

Project Name:	<u>LSJ/DS RFMP</u>	Date:	<u>1/29/14 10a-12p</u>
Meeting Subject:	<u>FESSRO / CS Coordination Meeting</u>	Project No.:	<u></u>
Location:	<u>SJAFCA Conference Room</u>	Page:	<u>1</u>
Notes by:	<u>Jesse Patchett</u>		

Attendees:	<u>Jim Giottonini</u>	<u>Petrea Marchand</u>	<u>Lori Clamurro-Chew</u>	<u></u>
	<u>Gemma Biscocho</u>	<u>John Cain</u>	<u>Ray McDowell</u>	<u></u>
	<u>Roger Churchwell</u>	<u>Ron Melcer</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
	<u>Jesse Patchett</u>	<u>Mark Thompkins</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>

Purpose:

The purpose of this meeting was facilitate a discussion with DWR’s FloodSAFE Environmental Stewardship and Statewide Resources Office (FESSRO) and Conservation Strategy (CS) team to understand the data and tools that are available to assist the LSJ/DS RFMP team in identifying potential multi-benefit project opportunities.

Discussion:

Introductions were made by attendees, followed by a presentation from Ron Melcer on the Conservation Strategy and some draft/preliminary data.

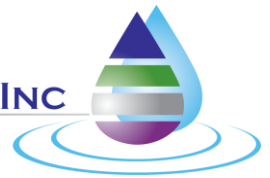
According to DWR, the Conservation Strategy should be available for public release in April/May 2014. The goal of the CS is to support flood system improvements via regional permitting, advance mitigation projects, agricultural stewardship, fish passage, vegetation management, and habitat tracking. The CS is being done in coordination with CVIFMS, but a date on when projects will released is not yet known.

DWR also presented an overview of preliminary potential Floodplain Restoration Opportunity Areas (FROAs). These are areas DWR has preliminarily identified as potential sites to reconnect floodplains along the San Joaquin River, either through levee setbacks or other enhancement opportunities (e.g. revetment removal). This evaluation does not currently extend to the eastside tributaries or the Delta South. FROAs in the Delta South may be available from the BDCP. It is important to note the FROAs are not areas DWR or other agencies plan to implement ecosystem restoration in the future. Rather, the FROAs identify potential opportunities for environmental enhancements and are designed to provide information into the flood management planning process. According to DWR, the FROA analysis is limited, however, and should be used carefully. Local agencies can consider FROA as part of the process to evaluate potential ecosystem benefits into RFMP projects on a case-by-case basis. DWR provided an example of the West Sacramento levee setback project, in which the FROA analysis identified a much larger area for a potential setback levee than the West Sacramento Flood Control Agency (WSAFCA) proposed. The FROA analysis informed West Sacramento’s decision, but it was one of many factors WSAFCA took into account in designing the project. DWR emphasized that local agencies can use the FROA analysis to develop multi-benefit projects that may be more competitive for state and federal funding than single-purpose projects.

Questions/Comments:

It was asked if the regional permitting in the Conservation Strategy is looking at the LSJ/DS Region. According to DWR, the regional permitting aspects are currently being evaluated as part of a “pilot” project in the Feather River region. Lessons learned from this region may be applied to all other regions in the future. American Rivers also noted that many groups and agencies (e.g. USFWS, etc.) are frustrated with the existing permitting system as it can sometimes act as a barrier to good projects.

A question was posed to DWR if the strategy to increase the efficiency of permitting includes input and coordination with all applicable agencies (e.g. USACE, DWR, USFWS, etc.). According to DWR, an interagency Advisory Committee has been created which includes USFWS, CDFW,, USACE and other agencies that are providing input to the FESSRO team on the Conservation Strategy.



DWR suggested one way to incorporate the CS and FROAs was to cross-reference the FROAs with the RFMP team's list of projects to see if there are any needed levee repair projects in areas that have also been identified as possible FROA areas. In these instances, it may be possible to modify these projects to incorporate multiple benefits. This will be done on a case-by-case basis in coordination with LSJ/DS stakeholders.

Action Items:

The RFMP team will set up a follow up meeting with the FESSRO team to discuss the best way to incorporate the FESSRO/CS data into the RFMP. RFMP Team will overlay FROA data onto identified RFMP project footprints to identify possible multi-benefit opportunities and will discuss these with stakeholders during the next round of small group meetings.