

Meeting: Yolo Bypass Fishery Enhancement Planning Team
Location: 1416 Ninth Street, Room 1131
Date: November 17, 2011
Time: 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Name	Affiliation
David Katz	Knaggs Ranch/Cal Marsh and Farm
Greg Yarris	Central Valley Joint Venture
John Cain	American Rivers
Kelly Catlett	Defenders of Wildlife
Marty Scholl	Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito/Vector Control District
Maya Kepner	Conaway Ranch
Mike Hardesty	RD 2068 & RD 2098
Mike Lear	Swanston Ranch
Petrea Marchand	Yolo County
Robin Kulakow	Yolo Basin Foundation
Tom Philp	Metropolitan Water District of Southern CA

Becky Victorine	USBR
Carl Wilcox	DFG
Chris Foe	CVRWQCB
David Martasian	DWR – DFM
Erin Aquino-Carhart	DFG
Heather Webb	USFWS
Jason Roberts	DFG
Karla Nemeth	Resources Agency
Len Marino	Central Valley Flood Protection Board
Luana Kiger	Natural Resources Conservation Service
Marianne Kirkland	DWR
Marina Brand	Delta Stewardship Council

Aaron Will	Ducks Unlimited
Bill Ziebron	Yolo Basin Foundation
Chuck Dalldorf	MWD Outreach
Doug Brown	Consultant
George Isaac	Delta Stewardship Council
Janet Barbieri	Facilitator
John Brennan	Knaggs

Kevin Petrik	Ducks Unlimited
Larry Roth	Consultant
Rebecca Nicholas	URS
Robert Morrow	Individual
Sherri Miller	Dudek
Sophia Unger	WaterWise Consulting
Tim Howard	CA Dept Public Health – Vector Borne Disease Section

Meeting Summary

Karla Nemeth gave introductory remarks on where the group left off and gave an overview of the agenda and goals for this meeting.

An update was given on a joint venture project that will put young salmon in the Yolo Bypass this winter and will monitor their performance in the floodplain.

OCAP Review

Ms. Nemeth introduced the relationship between the requirements in the Long Term Operations (formerly OCAP) Biological Opinion and the BDCP with regard to fishery enhancement in the Yolo Bypass. She focused on the need to understand what was required in the biological opinions, and how it relates to the BDCP. A milestone report is anticipated for December.

James Newcomb, DWR, gave a more detailed presentation on how the Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives (RPAs) in the Long Term Operations Biological Opinion (OCAP BiOP) relate to the BDCP. He pointed out that the RPAs cover the Central Valley but for the purpose of the working group he focused his presentation on the Yolo Bypass component. He noted that DWR and the Bureau must continue to comply with the RPAs until the BDCP moves forward with a draft plan. The two are working in parallel, although the Yolo Bypass Fishery Enhancement Plan and BDCP Conservation Measure 2 could likely meet the RPA obligations. DWR originally intended for BDCP to fill this role but the plan was not developing along the anticipated timeline so DWR and Reclamation agreed they needed to continue with the RPAs. Although the plan is still for the BDCP to meet the needs outlined in the BO, continuing with the RPAs will serve as a backup to the BDCP Process.

Mr. Newcomb gave an overview of the RPA actions being proposed. The plan they are developing addresses Floodplain Restoration (Action 1.6.1) and Fish Passage (Action 1.7). Mr. Newcomb also discussed the biological goals of the proposed actions.

Questions and discussion focused on the following issues:

- Question regarding USACE Section 408 permits favoring single submittal.

- Funding of BDCP does not have to be approved for the RPAs to move forward. They are independent.
- Comment that Yolo County would like to be involved in the planning if it continues to move forward on a separate track.
- Discussion of fish passage and fish tracking enforcement.

Food Web Information

Marianne Kirkland gave an overview of a 1-page fact sheet regarding food web issues in the Yolo Bypass. The fact sheet was designed to organize information for a layperson to understand the components of the food web, including what the right types of water depths, temperature are, etc. to promote food web production. Participants were asked to review and provide any feedback.

Agricultural and Waterfowl Studies – Updates

Ducks Unlimited Waterfowl Study

Jeff McCreary, Ducks Unlimited, gave an update on the waterfowl study. They are in the process of finalizing a funding agreement with the water contractors. They have mapping data (2005 data) and have meet with water resources experts regarding water draw down. They are approaching the study with the goal of identifying two important factors – the impact of length /prolonged inundation on plants, and the effect of depth of the water reducing habitat availability. Mr. McCreary stated that they hope to have more to report by the December meeting but aren't sure if they will make this deadline.

Questions and discussion focused on the following issues:

- Discussion of the use of LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) analysis to compare the bypass when flooded vs. when not flooded, and at different timing throughout the season.
- Discussion of easements in the bypass that may have requirements for certain species and the need to look into this further. For example, Fish and Wildlife Service easements may have requirements for migratory bird protection. Any changes that would negatively impact migratory birds would need to be approved.
- Discussion on the development of the scenarios that will be studied.

Yolo County Agricultural Impacts Analysis

Petrea Marchand, Yolo County, gave an update on the Yolo County Agricultural Impacts Analysis. Her updated included the development of seven sub-regions in the bypass, and an update on the Yolo Bypass crop maps. Ms. Marchand also spoke to the crop prices and estimated crop yields for the years 2005-2009. Preliminary results found that yields along the

east side of the Bypass are equivalent or greater than west side yields without flooding. Crop yields were also found to decrease as Fremont Weir overtopping extends past February 15.

The next step to completing the study is acquiring the HEC-RAS GIS data from the state. This information is needed to run the model analysis. Assuming this is received in a timely manner, the county hopes to have a public draft by mid-December, with a comment period running from mid-December through January 31.

Questions and discussion focused on the following issues:

- Farm Bureau concerns regarding banks considering certain crops too risky to plant in the Bypass, and the cost and insurance risk of certain crops and their timing.
- Discussion of the scenarios and the sufficiency of the HEC-RAS data.

Updated Charts and Meeting Trajectory

Janet Barbieri, facilitator, reported that an updated operations chart has been prepared based on comments received at the last meeting. Participants were asked to review the document and it would be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

A revised meeting trajectory was also distributed. The Effects Analysis and biological goals and objectives will be discussed at the next meeting on December 9. Meetings are being planned moving into 2012.

Next Steps

- Further develop and discuss the three baselines for impacts to fish, waterfowl, and agriculture.
- Review and discuss the Effects Analysis and BDCP-wide biological goals and objectives.

Next Meeting (Time and Place):

The next is scheduled for December 9 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Prepared by: Tiffany Mendoza