

Upper-Mid-Lower SJR RFMP
3rd Inter-Regional Coordination Meeting
January 23, 2014
River Partners – 912 11th Street, Lower Level, Modesto, CA

Attendees:

Gemma Biscocho – SJAFCA & LSJ/DS RFMP
Jim Giottonini – SJAFCA & LSJ/DS RFMP
Greg Farley – DWR
Kim Floyd – Kim Floyd Communications & LSJ/DS RFMP
Sarah Modeste – Kennedy Modeste Communications & LSJ/DS RFMP
Julie Retner – River Partners & MUSJ RFMP
Bill Edgar – CVFPB
Reggie Hill – LSJLD/USJR RFMP
Jesse Patchett – Peterson Brustad, Inc. & LSJ/DS RFP

Discuss Status of Each RFMP Effort

Lower SJ/Delta South RFMP

- The Paradise Cut Symposium was held in December and included presentations from American Rivers, MBK, DWR and Peterson Brustad.
- More than 100 projects have been added to the draft project list, and to date the majority of stakeholder feedback has indicated that the list is inclusive of potential local and regional projects. Several projects will be recommended that may have impacts to the other regions, including SJ County's plan to provide 200-year protection, levees that are inactive in PL84-99, upstream transitory storage, coordinated reservoir forecast based operations, and a Paradise Cut corridor management plan. The group also discussed letting the regions review and compare the \$17 billion in project costs included in the CVFPP to locally identified projects.
- A draft RFMP is available and the team has started receiving feedback. Once the feedback is reviewed and the RFMP is updated, a comment log will be posted to the website so stakeholders can review comments and see how each was addressed.
- The team has worked with local agencies to provide assistance in understanding the issues associated with SB5, but have not received much political interest to date. Greg Farley added that Paul Marshall with DWR is available to present to urban and urbanizing communities about SB5. DWR is re-working its map to show 200-year flood inundation; the updated maps will be available in March.
- A meeting with FESSRO and the conservation strategy team is scheduled for the week of January 27. Bill Edgar suggested that FESSRO start communicating its plan for the projects in order to gain local support, then follow with the costs associated with the projects.

Mid SJ RFMP

- The regional settings, flooding and flood hazards and emergency response chapters have been drafted. The draft emergency response chapter is nearly complete.
- The preliminary project list is underway and currently includes approximately 24 projects; the team has been holding small group meetings to review the preliminary project list. The initial list was developed from the CVFPP. The CCVFCA has convened a rural levee working

group, and the group developed topic papers, which will be circulated to all of the regions for inclusion, as necessary, in the regional plans.

- The region is developing a table developed of potential funding sources that could apply to RFMP projects
- Next meeting is February 13 at the Farm Bureau in Modesto and will be focused on a prioritization of projects and kicking off the environmental and land use chapter.
- Mark Farley and Julie Rentner will be following up with Maria at the City of Patterson to review SB 5 information.

Upper SJR RFMP

- The region has held a kick-off meeting and five workshops. There has been very good attendance at each of its meetings and has obtained helpful feedback.
- The region has begun compiling its project list and it currently includes 50 projects. The projects range from conceptual to fully detailed. The conceptual projects will likely be included in the project as a 'place holder' but may not be included in the detailed prioritized list. The region is developing a criterion for prioritizing projects, which will likely include tiers. Julie suggested that the regions review other environmental stewardship efforts in the area.
- The Plan is on time and will be provided to DWR in August 2014.

Discuss Issues of Interregional Importance

A. Gauge Interest in Support for Paradise Cut in other Regions

The project team heard from several participants that they would like a follow up meeting to further the discussions. The meeting notes have been posted to SJAFCA.com and notes have been distributed to meeting participants.

Paradise Cut is still being considered for inclusion in the Lower SJ RFMP. The Plan will be recommending a preferred alternative for Paradise Cut Improvements. It would be proposed in the Plan that the downstream hydrologic impact could be mitigated as part of the Paradise Cut plan, in addition to the environmental impacts and flood stage reductions.

All three regions can include documentation in each of their plans in support of the other regions' projects.

B. Discuss Potential Ecosystem Benefits from Reservoir Re-Operation

Lower SJ/Delta South proposed this item based on a request from John Cain at American Rivers. Jesse Patchett will discuss this item in more detail with John Cain and FESSRO and provide a summary to the group at the next coordination meeting. Julie added that she will be discussing this with Turlock Irrigation District in a meeting next week and will report to the group.

The group would like Eric Tsai and Chris Williams to report on DWR's considerations of reservoir re-operation at the next inter-regional coordination meeting. Greg Farley will reach out to Chris Williams to invite him to discuss at a coming meeting; Kim Floyd will do the same with Eric Tsai.

C. Interregional Mitigation Planning & Hidden Valley

River Partners recently purchased 500 acres at Hidden Valley, of which 191 acres are reserved for mitigation in relation to the State Plan of Flood Control. The agencies and River Partners are not currently interested in developing credits to be sold, but instead hoping to identify future impacts

and align that with mitigation at Hidden Valley. River Partners would like to collect preliminary information on potential mitigation needs. The group discussed that all three regions could include the text in their regional plans, and River Partners agreed.

D. Consolidated Levee Maintenance/Technical Assistance

The group agreed that this would be a good discussion for each region to discuss and review.