

PAC TECHNICAL GROUP MEETING

February 10, 2010

Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District

3:30 – 5:00 pm

Attendees:

Fran Borcalli, floodSAFE Yolo
Stefan Loranzato, YCFCWCD
Mark Deven, City of Woodland
Mark Cocke, City of Woodland
Rob Aragon, Conaway Pres. Group
Dave Pratt

Tim O'Halloran, YCFCWCD
Warren Westrup, Yolo County
John Bencomo, Yolo County
Panos Kokkas, Yolo County
Donna Gentile, WRA

1. USACE / DWR Project Area Tour

Fran and Mark Deven lead a field visit of the Cache Creek Flood Risk Project for USACE and DWR staff in December 2009. Michelle Williams, USACE, requested that Fran submit a list of questions raised during the tour so the Corps could provide a written response. Several divisions within USACE reviewed the questions and the PAC felt their responses in general indicated non-engagement of the issues. The PAC's goal is to promote a working relationship with these agencies to agree on Cache Creek Settling Basin solutions. The PAC agreed the best follow-up approach to engaging the USACE is to arrange a meeting with Colonel Thomas Chapman, Sacramento District Engineer. Generating a paper trail of Yolo County's efforts would be beneficial to illustrate the lengthy chronology to resolve these issues by engaging both agencies. The PAC also recommended enlisting the assistance of Congressman Herger to promote USACE and DWR participation. Mark Deven will be coordinating a meeting with Congressman Herger with two Woodland city council members (Marble and Davies). This would be an opportune time to discuss these issues and how to request an audience with the Colonel. Arranging a meeting by March/April is advantageous to the execution of the pending 3-party cost sharing agreement for the Feasibility Study.

2. Federal (USACE) Appropriations FY 2011

- a) Cap-to-Cap: Local team planning meetings on mercury and flood issues continue for the Cap-to-Cap trip in April to Washington, DC. Fran has submitted an appropriation request package to Senator Feinstein's office. Next he will prepare a package for Senator Boxer's office which is due February 12th. Congressmen Herger and Thompson also have separate appropriation request package deadlines. Several representatives from Yolo County will be attending from YCFCWCD, Yolo County and the cities of Woodland and West Sacramento.
- b) Coordination with USACE and DWR – Fran continues to coordinate with these agencies on budget amounts for the appropriation request projects. The PAC discussed the cost sharing figures proposed by the USACE PMP, the local cost share contributed since the inception of work on the Feasibility Study and the options for a funding backup plan if the State does not end of contributing their share.
- c) Congressional and Senatorial Coordination – Fran will be coordinating with these agencies as discussed above. Letters of support for the appropriations request will be solicited. Each congressman and senator has their own specific requirements for submitting letters. Tim

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O'Halloran agreed to contact the Yolo County Farm Bureau and Senator Wolk for support letters. Fran agreed to contact Assemblyman Nielsen, Tuleyome and the Woodland Chamber of Commerce. Donna will coordinate a letter of support from the WRA. A follow-up briefing with Senator Wolk and Assemblyman Nielsen was recommended to highlight the state impacts of Cache Creek issues. It has been awhile since these issues have been formally discussed.

- d) Coordination with City/County – Fran and the local teams are coordinating with Lynn Johnson, City of Woodland, and Cindy Tuttle, Yolo County, to coordinate completion of the appropriation request packages.

3. USACE Feasibility Study – Cache Creek Flood Risk Reduction Project

- a) Project Management Plan (PMP) including scope and budget – Fran reviewed how the budget demonstrates costs by task. How the cost shares will be actualized by agency will be determined.
- b) Timeline – Fran indicated the proposed timeline to complete the feasibility study is by October 2, 2010.
- c) Cost sharing agreement – Fran will coordinate a meeting on March 9th at 10 a.m. between DWR, the USACE and the local agencies to discuss the agreement. John Bencomo, Tim O'Halloran and Mark Deven will attend representing the local agencies.
- d) Public Outreach- No additional update on public outreach since the January PAC meeting. The PAC needs to discuss the utilization of a consultant and a proposed date for scheduling the neighborhood meetings.

4. Central Valley Floodplain Evaluation & Delineation Program (CVFED)

This program is part of floodSAFE California. Both DWR and Yolo County collected Lidar data in 2008. The data needs to be “blended” by an outside contractor before it can be utilized. DWR appears to be willing to do this task, but has not initiated the contract work. Yolo County has been waiting for two years for this data.

- a) Data and information request - Fran plans to draft a letter (under Tim's signature) to DWR formally requesting the Lidar data and survey information. If they release the data, floodSAFE Yolo could hire their own contractor to blend the data.
- b) Planned field surveys –A task order is being executed now for mid-March field surveys to be conducted on Cache Creek, Putah Creek, Willow Slough and Dry Creek Slough.

5. Update on Delta Mercury TMDL

Stefan gave an update on TMDL progress. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Sacramento Valley Region has released a public draft of the mercury TMDL amendment. Comments are due in April. Mark Cocke has partially reviewed the proposed amendments and shared his views on the potential implementation impacts for the county. The Regional Board is mandating control of municipal discharges and load reductions in Willow Slough, Cache Creek, and Putah Creek. The Regional Board has included a 7 year period of study before allocations become firm. Reasonable control measures must be implemented during the study period. The completion of the Cache Creek Feasibility Study could be instrumental in crafting options for mercury management in Yolo County. Regional Board staff has indicated that raising the Settling Basin weir and continual dredging of the basin are appropriate management measures. To-date the Regional Board has not acknowledged the flood risk implications for Yolo County of their proposed mercury management solutions. Their solutions, as currently outlined, would change the formula for reducing the Delta's mercury exposure.

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The Corps has not acknowledged any responsibility to manage the basin for mercury. The PAC discussed that we may need to initiate a legal strategy to move solutions forward for Yolo County that allow for flood management and conformity with mercury allocations.

6. Budget Status

Fran distributed a spreadsheet with a budget status through January 2010. This is a preliminary budget until additional information is received from the YCFCWCD's accounting manager. This budget does not reflect the City/County's funding commitment beyond the initial \$600,000, 2-year pilot program budget. This budget does reflect the estimated contract amounts for several tasks and what was actually expended (two tasks were under budget and one over).

7. Next PAC Meeting: March 10, 2010, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Other:

Fran informed that Yolo County and Conaway Preservation Group submitted comments on the Yolo County City/County Drainage Manual (comments handed out at the meeting). The manual is being updated to incorporate their comments. Yolo County is scheduled to adopt the manual as part of a county ordinance this week. A revised manual will be distributed to the YCFCWCD, Woodland, Yolo County, Yolo County RCD and NRCS through Donna.

Summary of Action Items:

- Fran and Mark Deven will orchestrate setting up meeting with Congressman Herger and the UCACE Colonel to discuss USACE and DWR participation in Cache Creek Settling Basin flood solutions. Fran will prepare a chronology of efforts to engage the USACE and DWR over the last 10 years. Timeline for meeting: March/April
- Fran is coordinating with State and Federal agencies, as well as, with city/county staff to prepare appropriation request packages to submit to senatorial and congressional representatives: Boxer, Herger, and Thompson. Tim O'Halloran and Mark Deven are coordinating information in preparation for the April Cap-to-Cap trip.
- Letters of support for the appropriation request packages are being coordinated by:
Tim: Senator Wolk and Yolo County Farm Bureau
Fran: Tuleyome, Assemblyman Nielsen, Woodland Chamber of Commerce
Donna: WRA
- Fran will coordinate a meeting with the Cache Creek Feasibility Study partners regarding the cost sharing agreement for March 9th at 10 a.m. *Partners to attend:* USACE, DWR, Tim O'Halloran, John Bencomo, Mark Deven and Fran Borcalli
- Fran will draft a letter to the CVFED to request release of Lidar data and survey information (Tim will be the letter's signatory)
- A revised City/County Drainage Manual will be prepared by Wood Rodgers to incorporate comments received and distributed through Donna to the appropriate agencies.

Submitted by:

Fran Borcalli, Program Manager