

SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA REGIONAL FLOOD RESPONSE PROJECT

“Creating a unified response to Delta flood events”

Regional Project Background and Proposed Projects



Delta Protection Commission
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GRANT OPPORTUNITY AND DELTA REGIONAL APPLICATION

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES FLOOD PREPAREDNESS GRANT

In March 2011, the Department of Water Resources issued draft guidance for a new “Local Flood Emergency Planning, Preparedness, and Response Grant Program”. Funding for this grant will come from the Proposition 84 bond act passed in 2006. Two initial grant packages will be issued in Fall 2011. One grant package with total available funds of \$5 million will be for communications equipment for Delta jurisdictions. A second grant package with total available funding of \$5 million will be for local flood preparedness and response projects. Local jurisdictions throughout the Central Valley can apply for funding under the second grant although DWR has indicated that priority for this funding will be to the Delta.

SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA REGIONAL FLOOD RESPONSE PROJECT

Common past practice has been for eligible local jurisdictions to develop individual applications for funding when the State or Federal governments issue grants to local government. In this case, the Delta Protection Commission is sponsoring an effort to bring local jurisdictions together to jointly identify projects that would enhance response to flood impacts and then subsequently to jointly seek funding to implement them. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region IX supports this concept and is considering providing some funding to help with this effort. This new approach will allow innovative Delta-wide response systems to be envisioned and efficiencies achieved in spending scarce public funds. The Delta Protection Commission has agreed to be the official applicant for any joint regional funding request while Delta jurisdictions and other participating agencies would jointly implement funded projects. Delta counties, cities, and reclamation districts, and other interested agencies are now being asked to comment on proposed projects and indicate their support for this joint effort through submission of a letter of support. A final list of projects will be developed after receiving as much input as possible. Projects will be implemented in cooperation with CalEMA, DWR, and other State and Federal agencies.

SB27 TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING FLOOD RESPONSE

In 2009, the Governor signed Senate Bill 27 which required the California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA) to form a task force to develop a strategy for improving emergency response in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The task force was composed of a representative from each of the five Delta counties, the Department of Water Resources, and the Delta Protection Commission. The report, along with an estimate of funds needed to implement the recommendations, was completed in early 2011 and is awaiting delivery to the legislature.

The SB27 Task Force recommendations parallel similar recommendations developed by a joint Delta county planning group in 2008. A summary of these recommendations, which are based on established concepts from the National Incident Management System (NIMS), is included.

Summary of General Preparedness Recommendations

The following is a summary of recommendations reflected in the SB27 Task Force Report and in the previous Delta county flood response group reports outlining a strategy for improving emergency response and public safety in the Delta. The full SB27 report should be read when issued and is the authoritative source for those recommendations.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Develop Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Flood Catastrophic Incident Plan to include:

Updated **Risk Assessment** for Delta Floods

Regional Multi-Agency Coordination System (Delta MACS) to improve resource management and information sharing during regional emergencies

Delta Interoperable Communications Plan for local and State responders

Common Regional Unified Command Framework to improve agency coordination

Regional Evacuation Plan for efficient evacuation and rescue of residents

Flood Contingency Maps for the entire Delta to improve flood fight operations

Flood Response and Flood Fight Resource Stockpiles to be placed strategically in Delta

Emergency Response Exercises for all hazards in the Delta

Training Plan for officials that would implement this regional system

Flood Fight Emergency Funding Protocol to eliminate potential delays in responding to levee problems due to lack of appropriations or cash at time of emergency

THE PROPOSED DELTA MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATION SYSTEM (MACS)

Creation of a Delta Multi-Agency Coordination System (Delta MACS) will be the key product of regional preparedness planning. A multi-agency coordination system is intended to improve information sharing and the availability and management of needed resources over a large area dealing with a common threat. The specific projects proposed for this application would provide the tools needed to implement this new regional response capability in an emergency and also enhance response to local problems.

In the 1970's, the California Fire Service developed the Incident Command System (ICS) to improve coordination between the numerous agencies that often respond to the same problem or "incident". Later, the Fire Service developed the concept of a "multi-agency coordination system (MACS)" to help such local "incident commands" to better coordinate their actions and manage available resources with other separate incidents occurring at the same time. In the ICS, agencies and jurisdictions working together at a specific problem site, or "incident", decide how to deal with that problem. The MACS system is not intended to change this local command, but to enhance regional coordination to ensure the most effective overall response possible.

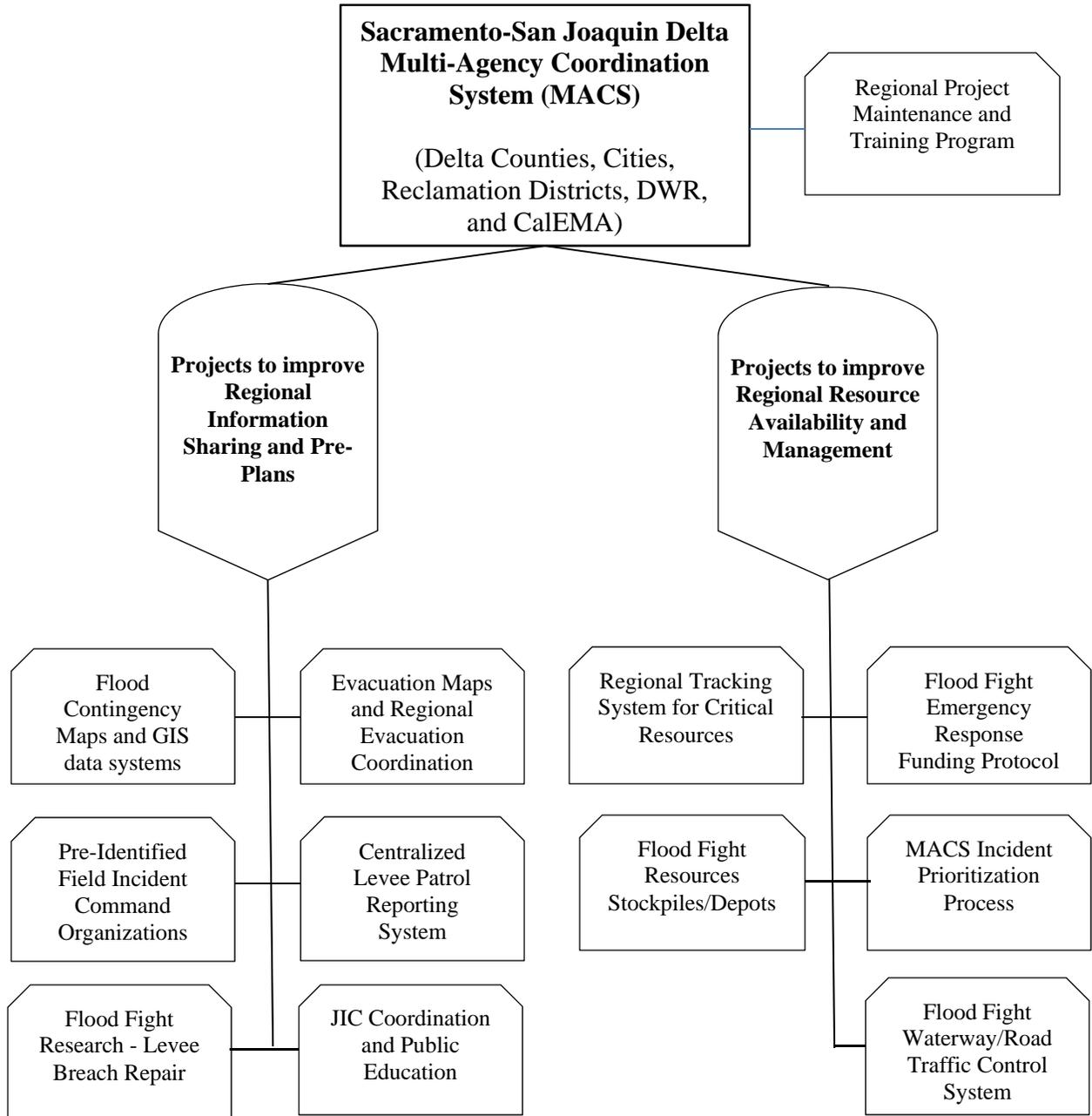
Agencies and jurisdictions responding to flood problems throughout the Delta will be the participants in this new multi-agency coordination system process. Interaction between agencies and jurisdictions will be through conference calls, interactive Internet systems, physical meetings, and radio systems. The small number of staff needed to facilitate this multi-agency coordination process will be provided by the California Emergency Management Agency and/or other appropriate agencies.

Potential practical benefits include improved management of scarce or critical resources. Agencies will be able to more quickly locate needed resources throughout the Delta region regardless of political boundaries. Agencies with resources to share will have an easy process for letting other agencies throughout the Delta know of their availability. Normal mutual aid and resource request processes remain in place but information on Delta-wide resources and operations will be greatly improved thereby making those systems more effective.

No one agency, State or local, in the Delta can effectively implement such a multi-jurisdictional, regional, response system. Only by working together in a single Delta-wide planning effort can such a regional system be put in place. The regional grant application project is designed to create this unified effort to implement a model flood response system in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as part of State and Federal planning efforts.

The chart on the next page shows how the specific projects proposed for inclusion in the regional grant application relate to the two key MACS objectives of improving information sharing and the management and availability of critical resources (although some projects may be actually implemented through other established systems in an actual response). Most projects will have the dual effect of also improving flood fight and public safety operations at specific problem sites in a major flood event and can be used in recovery operations.

2.2 Delta Multi-Agency Coordination System and Related Grant Projects



PROPOSED PROJECTS FOR REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION

Implement Delta Multi-Agency Coordination System (Delta MACS)

Name of Project	Description of Final Product	Funding Request
Delta Multi-Agency Coordination System (MACS) – Regional Application Project #1	Procedures, communications systems, and supplies for implementing a regional multi-agency coordination system throughout the Delta would be developed. Staff identified and trained	\$250,000 to develop procedures and obtain equipment
Regional Project Maintenance/ Training Program – Regional Application Project #2	Develop a maintenance program and protocol for preparedness products and a training program to meet all necessary FEMA requirements for disaster reimbursement and effective response	\$50,000 to develop program and provide training guidelines

Improve Delta-wide Information Sharing

Name of Project	Description of Final Product	Funding Request
Flood Contingency Maps and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) data management systems – Regional Application Project #3	Flood contingency maps for entire Delta with preliminary engineering designs for emergency actions identified on maps such as relief cuts. GIS model for maps to allow remote population of contingency maps with real-time information at time of emergency. Related GIS databases on critical infrastructure for use in EOCs. See www.sjmap.org/oesfcm for examples.	\$1,000,000 to complete maps, engineering work, GIS model and remote data collection system
Evacuation Maps and Regional Evacuation System – Regional Application Project #4	A series of maps for urban areas of the Delta showing evacuation procedures for responders. Related maps for general public use. Regional system for coordinating local evacuations. See www.sjmap.org/oesmg for examples.	\$400,000 to complete maps, regional system, and acquire equipment
Pre-identified Delta Incident Command Organizations – Regional Application Project #5	Pre-identify Public Safety and Flood Fight Incident and Unified Commands in order to improve local operations and coordination between adjacent areas of Delta.	\$75,000 to pre-identify commands and obtain supplies
Centralized Levee Patrol Reporting System – Regional Application Project #6	Develop a web-based system to post real-time levee conditions to reduce problems that arise from lack of easily accessible information on the status of Delta levees and leveed areas	\$150,000 to develop patrol reporting tool and buy needed tools
Public Information and Education Systems – Regional Application Project #7	Develop tools to allow operational area joint information centers to share information through the MACS. Install public education and notification systems in operational areas	\$200,000 to develop protocols and systems
Flood Fight Research – Alternate Levee Breach Repair Protocol – Regional Application Project #8	Design protocol for sealing breaches or underpasses with sheet pile or the USACE Rapid Repair of Levee Breaches devices to address the shortage of dredges for quickly placing rock and fill in potential multiple breaches	\$400,000 to develop protocols for use of sheet pile or USACE equipment

Improve Delta-wide Resource Management and Flood Fight Support

Name of Project	Description of Final Product	Funding Request
Regional Tracking System for Critical Resources – Regional Application Project #9	Web-based system for tracking exact location, status, and mission of resources identified as critical or limited by Delta MACS Group throughout the Delta. Agencies with critical resources could post their availability to allow rapid sharing and transport of the closest available limited resource to a problem site. Information would allow mutual aid systems to better manage critical or limited resources.	\$200,000 to create web-based tracking system designed for flood operations and operational procedures
Flood Fight Emergency Response Funding Protocol – Regional Application Project #10	SB27 report calls for development of a protocol for ensuring funds are immediately available for engineering response to critical threats to levees. Project would explore modification of California Disaster Assistance Act or creation of with new protocol to ensure that response to critical levee problems is not delayed due to lack of appropriations or cash flow.	\$100,000 to determine basis for funding protocol and criteria for accessing and using advance funds
Flood Fight Resources Stockpiles and Depots System – Regional Application Project #11	Develop flood fight resources stockpile and depot system to which all Levee Maintaining Agencies (LMA) have equal access. Coordinate with DWR stockpile programs to avoid overlap and duplication. Conduct an assessment of LMA supplies versus preparedness criteria and needs for emergency actions identified on flood contingency maps as a basis for system design	\$100,000 for Phase I - Design System and determine current resource status; \$900,000 for Phase II - Acquire resources
Incident Prioritization Process – Regional Application Project #12	The NIMS Multi-Agency Coordination System (MACS) has a standard protocol for reviewing ongoing incidents in order to prioritize incidents to ensure that the most critical incidents are addressed effectively. Adapt this protocol to the needs of the Delta.	\$50,000 to develop protocol for Delta and identify communications needed to use it
Flood Fight Resource Waterway and Roadway Traffic Control System – Regional Application Project #13	Establish a traffic control system for the Delta similar to Coast Guard systems in the SF Bay that could monitor, route, and plan movement of critical supplies on roadways, waterways, and utilities in a disaster and also assist with movement of perishable commodities out of isolated agricultural areas. Ensure that the limited Delta transport system is used as effectively as possible, particularly if seriously impaired for long periods by extensive flooding.	\$200,000 to develop protocols and identify needed communications systems to implement system in a disaster

ACTIONS NEEDED AND APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE

NOTE: The following action dates may need to be adjusted depending on State deadlines.

Actions Needed from Interested Reclamation Districts, Cities, and Counties

Action #1 – PROVIDE INPUT TO THIS PROPOSED REGIONAL PROJECT

Read this summary document and provide input on the contents of the regional grant application and on how potential projects should be prioritized for improved flood response by contacting the project facilitator or attending any scheduled open meetings.

Action #2 – PROVIDE SUPPORT AND COMMIT TO PARTICIPATE

Submit a letter of support to the Delta Protection Commission as soon as possible but no later than the date that any application must be submitted to the State (TBD). This does not need to be a governing body resolution but the letter needs to indicate your agency's strong support for a regional application and its willingness to participate in its implementation. DPC will need to show that local jurisdictions are behind this effort. **See Sample Letter of Support**

Implementation Schedule

- March 2011 - Draft guidance for new DWR flood response grant released
- May - Delta Protection Commission votes to be lead applicant for regional grant applications for the DWR grant
- August- September - Delta Regional Flood Response Project initiated.
- September-October - Document describing regional project and application distributed and meetings held in the Delta to solicit input and participation from Delta reclamation districts, cities, counties, and other interested agencies
- November - DWR releases final grant guidance; specific projects for first regional application finalized; regional outreach continues
- December – January - Application Period; Coordinate applications if any Delta Jurisdictions are submitting separately from regional application; Submit regional application
- March-April - DWR awards grants (estimated)
- Spring 2012 - Start work on regional flood response projects (estimated)

Attachment #1

Sample Letter of Support for Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Regional Flood Response Project

Mr. Don Nottoli, Chair
Delta Protection Commission
14215 River Road
P.O. Box 530
Walnut Grove, CA 95690

Dear Sir:

SUPPORT FOR DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION (DPC) REGIONAL FLOOD RESPONSE GRANT APPLICATION

By this communication, the [Name of Jurisdiction] indicates its support for the Delta Protection Commission's regional application for funding from the 2011 Department of Water Resources Flood Emergency Planning, Preparedness, and Response Grant to implement the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Regional Flood Response Project. We have reviewed the proposed regional application and its specific projects and agree that implementation of this regional project would significantly enhance the effectiveness of emergency response and improve public safety in the Delta. The [Name of Jurisdiction] supports such multi-jurisdictional projects in order to create a more effective Delta response to regional disasters.

The [Name of Jurisdiction] will participate within its resources in the implementation of this regional project and will participate in, and support, resulting regional emergency coordination systems. The [Name of Jurisdiction] encourages the Department of Water Resources and other State agencies to support and approve the Delta Protection Commission regional application and to assist in the project's implementation in coordination with related State public safety initiatives.

The [Name of Jurisdiction] appreciates the willingness of the Delta Protection Commission to assist in the creation of a Delta-wide multi-jurisdictional regional emergency planning effort. Such regional efforts offer greater cost efficiencies in the use of scarce public funds and offers greater benefits to all jurisdictions and citizens in the Delta than separate individual efforts could achieve.

SIGNATURE BLOCK

Attachment #2

Project Contact and Meeting Schedule Sheet

For questions and comments, contact the project facilitator directly.

Ronald E. Baldwin, Project Facilitator

Telephone: (209) 601-2175

Email: rbaldwin@pbieng.com

Outreach Meetings Completed to Date

October 10th in Walnut Grove

October 11th in Pittsburg

October 18th in Sacramento

October 25th in Rio Vista

October 27th in Stockton

Focus Group Meeting

A focus group meeting composed of Delta engineering firms, county offices of emergency services, and selected key agencies will be held in late November after final State grant guidance is released to prioritize and finalize the specific projects for inclusion in the regional application.

Future Outreach

Further open meetings and outreach will occur in November and December based on funding and need. Agencies can continue to provide input and request information from the project facilitator at any time.