Yes, we have contacted all existing known stakeholders; however, we could have inadvertently missed someone so please send us anyone we might have missed. Our stakeholder list contains representatives from local, state, and Federal agencies as well as tribal entities. Stakeholder such as Agricultural Commissioner's office, High Speed Rail Authority, and County Supervisors will be contacted and briefed by San Joaquin River Flood Control Project Agency or county staff.
- **Is the schedule flexible?** The schedule is based on room availability and staff availability, and is designed to keep us focused to deliver the project on time. There is some flexibility in our schedule; however, we need to meet the State deadline of August 29, 2014, which is non-negotiable.
- **Is the comment review period flexible?** It is important for the project schedule for comments to be submitted within the review period as the project is on a tight turn around. However, there will be an opportunity to comment on all documents throughout the process.
- **How will the workshops be organized?** Each workshop will have an agenda that consists of addressing any outstanding issues from previous meeting, reviewing the section of the report out for review, and providing a preview for the next workshops topic.

- **What criteria will be used to define multi-benefit and prioritize projects?** We will be developing criteria to comply with state stipulated requirements for projects. The Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) identified projects worth approximately \$17 billion, most of which are Integrated Water Management (IWM) projects. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is looking for multi-benefit projects to fund.
- **Identifying potential projects are the real focus of this effort, when will this list be generated. Will the list be a living document?** The project team will provide a potential project list format for stakeholders to use to submit projects. If you have project ideas or information, please submit it through the website at: <http://usjrflood.org/>. In addition, you can contact Erika Powell via the website or at erika.powell@ch2m.com. The format will be made available through the website before the next meeting. The list will be updated monthly and posted to the website and will be a living document until the project prioritization process is initiated in the fall.
- **Potential Project suggestions:**
 - When the bypass was built, people wanted the option of having turnouts to flood their lands. There are ongoing efforts to work with DWR to divert floodwaters on farmland, which will reduce flows, recharge groundwater, require less pumping, and benefit wildlife. For example, the Kings River Conservation District (KRCD) got funding for a flood corridor project in which landowners let their lands flood during high flow; however, the agriculture lands are under a lot of water for longer periods. Studies on flooding of land to attenuate flows are ongoing on about 3,000 acres by USFWS; however, there has been some resistance from some governmental organizations to this project.
 - The Merced Streams Group has a number of projects that have been identified. The project team will work with MWG to capture this information.
 - The subsidence issue is a significant problem that must be addressed by potential projects.
- **Next Meeting/Workshop:**
 - The first workshop covering Regional Setting/Flood Hazards is scheduled for Wednesday June 26, 2013.

