

Upper San Joaquin River Regional Flood Management Plan Stakeholder Workshop

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

FROM: San Joaquin River Flood Control Project Agency

DATE: April 17, 2024

LOCATION: Henry Miller Reclamation District *and* MS Teams
11704 Henry Miller Ave
Dos Palos, CA 93620

This meeting summary was prepared to summarize discussions and comments captured at the Regional Flood Management Plan (RFMP) workshop conducted by the San Joaquin River Flood Control Project Agency (SJRFPCA).

The presentation is available on the [USJR website](#).

A summary of key discussion items is included below:

- Shane Swartz and Rob Tull welcomed attendees and in-person participants and DWR attendees introduced themselves. Karimi Arao is the new DWR RFMP lead taking over for Aaron Wu.
- Participants gave updates on their agencies' current flood operations and residual impacts from the 2023 storm season.
 - Shane Swartz, LSJLD: The District's flood system was created in 1962 which is having challenges with current flood realities. In 2023, four major sites were repaired by CalOES where major levee losses could have occurred. The District worked with County partners (Merced, Madera, Fresno) to coordinate flows through the Chowchilla Bypass and the inflow from the Kings River. The system conveyed at least 4 MAF during 2022-2023 season with no major breaks. The Chowchilla Bypass protected Firebaugh from flooding; however, too much water was conveyed through the bypass system (8,500cfs was conveyed in a channel with 5,500cfs capacity). The District is currently working with DWR through the SDDER (Storm Damage DWR Emergency Rehabilitation) Program and with multiple counties on bridge erosion issues. Two bridges are closed with a 4-year time frame for rebuild and a 10-year time frame for a full replacement. The District has had success with grant funding awards including (1) DWR's FSRP (Flood System Repair Program) and (2) DWR's FMAP (Flood Maintenance Assistance Program). The District's regular O&M budget would not be able to cover repair costs without grant funding. The District is currently in a Prop 218 process. Obtaining USACE permits for erosion repair sites along the bypass have been challenging.

- Stephanie Anagnoson and Jeannie Habben, Madera County: Madera County received the following grants: (1) EAP (Emergency Action Plan) which included DWR-funded trailers, (2) \$1M from Wildlife Conservation Board for vegetation management along channels, (3) DWR FSRP funding for 17mi of levee road resurfacing, and (4) DWR's FMAP for mowing, vegetation management, and erosion control. Through the EAP program, flood fighting materials were provided for emergency response and used by CalOES, CalFire and others. The County submitted an LOI and was accepted back into the PL84-99 program. After a 6-year process, the County has obtained a maintenance permit from CDFW. The Governor's executive order (EO) allowed for GSA participants to take flood flows from system for groundwater recharge without permits required for landowners.
- Highlights from the RFMP presentation:
 - Presentation (linked above) was organized by the following:
 1. Ongoing RFMP Efforts
 2. Federal and State Funding Opportunities
 3. USJR RFMP Multi-Benefit Background, White Paper, Successes, Opportunities
 - Rob Tull highlighted that the RFMP team will continue outreach with local stakeholder groups soon. The RFMP team invites stakeholders to review and comment on the working draft white papers (linked below). Katie Stone summarized some current/forecasted relevant funding opportunities and invited folks to reach out if they would like to be added to the email distribution list.
 - Jeremy Thomas presented on multi-benefit projects, successes, and opportunities within the region. Jeremy discussed that the working draft multi-benefit white paper (linked below) was built from the 2015 RFMP and updated with targeted conversations with regional partners. Jeremy presented a working map of multi-benefit projects, several attendees noted that project list may be out of date and will provide feedback on project statuses. Jeremy highlighted the Great Valley Grasslands State Park and Black Rascal Creek Flood Control projects are successes in the USJR region.
- Lori Clamurro-Chew presented "Upper San Joaquin River RFMP Area Multi-Benefit Floodplain Restoration Pilot Study" which provided background, work-to-date, and forecasted tasks for DWR's Ecological Floodplain Inundation Potential (EcoFIP) Program in the USJR region.
- Hilary Mann presented "Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) 2027 Update" which provided an overview of themes and vision, a roadmap, and tentative schedule for DWR's CVFPP 2027 Update.

Links and Resources

- USJR Working Draft White Papers
 - [Finance Strategy Update](#)
 - [Regional Governance Opportunities](#)
 - [Multi-benefit Opportunities](#)
 - [Regional Climate Resilience](#)
 - [Institutional Barriers and Process Improvements](#)
 - [FEMA NFIP Review and Recommendations](#)
 - [USJR Flood Data Compendium](#)

- DWR EcoFIP StoryMaps
 - [Overview](#)
 - [Upper San Joaquin River – Phase I](#)

UPPER SAN JOAQUIN RIVER REGIONAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT PLAN STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

Agency	Contact Name	Email	In-person	Virtual
Friends of the River	Tom Biglione	ftbiglione@gmail.com		X
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	Sean Allen	Sean.allen@wildlife.ca.gov	X	
Central Valley Flood Protection Board	Kristyne Van Skike	Kristyne.vanskike@cvfpb.ca.gov	X	
City of Merced	Ken Elwin	ElwinK@cityofmerced.org		X
Department of Water Resources	Susan (Karimi) Arao	Susan.Arao@water.ca.gov		X
Department of Water Resources	Lori Clamurro-Chew	Lori.E.Clamurro-Chew@water.ca.gov		X
Department of Water Resources	Hilary Mann	Hilary.Mann@water.ca.gov		X
Department of Water Resources	Jennifer Marr	Jennifer.Marr@water.ca.gov		X
Department of Water Resources	Christopher Williams	Christopher.Williams@water.ca.gov		X
Department of Water Resources	Aaron Wu	Aaron.Wu@water.ca.gov		X
GEI	Rebecca Verity	rverity@geiconsultants.com		X
Jacobs Engineering	Sirisha Nemani	Sirisha.Nemani@jacobs.com		X
Jacobs Engineering	Luke Philbert	Luke.Philbert@jacobs.com		X
Jacobs Engineering	Clara Rose	Clara.Rose@jacobs.com		X
Jacobs Engineering	Katie Stone	Katie.Stone@jacobs.com	X	
Jacobs Engineering	Jeremy Thomas	Jeremy.Thomas@jacobs.com		X
Jacobs Engineering	Rob Tull	Robert.Tull@jacobs.com	X	
Kings River Conservation District	Charlotte Gallock	cgallock@krcd.org		X
Lower San Joaquin Levee District	Shane Swartz	shane.swartz.lsjld@gmail.com	X	
Madera County	Stephanie Anagnoson	Stephanie.anagnoson@maderacounty.com	X	
Madera County	Jeannie Habben	Jeannie.habben@maderacounty.com	X	
Madera Irrigation District	Dina Nolan	dina@madera-id.org		X
Merced County	Oscar Ortiz	oscar.ortiz@countyofmerced.com		X
Merced County Farm Bureau	Breanne Vandenberg	bvandenberg@mercedfarmbureau.org		X
Merced Irrigation District	Hicham Eltal	heltal@mercedid.org		X
Merced Irrigation District	Stephen Ho	sho@mercedid.org		X
USBR	Darryl R Good	DGood@usbr.gov		X

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Agency	Contact Name	Email	In-person	Virtual
USBR	Cindy Meyer	cameyer@usbr.gov		X
USBR	Donald Portz	DPortz@usbr.gov		X