

DELTA PLAN INTERAGENCY IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE
November 17, 2014
Holiday Inn Capital Plaza – California Room
300 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

MEETING SUMMARY

**Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC/Committee) Meeting
November 17, 2014 –**

The meeting of the Committee was called to order by Chair Randy Fiorini. All core member agencies were in attendance including new Committee Member agency, US Geological Survey:

- **Randy Fiorini**, Chair, Delta Stewardship Council (DPIIC Chair)
- **Dan Castleberry**, Assistant Regional Director, Pacific Southwest Region, US Fish and Wildlife Service (alternate for Ren Lohofener, Regional Director)
- **Mark Cowin**, Director, California Department of Water Resources
- **Letty Belin**, Counsel to the Deputy Secretary, US Department of the Interior (alternate for Michael Connor, Deputy Secretary)
- **Chuck Bonham**, Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- **Gordon Burns**, Undersecretary, California Environmental Protection Agency (alternate for Secretary Matt Rodriguez)
- **Jane Diamond**, Division Director for Water, Pacific Southwest, US Environmental Protection Agency (alternate for Jared Blumenfeld, Regional Administrator)
- **Bill Edgar**, President, Central Valley Flood Protection Board
- **Peter Goodwin**, Lead Scientist, Delta Science Program
- **Campbell Ingram**, Executive Officer, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
- **John Laird**, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency
- **Felicia Marcus**, Chair, State Water Resources Control Board
- **Michael Nepstad**, South Pacific Division, US Army Corps of Engineers (alternate for Joe Calcara, Director)
- **Jason Phillips**, Deputy Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation (alternate for David Murillo, Regional Director, Mid-Pacific Region)
- **Mary Piepho**, Vice Chair, Delta Protection Commission
- **Karen Ross**, Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture
- **Mark Sogge**, Regional Director, US Geological Survey, Pacific Region
- **Will Stelle**, Regional Administrator, Northwest Region, National Marine Fisheries Service

Chair Fiorini provided a brief background on the Committee purpose, which is to further the coordinated progress among agencies toward achieving the coequal goals with emphasis on leadership, coordination and science.

Objectives:

The main objectives of the meeting were for all member agencies to:

- A. Recognize accomplishments since the April DPIIC meeting;
- B. Support efforts to integrate flood and ecosystem planning in the Yolo Bypass;
- C. Accept the Interim Science Action Agenda as the common link between agencies as a foundational reference point;
- D. Consider opportunities to engage with various workgroups to mutually address the challenges between common efforts;

Committee Business:

DPIIC Coordinator Taryn Ravazzini presented the draft Guiding Principles for Committee review and approval. The Guiding Principles built upon the Committee Charge and Objectives. The Committee agreed to use the Guiding Principles as the operations framework for this consensus-based forum.

Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Efforts:

Undersecretary Janelle Beland, California Natural Resources Agency, provided an update on California Water Action Plan (CWAP) implementation and the coordinated efforts of the authoring agencies and others. She recognized the DPIIC forum as an ideal place to highlight progress being made with respect to CWAP implementation and other important activities in the Delta.

Undersecretary Beland presented on the following:

- Achievement made statewide with water conservation, which is a priority action within CWAP and is coordinated between the state agencies and also with the Association of California Water Agencies. Much outreach and education was accomplished over the year to encourage and meet the conservation goals and objectives of the executive order.
- Passage of Proposition 1 was a big victory. It was the first water bond since 2006 and will provide much of the foundational funding support for CWAP implementation.
- Working to strengthen and simplify the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) program to prioritize funding support for IRWM planning and projects that increase regional self-reliance and result in integrated, multi-benefit solutions for ensuring sustainable water resources.
- Achievement was made in beginning the implementation of the Delta Plan, which is a direction of the CWAP, and each of the Committee members is a direct participant in this accomplishment. The DPIIC is an important organizing opportunity to work together – a lot is woven through the CWAP about interagency coordination and the DPIIC forum provides great opportunities for conversations about how to move forward together to support each other in achieving success for the CWAP and the Delta Plan and others.
- Three interagency coordination groups and efforts are underway to focus on protecting and restoring important ecosystems and forest related management efforts.
- Historic groundwater legislation was passed and creates a framework for sustainable, local groundwater management for the first time in California. Local agencies will have the tools needed to sustainably manage and tailor their groundwater plans to their

regional economic and environmental needs. The legislation provides the state with the opportunity to intervene until the local agency develops and implements a sustainable groundwater management plan.

- Interagency coordinated efforts to develop funding priorities for state investments in the Delta levees are being developed consistent with the Delta Reform Act.
- Coordinated efforts to align flood protection and habitat restoration projects in the Yolo Bypass.

Kris Tjernell, Special Assistant for Water Policy, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), presented an initial outline and direction of CNRA efforts to coordinate and integrate programs within the Yolo Bypass. He emphasized the CWAP as directing California's approach to water management. He commented on the value of the Council's Habitat Issue Paper for highlighting the Yolo Bypass as a priority area for habitat restoration and an opportunity for increased coordination efforts. He discussed the importance of connecting the commonalities among regionally integrated flood projects with maximum public benefits. Chair Fiorini expressed the interest of the Committee to receive updates on this integration effort and Mr. Tjernell accepted the invitation to return to provide a status update and share specific proposals and concepts.

Policy-Science Interface:

Dr. Peter Goodwin provided an update on activities for the Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Science Program. The purpose of the Delta Science Plan and promotion of the "*One Delta, One Science*" concept is to develop synergy between the various parties, and to better structure science and best inform policy. The Delta Science Plan is a three part strategy geared at developing best available science in a common body of knowledge.

Dr. Goodwin discussed the Interim Science Action Agenda (ISAA), a requirement from the Delta Science Plan, and a follow up to the recommendation of the Delta Plan. It is a shared work plan that reflects key action items included in the CWAP. The ISAA is a foundational document to be used as a collaborative roadmap for decision-relevant science and to help support some of the key science actions in the Delta. The ISAA is a product of interagency cooperation, as many agencies engaged with the Delta Science program in its development. It is required to help prioritize and identify the high priorities for research, monitoring, data management, modeling, synthesis, communication, and building science capacity.

Committee discussion determined there would be great benefit in securing a cross-agency understanding of the ISAA and identification of on-the-ground actions that can come from this collaborative roadmap.

The following actions were considered and agreed upon by the Committee:

- 1) Accept the ISAA as a collaborative road map for decision-relevant science, guiding regional science activities in support of policy and management decisions in the Delta.**

- a. Proposed Definition of "**ACCEPT**": the Committee and therefore the agencies represented agree to use the ISAA as a reference to help guide their science activities in the Delta and foster shared implementation of science actions.*

- b. **Discussion:** Committee members inquired as to the purpose and intent of the ISAA, what acceptance entailed and how their agencies should move forward in light of limited time and staff resources. Many agencies commented on the unique significance of such an effort and the importance of focusing attention on collaborative science actions in the Delta.

2) Council and Science Program staff will engage DPIIC member agencies' key science and policy managers to work in a facilitated fashion to provide input on the prioritizing process and identify collaborative science activities for near-term implementation

- a. **DELIVERABLE FOR NEXT MEETING:** Staff will report back to DPIIC on priorities from the ISAA and actions underway or to be collectively implemented in the near term.

A third proposal was offered to the Committee: to participate in scoping the detailed review and assessment charge for the proposed comprehensive assessment of Bay-Delta system monitoring and help to identify appropriate experts to comprise the assessment panel. This was tabled for later discussion, as appropriate, pending related developments by several of the DPIIC member agencies.

Risk Reduction - Delta Levees:

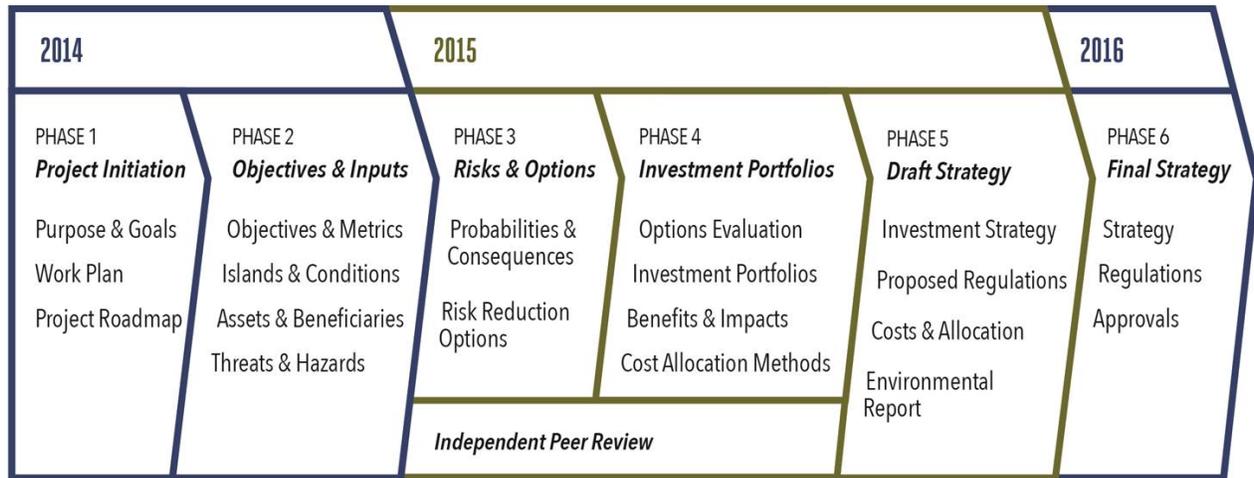
Cindy Messer, Deputy Executive Officer, Delta Stewardship Council, provided an overview of the Delta Levee Investment Strategy (DLIS) that the Council is developing, and reviewed various opportunities for DPIIC member agency engagement.

The DLIS presentation focused on the following:

- A new approach for investing state funds in Delta levees. This new approach should guide the ongoing investment of state funds in a way that considers the interconnection of assets protected by levees, the exposure of these assets to different risk factors, beneficiaries of levee protection and appropriate cost share allocation for this protection. This approach also must recognize that assets such as water supply, ecosystem health, and the unique values of the Delta are not only valuable to the State of California and residents of the Delta, but to a range of beneficiaries.
- This new approach will be developed by working together with other affected State and local agencies, Delta residents, a wide variety of Delta stakeholders. The DLIS will use a comprehensive methodology that considers the assets protected by Delta levees, the threats to Delta levees, the multiple beneficiaries of Delta levee investments, and both structural and non-structural approaches for reducing risk.
- The outcome of the project will be a final report that proposes updated priorities for State investments in Delta levees, including revisions to the Delta Plan's flood risk regulatory policies, recommendations, and narrative, and related Delta Plan revisions. The strategy may also be submitted to the California Legislature to help guide future decisions about funding.

Council staff developed the following graphic and descriptive text below to indicate the strategy for project schedule, tasks, and milestones.

Project Planning Process



Erik Vink, Executive Officer, Delta Protection Commission, presented on the purpose of and progress to date with the Commission’s creation of a Delta Levee Assessment District pursuant to the 2009 Delta Reform Act. He reported that the Delta Levee Assessment District will be a complementary effort to the Delta Levee Investment Strategy, and will have fee assessment authority for flood protection, levee improvements and emergency preparedness. This was a recommendation of the Economic Sustainability Plan, was incorporated in the Delta Plan, and included in the California Water Action Plan.

The Feasibility Study, to be conducted, will accomplish several tasks

- Address existing funding sources, institutions and procedures
- Identify who are the delta levee beneficiaries, and their level of benefits and contributions
- How would the district be formed and function

Outcomes:

On behalf of the Committee membership, all agencies agreed to the following Delta related key priority actions intended to be reported on at the next DPIIC meeting.

- A Yolo Bypass update will be provided in six months to further identify coordinated opportunities that exist in this action area.
- Acceptance of the Interim Science Action Agenda (ISAA) and a commitment of agency resources as available to help distill the science action list down to some key priorities and action items to be reviewed at the next meeting.
- Delta Levee Investment Strategy is an ongoing effort that involves extensive coordination and multiple agencies. Council staff has agreed to provide future updates to keep the DPIIC informed of key milestones.
- Due to time constraints, Agenda Item 4: Reporting on Progress was skipped. Chair Fiorini directed staff to provide a written report in place of the presentation. (Attached)

Delta Plan Performance Reporting

Summary: At the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) in November 2014, due to time constraints, DPIIC members accepted the opportunity to receive a written report in lieu of a presentation on how Delta Plan implementation will be measured and the role of implementing agencies in this process.

Background

The Delta Reform Act established specific requirements for the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) to include in the Delta Plan related to performance measures. These requirements help the Council gauge success in meeting the objectives and measuring progress toward achieving the coequal goals, and the Delta Plan's recommendations for integrating scientific and monitoring results into ongoing Delta water management. (Water Code section 85308)

The Delta Plan specifies 160 performance measures:

- 125 administrative measures, which measure dates, targets achieved, and resources expended, such as dollars spent on habitat restoration projects;
- 15 output measures, which track results of actions, such as acres restored by habitat type; and
- 20 outcome measures, which track the impacts of those actions, such as trends in native species using the restored habitat.

The role of the Council, in part, is to ensure performance-focused implementation of the Delta Plan through coordinated interagency efforts that meet the requirements of the Delta Reform Act.

Council staff continues to be focused on the following priority activities related to performance reporting:

- **Delta Plan performance measures** – Continue to coordinate and collaborate with other agencies undertaking performance measures/management work in the Delta to improve data accessibility, increase knowledge and information sharing, and to avoid duplication of efforts, while simultaneously implementing Delta Plan-specific performance measures.
- **Delta activities tracking system** - Development and implementation of automated tools that will track progress of the Delta Plan while also informing stakeholders and the public.
 - The system will be compatible with the Delta Plan and its policies, recommendations, and performance measures.
 - The system will be able to provide detailed reporting on annual expenditures related to Delta Plan implementation, individual project status, and progress towards achieving the [coequal goals](#).

Next key milestone: Council staff will provide a report to the Council in July 2015.