

From: [John Maguire](#)
To: [Jones, Dustin@DeltaCouncil](mailto:Jones.Dustin@DeltaCouncil)
Cc: [Fritz Buchman](#); [Jim Giottonini](#); [Roger Churchwell](#)
Subject: Re: Draft Comments on Delta Flood Management Investment Strategy Principles
Date: Friday, June 12, 2015 11:03:15 AM

Dustin: Thanks for catching that. Please add the following as comment 6.

6. General - Investments to provide increased flood protection to urban areas in the Delta should not be limited to facilities just within the Delta. It should include any facilities that are components of an overall system that provides flood protection to Delta urban areas.

John

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 12, 2015, at 9:16 AM, Jones, Dustin@DeltaCouncil
<Dustin.Jones@deltacouncil.ca.gov> wrote:

Thank you for your comments on the Delta Flood Management Investment Strategy Principles, John. I see below that there is a blank item 6 and want to confirm that you only intended to submit the 5 items shown. With this confirmed, I will pass your comments along to the Council and follow up with you if they have any questions.

-Dustin

From: John Maguire [<mailto:jmaguire@sjgov.org>]
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2015 6:18 PM
To: Jones, Dustin@DeltaCouncil
Cc: Fritz Buchman; Jim Giottonini; Roger Churchwell
Subject: Draft Comments on Delta Flood Management Investment Strategy Principles

Mr. Jones:

The San Joaquin County Public Works Department appreciates the opportunity to provide the following comments on the Delta Flood Management Investment Strategy Principles.

1. Page 2, second paragraph - We concur with the concept that addressing the most serious flood risks should be given funding priority, particularly those associated with "large urban centers" as referred to in the document. However, we don't necessarily agree with the statement that these communities "should pay more towards levee improvements, because they can." This assumption may be true for some urban areas, but not necessarily for economically depressed communities such as Stockton. In fact, the Department of Water Resources recognizes the difficulty many economically depressed communities have in raising money for flood improvements by reducing the required

minimum local match funding percentage for these communities in many of their grant programs. In light of this, it would be appropriate for the Council to qualify this statement to recognize that reducing the local funding requirement for economically depressed communities may be necessary to ensure that these urban areas receive flood protection consistent with that provided to other urban areas.

2. Principle 2 : “Stop urbanizing flood-prone land.” – It should be recognized that stopping all development behind levees will not necessarily reduce flood risk and state liability. Thousands of homes already exist behind levees in the Delta, and in many cases the only practical way for local agencies to generate funding to construct improvements to provide increased flood protection for these homes is through fees and assessments charged to new development. Although allowing this would result in more people living behind levees, in many existing urban areas this actually can result in a net reduction in overall flood risk and state liability. Therefore, stopping all urbanization in flood-prone areas will not result in flood risk reduction. This Principle should be revised to indicate that urbanization of flood prone areas without ensuring a reduction in overall flood risk (and achievement of an acceptable level of flood protection for urban areas) should be prohibited.
3. Principle 3: “Expenditures should reduce risk.” – Explanatory language provided with this Principle indicates that State funds should not be used to subsidize routine maintenance because maintenance is a landowner or local agency responsibility. This statement fails to recognize the reality that exists for most local maintaining agencies – that they do not have sufficient funding to provide adequate levee maintenance. And, inadequate maintenance results in an increased risk of levee failure. Therefore, to meet the Council’s goal of reducing flood risk, sufficient funding for levee maintenance needs to be achieved. To accomplish this, either State funds to augment existing local maintenance funds is needed, or changes in State law to enable local agencies to generate the needed additional funds is needed. The discussion associated with the Principle should reflect this reality.
4. Principle 5: “State flood management investments to protect major urban development remain the first priority.” – We concur that providing adequate flood protection to urban areas should be the State’s first priority. However, this should indicate the appropriate level of flood protection for urban areas as 200-year, consistent with the standard established by Senate Bill 5.
5. Principle 10: “Non-project levee proposals seeking State funding must prove they protect many people and/or assets or help achieve the co-equal goals.” - The explanatory language provided with this Principle seems to contradict the Principle itself. It implies that locals are not entitled to receive State funds for non-project levees, while the Principle implies that use of State funds for non-project levees is acceptable provided it would protect lives and property or help achieve the co-equal goals. We understand the interest by the State to reduce State liability. However, large urban areas protected by non-project levees

should be given first priority for flood protection investment, as indicated in Principle 5, regardless of whether the investment would be to project or non-project levees. The primary goal should be to reduce flood risk in these areas. Reducing State liability should be secondary to this. Also, many urban areas, such as Stockton, receive protection from both project and non-project levees. Therefore, to achieve an acceptable level of protection for these areas (i.e. 200-year) will require investment in both project and non-project levees.

6.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

John

John I. Maguire, P.E., C.F.M.
Engineering Services Manager
Flood Management Division
San County Department of Public Works
1810 E. Hazelton Avenue
Stockton, CA 95205
Office: (209)953-7617