

SOLANO COUNTY WATER AGENCY



FLOOD CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE **Meeting Announcement**

DATE: Thursday, December 4, 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 October 23, 2008 Meeting
3. Committee Vacancy – Two positions open
4. Vacaville Detention Basins – Update on Progress – Gary Cullen, Vacaville
5. Small Grant Projects: Staff Update
6. Medium Sized Projects: Staff Update
7. SCWA 2009 Flood Hazard Warning Program
8. Bay Area Flood Control Grant Opportunities
9. Next Meeting January 22, 2009 7:00 PM at SID

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

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SOLANO COUNTY WATER AGENCY

FLOOD CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES: October 23, 2008

Introductions and Public Comment: Chairman Rolf Ohlemutz called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Approval of Minutes of August 28, 2008: The minutes were unanimously approved.

Committee Vacancy: Staff reported that there is one vacancy on the Flood Control Advisory Committee. Members whose terms expire at the end of 2008 should notify staff if they want to be reappointed.

Small Grant Projects – Amy King, Solano Resource Conservation District: Amy King from the Solano Resource Conservation District (RCD) presented a summary of the small grant projects that she is working on. For Spurs Trail, this project is being finish by Alex Rabidoux with the Solano County Water Agency (SCWA), since the project is close to completion. For the Bill McInnes project, Amy is helping the landowner reduce the impacts of a beaver dam in Green Valley Creek. The project does not qualify as a small grant project, but Amy is working to develop some low tech solutions to help the landowner. For the Wally Pearce project, Amy is working with the landowner to submit a small grant project that will help to reduce flooding in the McCune Creek watershed. For the Dick Pelton project, Mr. Pelton has contacted a multitude of agencies which include SCWA, the Solano Irrigation District (SID), and the Solano RCD to fix his flooding problem. Amy is working with Mr. Pelton to come up with a small grant project. The remaining small grant projects are waiting for additional follow up.

Medium Sized Projects: David Okita presented a summary of the medium sized projects. A total of 7 applications have been approved for the Sweeney Creek Home Raising Program. For Gibson Canyon Creek the modeling is still underway. Additional work is also being done to optimize the size and cost of the detention basins. For the Suisun and LedgeWood Creek studies, more sophisticated modeling is going to be done using Solano County LiDar data. The SCWA is still waiting for completion of the LiDar data from Solano County. For the Dixon Regional drainage, the Dixon Watershed Authority is working on an application to request funding from the Water Agency for their Eastside Drainage Project.

Delta Visions – Flood Management Impacts to Solano County: David Okita presented an overview of the important Delta issues that are going on and their potential impact to Solano County. The first major issue dealt with flood control. After Hurricane Katrina, federal agencies have become more concerned about flooding and ensuring that there is adequate flood protection, specifically dealing with levees. For urban areas such as Sacramento, Natomas, and Stockton levees need to be upgraded for 200-year flood protection before additional development is allowed. In Solano County the Delta and the Yolo Bypass are the areas that contain levees; however the levees are all in rural areas with the exception of Rio Vista. No policy has addressed the level of protection required for rural levees. An additional concern for Solano County levees is that the increased requirements in urban levees in areas such as Yuba City and Sacramento could increase the amount of flood waters conveyed into the Yolo Bypass and the Delta, raising the water surface elevations, and putting further strains on Solano County levees. The state is currently looking at a new Central Valley Flood Control Plan which will need to address any downstream impacts.

The other important issue taking place in the Delta is with water supply. Over the last few years there has been a major decline in the Delta Smelt, Longfin Smelt, and other fish species in the Delta. This decline has led to legal orders to reduce the amount of water pumped out of the Delta and delivered to the San Joaquin Valley, the San Francisco Bay Area, and Southern California. The true cause for the decline in the smelt populations is still unclear. To improve water supply and minimize the pumping impact to fish, an Isolated Canal Facility (i.e. Peripheral Canal) is being proposed. There is substantial political push for this project, as over 26 million people depend on drinking water from the Delta, as well as millions of acres of farmland. In order for the Isolated Facility to be built, the regulatory agencies will be requiring substantial areas of mitigation. Entities such as the Trust for Public Lands, US Bureau of Reclamation, Westlands Water District, and others have purchased large tracts of land in the Yolo Bypass and Delta region of Solano County for potential mitigation. The restoration and habitat improvement of these lands will directly impact water quality and pumping operations at the North Bay Aqueduct (NBA), which is a main source of drinking water for Napa and Solano Counties. Additionally, Reclamation District 2068 could be negatively impacted as well by improvements in Smelt habitat. The other major part of Solano County that could be impacted by mitigation is the Suisun Marsh. Several plans have proposed between 9,000 – 25,000 acres of restored habitat in the Suisun Marsh.

Committee member Del Berg commented about who is required to provide 200-year flood protection. David responded that the flood control bill indicated that the cities of Sacramento, Stockton, and areas like Natomas are the ones required to have 200-year flood protection for any future development. David also indicated that at a meeting he attended, there was discussion that the City of Fairfield would be required to provide 200-year flood protection in some areas. David was not clear about the reasoning for this, and will be following up. Committee member Paul Lum suggested that a 6-month update on the Delta issues is warranted.

Public Comment: Mrs. Sievers from the Allendale area, voiced concern about a small grant project that was done in 1989. Mrs. Sievers requested that the Committee address her flooding concerns. David Okita informed the Committee that the Water Agency looked at addressing the regional flooding issues in the McCune Creek Watershed where Mrs. Sievers is from. The Agency proposed the formation of an assessment district to fund the flood control improvements for McCune Creek. Landowners in this area were not interested in the project, and expressed this to the SCWA Board of Directors. Since a majority of landowners were not interested in this project, the Board instructed the Water Agency to focus on other flood control issues.

Future Meeting Topics: David Okita will be requesting the City of Vacaville to give an update of their regional detention storage projects. The Solano County Water Agency will also present an update of the flood hazard warning program at the next meeting.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Flood Control Advisory Committee will be Thursday, December 4, 2008 at 7:00 pm at the Solano Irrigation District.

Committee Members Attending:

Delbert Berg	Ron Campbell
Rolf Ohlemutz	Charles Karnopp
Paul Lum	Terry Riddle
Jim Daniels	Mike O'Conner

Committee Members Absent:

Steve Chappell	Gus Silva
Mark Holdener	Laura Peters

SCWA Staff:

David Okita	Alex Rabidoux
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FLOOD CONTROL – FY 2007/2008 SMALL GRANT PROJECTS

December 4, 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	COMPLETED: Construction began October 8 – 15. The project is complete and SCWA will need to reimburse the landowner.
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.
Bill McInnes	401 Via Palo Linda Fairfield, CA	Green Valley Ck.	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0	DECLINED: The project does not directly deal with flooding. However, the SRCD helped landowner to contact a local engineer to help with this project.
Wally Pearce	4586 Campos Rd Winters, CA	McCune Ck.	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0	PENDING: The SRCD worked with landowner; small grant app submitted.
Georgia Simpson	6956 Bucktown Ln Vacaville, CA	Ulati Ck.	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0	PENDING: Not likely to submit an application, but this site is on a list of creek clean-out projects that SRCD is working on funding.
Khalil Jaber	1630 Jeni Ln Fairfield, CA	Green Valley Ck.	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0	COMPLETED: The SRCD assisted landowner with beaver dam problem.
Richard Pelton	7407 Leisure Town Rd. Vacaville, CA	Gibson Canyon Ck.	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0	PENDING: The SRCD is working on submitting this project.
Tracy Rush	101 Siebe Dr Fairfield, CA	Hennessey Creek	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0	PENDING: The SRCD is working on submitting this project.
Totals:			\$7,925	\$23,775	\$31,700	\$0	

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

MEDIUM SIZED FLOOD PROJECT STATUS REPORT

December 4, 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 Home Raising Program. SCWA processing applications – Six \$25,000 payments made in FY 2007-2008. One for FY 2008-2009 - Continuing to accept applications- none pending
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 • Initial findings show feasible project – completing report
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 • Key property is now for sale – meeting with landowner planned.
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 – major delays

SCWA FLOOD HAZARD WARNING SYSTEM

Introduction

The SCWA Board of Directors authorized a Flood Hazard Warning Program at their March 9, 2006 meeting. The purpose of this program is to provide timely information to public agencies and the general public on potential flooding in Solano County.

Program

SCWA has a system of stream and rain gages. These gages are strategically located to provide information on potential flooding to populated areas of Solano County. Data from these gages will be sent by radio telemetry to the SCWA office and put on SCWA's web page – **www.scwa2.com**. This data can be accessed remotely via the internet by SCWA employees, and at alternate locations if the SCWA office is flooded, including the County's Emergency Operation Center. Additionally, the data from gages from other public agencies in Solano County and outside of Solano County will be utilized.

Commercial weather forecasts and forecasts from the National Weather Service will also be used. Doppler radar and satellite images from the internet will also be used for forecasting.

SCWA staff will closely monitor any storm predicted to be one-inch over 24 hours. This monitoring will occur on a 24 hour per day, 7 day a week basis, as needed. The interval of monitoring will depend on conditions. The default condition (during the November through April) will be that forecasts will be done in the mornings on days when there is rain forecasted. The SCWA web page will be the main source of disseminating this information. During potential flood conditions forecasts will be made more frequently and the web page may state the frequency of upcoming forecasts.

The following level indicators will be used to characterize the risk of flooding in Solano County and the level of monitoring/warning to be done by SCWA staff.

Level 1. May through October. Not the rainy season. SCWA will watch daily forecasts for unusual events. It is possible that flooding can occur, but not likely.

Level 2. November through April (when not Level 3 or 4). This is the season where flooding is most likely to occur. Level 2 is when everyone should be prepared for flooding and watch for reports of impending large storms that would trigger level 3 or 4. SCWA will watch daily forecasts for predicted 1" or more storms that may trigger level 3 or 4.

Level 3. Whenever a 1" or greater storm over 24 hours (or less) is predicted. Storms over 1" in 24 hours have a potential for local flooding, especially if the 1" comes over 3-6 hours (or less). Generally if 1" of rain is spread evenly over 24 hours - there is no flooding. If the ground is not saturated, a 1" storm is unlikely to cause flooding. SCWA will monitor storm patterns regularly

(several times a day) during Level 3 to update short term forecast and to determine if Level 4 needs to be activated.

Level 4. Whenever a 2" or greater storm over 24 hours (or less) is predicted. Storms over 3" should result in a general warning to the public and public agencies. SCWA staff will monitor storms over a 24 hour basis (in staff shifts) as necessary to update short term forecasts. If County EOC is activated a trained SCWA staff member will be present linked to other staff in SCWA office to provide information to the EOC.

SCWA staff will analyze data to predict possible flooding. Relating rainfall data to flooding is not a precise process. A flooding forecast will need to be conservative and reflect our limited ability to actually predict flooding. Based on SCWA staff experience over the last several years, we have a general sense of what types of storms cause flooding in certain locations. Over time with a new, better data sources, we will be able to better document what amounts of rain can cause flooding in specific areas in the County, including consideration of antecedent conditions. We need to be careful not to convey over confidence in predicting flooding.

In Solano County there is a short warning period of floods. The streams coming out of the foothills from the western part of the County are extremely close to populated areas. In other areas of California, and in other states, there can be days of warning of an upcoming flood. In Solano County flood warnings can only be predicted in a matter of hours and minutes. This necessitates the need to provide both longer term and shorter term forecasting. The longer term forecasting can provide a general level of warning one to two days in advance. Short term forecasting can be several hours in advance of a flooding event. Both long term and short term forecasts can be updated as needed. Short term forecasting can be updated as frequently as 15 minutes in a major storm. The 15 minute interval is from the period Doppler radar is updated on the internet.

We also have a recorded telephone message for those who do not have access to the internet. This recorded message will be the same as the message on the internet and will be updated as the internet is updated. The recorded message will be available 24 hours per day. The telephone number is: 455-1115. This line handles 4 calls at a time.

We will also provide press releases as appropriate in coordination with the County Office of Emergency Services. This would occur in anticipation of a major storm (Level 4) and at the beginning of the rainy season as a general warning.

Any public warnings would be coordinated with the County Office of Emergency Services. For other public agencies in Solano County, we have contacted each of them and inform them of our forecasting capabilities and limitations. They can have access to our webpage with detailed information and we can also contact them directly if we have information about a severe, upcoming event.

The general public will be kept informed via the webpage, telephone recorded message and any press releases.

Based on our experience in dealing with flooding problems in unincorporated areas, we have developed a working map, from SCWA records and County records of past flooding, showing flood prone areas. In a level 4 situation, we will make recommendations to the County Office of Emergency Services on advising people who live in these areas, when appropriate, using the County's "reverse 911" system of warnings. This system allows a recorded message to be sent out to a specified, geographical area via the telephone system. Cities make their own decisions as to when to use this "911 reverse" system.

SCWA staff will be present in the County's Emergency Operations Center when the Center is activated during flood emergencies. That staff person will be linked to other SCWA staff and have real time data about flooding problems.