



# MEETING NOTES

<b>Project Name:</b>	<u>MUSR RFMP</u>	<b>Date:</b>	<u>1/16/2014</u>
<b>Meeting Subject:</b>	<u>Operations and Maintenance Workgroup</u>	<b>Project No.:</b>	<u></u>
<b>Location:</b>	<u>DWR Sutter Yard, Sutter, CA</u>	<b>Page:</b>	<u>1</u>
<b>Notes by:</b>	<u>Chris Fritz, PBI; Barry O'Regan KSN</u>		

**Attendees:** See attached sign-in sheet \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Notable Discussion Items:**

- 1) Introductions
- 2) RFMP Approach & Meeting Purpose
- 3) Operations and Maintenance Topic Statement (see attached)
  - No comments.
- 4) Rural LMA Workgroup Topic Papers
  - An overview of the workgroup was provided along with hardcopies of each of the following Topic Papers (available on the MUSR RFMP webpage). This was followed by a general discussion regarding each topic.
    - i. Channel, Bank and Bypass Maintenance
      - Mitigation requirement for channel maintenance are cost prohibitive. Too much attention is being paid to the 1957 profile; historically, levees are failing before the water surface reaches the defined 1957 profile.
      - Channel and bypass maintenance is currently reactive in nature; need to develop more of a proactive approach.
      - DWR channel maintenance is currently funded via the General Fund; need a more secure funding source.
      - Greater efforts should be focused on clearing invasive species (i.e. arundo) from the channel.
      - It is very difficult to get approvals and funding for sediment removal and vegetation clearing.
    - ii. Maintenance of Mitigation and Habitat Enhancement Projects
      - Need a long term maintenance plan (and a dedicated source of funding) for projects within the flood control system.
      - Need more robust
    - iii. Permitting and Maintenance Activities
      - Permitting requirements often delay required maintenance.
      - Permitting doesn't appear to be creating value for species or habitat protection
      - Levee maintenance work should be exempt from many of the required permitting processes.
      - Major species of concern include Elderberry, Giant Garter Snake, and Nesting Birds.
      - CMP for Feather River includes program for Levee and Channel Maintenance; this may help identify options for improvement.



## MEETING NOTES

- Lots of time and money is spent on permitting maintenance work. Existing work windows are also an issue.
  - iv. Pipe Maintenance and Inspection
    - Lack of authority is an issue for rural LMA's.
    - Ownership and liability issues are difficult to overcome.
    - A recent pipe replacement project near Nelson Bend cost \$140k. There are thousands of pipes in the system that will need to be replaced.
    - Future inspection requirements and related costs are problematic.
  - v. Rodent and Burrowing Animal Control
    - Typical work windows allowed by permitting agencies are too short; only allow about 2-3 months per year to do work.
    - Grouting is very labor intensive and it takes a long time to set up. It's very difficult to complete the work within the existing allowable work windows.
    - The allowable work season for grouting (due to GGS) goes from May 1 to October 1. However, grouting work occurs after vegetation is burned off of the levee and burning is not allowed (due to nesting birds) until June or July. This typically only leaves about three months for grouting to get done.
    - Studies done by SAFCA and RD 1500 indicated that grouting fills about 75% of the holes.
    - There is an existing GGS sub-committee currently working on a TM (anticipated to be released in late spring) to document conservation measures related to the grouting process.
    - There are currently no LMA representatives on the GGS sub-committee; LMA's need to be invited and involved.
  - vi. Encroachments
    - Typical encroachments include buildings, telephone poles, gates, pipes, and irrigation/drainage canals.
    - There are many encroachments identified in USACE Inspections which were permitted by the CVFPB.
    - Property lines are not well defined in a lot of areas.
- 5) Brief discussion regarding the Financial Plan component of the RFMP.

### Action Items:

- Post Rural LMA Topic Papers to MUSR Website (PBI)
- Review Topic Papers and provide comments to RFMP Team (All)



REGIONAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT PLAN

SIGN-IN SHEET

Operations and Maintenance Workgroup Meeting

Date: January 16, 2014

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## Operations and Maintenance Workgroup

Operations and Maintenance (O&M) is the physical operation of the flood control system, as well as the ongoing maintenance of the associated infrastructure. This includes but is not limited to: erosion repair and prevention, crack control resulting from settlement, through seepage and under-seepage, animal burrow control and repair, maintaining and removal and repair of penetrations through the levee, managing encroachments and vegetation, and providing for the security of the levee system against vandalism and terrorism. O&M must be performed in accordance with the manuals and procedures provided and updated with construction and inspection of the system.

Over time O&M of the flood control system has become more difficult to execute for many reasons. These include challenges in complying with a variety of State and Federal environmental permitting and mitigation requirements, original system design and construction deficiencies that have become the burden of the O&M agency, lack of financial support from the State and Federal government, changes in engineering standards and criteria, and inadequate local funding.

The O&M Workgroup will provide an avenue for stakeholders to highlight and prioritize their O&M issues. The Workgroup will help develop planning, financing, and implementation strategies and solutions that the RFPM can help articulate, amplify, and advance to State, and perhaps even the Federal level.