

SOLANO COUNTY WATER AGENCY



FLOOD CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE **Meeting Announcement**

DATE: Thursday, August 28, 2008

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Solano Irrigation District Board of Directors Room
508 Elmira Road
Vacaville

AGENDA

1. Introductions and Public Comment
2. Approval of Minutes of April 24, 2008 Meeting and Notes from June 26 Field Trip
3. Committee Vacancy – still open
4. Review of East County Field Trip
5. Review of FY 2007-2008 Final Flood Control Expenditures
6. Suisun and LedgeWood Creek Flood Control Investigations
7. Solano Habitat Conservation Plan – benefits to Flood Control
8. Medium Sized Projects: Staff Update
9. Small Grant Projects: Staff update
10. Future Meeting Topics
11. 2008 Meetings 7:00 PM at SID

September 25

October 23

December 4

If you have any questions contact Alex Rabidoux at (707) 455-1106

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P.O. Box 349 6040 Vaca Station Road, Building 84
Elmira, California 95625-0349
Phone (707) 451-6090 FAX (707) 451-6099
www.scwa2.com



SOLANO COUNTY WATER AGENCY

FLOOD CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES: April 24, 2008

Introductions and Public Comment: Chairman Rolf Ohlemutz called the meeting to order at 7:01pm. There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes of March 27, 2008: The minutes were unanimously approved.

Committee Vacancy: Staff reported that there is one vacancy on the Flood Control Advisory Committee. Committee member Del Berg indicated that he might have a candidate in mind from Cordelia.

Flood Control Budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009: David Okita presented the current fiscal year budget (FY 2007-2008) and then compared it to the proposed budget for FY 2008-2009. For FY 2007-2008 David expected to be under budget by about \$300,000. The reason for this is not all of the watershed studies were completed, less equipment was needed for stream and rain gauging, the small grant program was not fully allocated, and the Sweeney wing wall removal project was determined not to be necessary. For the FY 2008-2009 the total recommended flood control budget was \$938,800 not including SCWA staff time. A total of \$500,000 was allocated for the City of Vacaville's Detention Basin Project. Committee member Steve Chappell was concerned about having enough money for the Sweeney Creek Home Raising Program. David Okita commented that if other flood control budgets are not fully used, they can be adjusted to help contribute to the Home Raising Program. David further explained that the Agency can always seek approval from the SCWA Board of Directors to allocate additional funds for the Sweeney Creek Home Raising Program if needed. Committee member Laura Peters inquired about extending the home raising program to other watersheds. David Okita explained that it is a possibility.

The Flood Control Advisory Committee approved a motion to recommend the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Flood Control Budget to the SCWA Board of Directors.

Delta Flood Control and Levee Issues in Eastern Solano County: David Okita began the Delta Flood Control presentation by providing an overview of the Delta. David explained that many of the central Delta islands have thick peat soils which have oxidized and subsided considerably below sea level, placing a higher risk of failure on the surrounding Delta island levees. To help maintain the levees, a series of Reclamation Districts were created throughout the Delta to help fund and provide levee maintenance.

Additionally the state's two largest water projects the California State Water Project and the Central Valley Project have large pumps down in the south Delta which can reverse the flow of water in the Delta. This change in hydraulics has created a host of problems for fish such as the Delta Smelt. There is also great concern over the structural integrity of the Delta island levees. If the levees were to fail, this would cause salinity intrusion into the Delta greatly affecting the water supply to 2/3 of California. Besides levees there is also a big push to restore the Delta by creating wetlands in the Cache Slough and Yolo Bypass regions. This would have a direct impact to the North Bay Aqueduct (NBA) which provides municipal water for Napa and Solano County as well as on Reclamation District 2068 which has large pumps on Cache Slough used to irrigate large tracts of farmland in Solano and Yolo Counties. The increase of wetlands in Cache Slough would likely increase the amount of Delta Smelt, which could impact the water operations of RD 2068 and the NBA.

Mike Hardesty, Manager of RD 2068 began the second part of the presentation providing a detailed look of flood control in the Delta. The Delta was historically divided into a lowlands and uplands area, where the lowlands were lands below 5 feet mean sea level (MSL) and the uplands were lands above 5 feet MSL. Most of Solano County was considered to be upland. During the early part of the twentieth century when farmers began to reclaim Delta islands in Solano County, farmers only needed to build small levees around the islands because most of the land was fairly high. However as increased urbanization and development occurred, more runoff was generated and natural flood storage in the Central Valley was lost. This required Central Valley levees to be built higher, especially in Solano County. To help with flood control, two projects were setup and overseen by the state Reclamation Board. This included the Sacramento River Flood Control Project which helped fund levees in the Sacramento Valley and the San Joaquin Flood Control Project which helped fund levees in the San Joaquin Valley. Most of the levees in the central Delta were not part of this project. Additionally as state funds have grown tighter the amount of state and federal money available for levee repairs has diminished and at times has not been available. With increased urbanization in places such as Yuba City, Natomas, Sacramento, Stockton, and Lathrop levees protecting these urban areas are considered to be of more value than levees protecting only agricultural areas. This has led to increased competition from a limited pool of money to repair levees, especially for Delta levees such as RD 2068. Mike Hardesty pointed out that some of the urban levees were initially designed only to protect agricultural land.

After Hurricane Katrina, the state and federal governments began to relook at flood control. The state is currently reevaluating the state's flood control responsibilities and is developing a Central Valley Flood Project Plan. The new plan would require 200-year flood protection for urban areas and could greatly limit urbanization in flood prone areas if the plan is approved. The Army Corps of Engineers has also started to apply a new levee standard which consists of 80 guidelines to certify federal levees. Many of the levees in California may fail the guidelines, which would disqualify them from federal funding.

Steve Chappell, Executive Director of the Suisun Resource Conservation District discussed the third segment of the presentation focusing on the Suisun Marsh. The Suisun Marsh is a brackish marsh composed of 150,000 acres of public and private lands. The Suisun Marsh experiences an east-west salinity gradient and at times a north-south salinity gradient as well. The Marsh also contains two large sloughs which include the Montezuma and Suisun Sloughs. The Suisun Marsh contains over 200 miles of levees, of which only 12 miles are applicable for state and federal funding. Some of the emerging issues of concern to the Marsh are climate change, sea level rise, urbanization, and seismic failure of levees.

Steve Chappell also presented that the new Suisun Marsh Plan calls for three ranges of tidal marsh conversions. Modeling results show that variations in both acreage and location of tidal conversions can have a substantial impact on salinity in the Delta.

Medium Sized Projects: David Okita presented a summary of the medium sized projects. The Gibson Canyon Creek study is still underway. For Sweeney Creek one more application was approved for the home raising program. The status of the other watershed projects has not changed since the last Flood Control Advisory Committee meeting.

Small Grant Project Updates: Alex Rabidoux presented a brief summary of the small grant projects. One new application in the Gibson Canyon Creek area was submitted and waiting for approval by SCWA. The project satisfied the SCWA small grant criteria, and the cost-share amount was being determined. Landowners on the Spurs Trail project were interested in constructing the project and were currently obtaining final design and construction cost numbers to submit for SCWA approval.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Flood Control Advisory Committee will be Thursday, June 26, 2008 at 6:00 pm at the Solano Irrigation District. The meeting will be held one hour earlier and consist of a field trip looking at flood control issues in eastern Solano County.

Committee Members Attending:

Laura Peters	Ron Campbell
Rolf Ohlemutz	Terry Riddle
Jim Daniels	Steve Chappell
Mike O'Conner	Charles Karnopp
Mark Holdener	Delbert Berg

Committee Members Absent:

Paul Lum	Gus Silva
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SCWA Staff:

David Okita

Alex Rabidoux

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SOLANO COUNTY WATER AGENCY

FLOOD CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FIELD TRIP NOTES: June 26, 2008

East Solano County Flood Control Field Trip: John Curry from the Dixon RCD began conducting the east Solano County flood control field trip. John Curry gave a brief overview of how the Dixon Watershed Joint Powers Authority (JPA) was formed between the Dixon RCD, City of Dixon, Maine Prairie Water District, and Reclamation District 2068. The JPA was formed after the 1997 flood event with the goal of improving flood control within the greater Dixon area. The JPA currently oversees several drainage ditches and detention ponds within the city limits of Dixon, as well as to the south and east of Dixon. During the first part of the tour John pointed out several of the drainage channels located to the east of Dixon that the JPA maintains. John also pointed out Pond C as well as the JPA's new piped drainage channel near the Dixon High School. The first stop of the tour was at Pond A, a large detention pond that was completed several years ago by the JPA. Historically Pond A was constructed by the City of Dixon as a retention pond. Unfortunately the pond was plagued with a host of operational problems and limited flood control capacity. As a cooperative effort, the JPA worked with the City of Dixon to convert Pond A from a retention pond to a detention pond and improve operations. The Pond A project also helped to formalize the relationship with the Dixon RCD and the City of Dixon as part of the new JPA. To date the Pond A project has been a success and has helped improved flood control as well as provide an open space and wildlife area for the greater Dixon area. As part of the Pond A project, automated gates and stage recorders were setup to regulate flow out of the pond and into the Ulatis Flood Control Project. John pointed out several of the automated gates along Lateral 1, the downstream channel of Pond A.

For the next part of the tour, the group was taken to Reclamation District 2068 adjacent to the Yolo Bypass and Shag Slough. The tour focused on Delta levees and was presented by Mike Hardesty the Manager of Reclamation District 2068. Mike first discussed that during flood events the Yolo Bypass transfers 85% of the flow from the Sacramento River while the main stem of the river handles only about 15%. Additionally federal levees along the Yolo Bypass are considerably more substantial than most of the levees in the central Delta. During the last few flood events, the north-eastern levees of RD 2068 have seen considerable scour damaged from high velocity flood water. Mike also discussed some of the restoration efforts being done by the Trust for Public Lands, Westlands Water District, and Wildlands to create and enhance tidal wetlands in the Yolo Bypass – Liberty Island area.

For the last part of the tour, David Okita briefly pointed out the Ulatis Flood Control Project. The Ulatis Project drains all of the City of Vacaville as well as the greater

Vacaville area. The Allendale area and part of Dixon also drain into the Ulatis Project, which drains into the Delta.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Flood Control Advisory Committee will be Thursday, July 24, 2008 at 7:00 pm at the Solano Irrigation District.

Committee Members Attending:

Rolf Ohlemutz	Terry Riddle
Jim Daniels	Steve Chappell
Mike O'Conner	Charles Karnopp
Mark Holdener	Ron Campbell

Committee Members Absent:

Paul Lum	Gus Silva
Laura Peters	Delbert Berg

SCWA Staff:

David Okita	Alex Rabidoux
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MEDIUM SIZED FLOOD PROJECT STATUS REPORT

August 28, 2008

This is a status report for each of the active medium sized flood projects currently being undertaken by the Solano County Water Agency.

PROJECT	STATUS SUMMARY
SWEENEY CREEK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCWA Board Approves Home Raising Program - June 14 - SCWA processing applications – Six \$25,000 payments made in FY 2007-2008. One pending for FY 2008-2009 - Continuing to process applications
GIBSON CANYON CREEK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examining feasibility of using abandoned Vacaville sewage ponds as detention basins. • Amended contract with Wood Rodgers for LIDAR air survey work approved by SWCA Board July 12, 2007 • Amended contract approved to better characterize Sweeney overflow • Study underway
LEDGEWOOD CREEK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work completed of preliminary evaluation of open space / detention pond storage – not promising. • Project on hold for coordination with Suisun Creek Study
DIXON REGIONAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watershed Study completed August 2001 • SCWA commits to \$200,000 for “Three Mile Connection” in 2004. • Dixon Watershed Authority requests funding for Eastside Drain Project in 2007 – application being developed.
SUISUN CREEK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study underway for consideration of multi-use detention basin to be done in conjunction with North Connector Road Project. • Possible detention basin - property interests not interested – looking for other sites • In January Board approved contract amendment to analyze other potential location. • Work waiting for County Lidar data

FLOOD CONTROL – FY 2007/2008 SMALL GRANT PROJECTS

August 28, 2008

NAME	LOCATION	WATERSHED	TOTAL PROJECT COST			PAID OUT (SCWA)	STATUS
			Owner Cost-Share	SCWA Cost-Share	Total		
Louise Fong	Spurs Trail Fairfield, CA	Jameson Can. Ck.	\$7,925	\$23,775	\$31,700	\$0	APPROVED: The project is ready for construction once the permits are approved by the regulatory agencies.
James Lewis	2825 Gates Cny. Vacaville, CA	Alamo Ck.	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0	PENDING: Site visit conducted. Landowner is submitting a design proposal for approval.

Totals: \$7,925 \$23,775 \$31,700 \$0

Amount Remaining in Small Grant Budget: \$50,000