



MEETING NOTES

Project Name:	<u>MUSR RFMP</u>	Date:	<u>2/04/2014</u>
Meeting Subject:	<u>Multi-Benefit Workgroup</u>	Project No.:	<u></u>
Location:	<u>Colusa Indian Community Bldg., Colusa, CA</u>	Page:	<u>1</u>
Notes by:	<u>Chris Fritz, PBI; Eric Ginney, ESA; Barry O'Regan KSN</u>		

Attendees: See attached sign-in sheet _____

Notable Discussion Items:

- 1) Introductions
- 2) RFMP Approach and Meeting Purpose – Barry O'Regan
- 3) Multi-Benefit Workgroup Topic Statement (attached)
 - No comments.
- 4) Multi-Benefit Projects Presentation by Eric Ginney
 - (posted to website)
- 5) Multi-Benefit Project Definition
 - Handout provided by RFMP team on multi-benefit definition (attached).
 - Multi-benefit projects are important because:
 - they increase funding opportunities.
 - they are needed to show that the regions' projects are consistent with the 2012 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan.
 - they can in some cases be easier to implement.
 - MUSR RFMP wants to take a programmatic approach to Multi-benefit projects as it's not always possible for every project to have a multi-benefit component, particularly smaller projects. Discussion regarding a culvert replacement project in Levee District 1 highlighted the difficulties for small agencies trying to implement multi-benefit projects.
 - FESSRO is anticipating to release habitat percentage targets for each region in the spring 2014.
 - Important issues for resource agencies are:
 - recognize the value of habitat quality over habitat quantity.
 - restoring river functions such as river meander.
 - connectivity between habitat areas.
 - complexity in habitat types.
 - Move away from "project by project" approach to restoration. The Hamilton City J-levee and Kopta Slough projects are local examples of how a multi-benefit component made the flood control component feasible.
- 6) Ag Stewardship Discussion
 - The MUSR Region has extensive areas of private lands with existing high habitat value, where endangered and threatened species are thriving; this needs to be recognized in the planning process. Restoration efforts must make species sense as "more is better" approach doesn't work for rural areas.



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- The 'easy' projects have been done.
- Conservation easements don't provide enough flexibility to allow for farming operations to adapt to changing conditions. There will be a pushback from landowners until agencies develop better landowner assurances and incorporate flexibility for changes in farming practices.
- 'Good neighbor' issue must be resolved; e.g. deer predation permits must be workable for the farmer.

Action Items:

- Develop draft sections of the RFMP and send it out for workgroup review and feedback (PBI/ESA)
- Invite representatives from the various DWR Ag Stewardship workgroups to come and speak to the MUSR Region about potential strategies (PBI/ESA)



REGIONAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT PLAN

SIGN-IN SHEET

Multi-Benefit Workgroup Meeting

Date: February 4, 2014

	PRINTED NAME	AGENCY (IF APPLICABLE)	EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
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26	JANE Dolan	CVFPB		
27	Nike Nimmezheri	GEI	nmimmezheri@geiconsultants.com	916-631-4523
28	Susan Strachan	Sac River Cons Area Forum		
29	COLAN KERR	DWR	COLAN@DWR.CA.GOV	(416) 574-1301
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Multi-Benefit Workgroup

The Mid and Upper Sacramento River RFMP will focus primarily on projects that will reduce the risk and consequences of flooding in the region. But flood control projects can serve more than one purpose. Benefits other than flood control can include:

- Water Supply
- Recreation
- Water Quality Enhancement
- Fish and Wildlife Enhancement
- Operations and Maintenance Enhancement

Projects that serve more than one purpose typically are more financially feasible because they are eligible for a greater assortment funding opportunities. For example, DWR has been clear in communicating that multi-benefit projects will receive funding priority over single benefit projects. Multi-benefit projects may also be easier to implement because regulatory and permitting agencies generally look more favorably upon multi-benefit projects.

The primary objective of the Multi-Benefit Workgroup will be to help the RFMP team identify multi-benefit project opportunities. The Workgroup will assist the team in assessing the viability of identified multi-benefit projects, and will help explore opportunities for linking proposed flood control projects them with non-flood control purposes/benefits.

Multiple Benefit Projects Explained

Multiple benefit, or multi-benefit, projects are a key part of the 2012 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) as well as the planning efforts that are currently underway that will support the preparation of the 2017 CVFPP. The primary goal of the CVFPP is to improve flood risk management. One of the four supporting goals of the CVFPP is to promote multi-benefit projects along with improving operations and maintenance, promoting ecosystem functions, and improving institutional support. The guiding strategy for reducing flood risk in the 2012 CVFPP is based on the State Systemwide Investment Approach (SSIA), a multi-benefit and integrated flood management approach. Early indications from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) indicate that multi-benefit projects will be given priority in future State funded grant opportunities.

A formal definition of multi-benefit projects has not been established. However, generally, multi-benefit projects are those that reduce flood risk along with one or more other benefits such as improving water supply reliability; water quality; aquatic and/or terrestrial habitat; public access; and/or recreation. Well defined multi-benefit projects have the advantage of being able to access different types of funding sources. Multi-benefit programs are similar to multi-benefit projects in that they focus on providing benefits to more than one area of water, flood, and resource management. Examples of both multi-benefit projects and multi-benefit programs are provided below.

The Hamilton City Levee Setback project is an example of a multi-benefit project that is located within the Mid and Upper Sacramento River Region. Hamilton City's approximately 2,000 residents and the surrounding agricultural lands are only marginally protected from flooding by an old (circa 1904) degraded private levee which only offers protection against a 10-year flood. After years of stalled project proposals, the citizens and local representatives of the surrounding agricultural community formed a partnership and included conservation interests in order to conduct a new study on a new multi-purpose project alternative. This new collaboration between Reclamation District 2140, the Hamilton City Community Services District, Hamilton City Citizens in Action, Glenn County, local agricultural interests, the Corps, the Central Valley Flood Protection Board, the Department of Water Resources, the California Bay-Delta Authority, and The Nature Conservancy resulted in the first project alternative that met requirements for federal participation. The project will result in a new 6.8 mile long setback levee, and ecosystem restoration of approximately 1,361 acres of the Sacramento River floodplain. Flood protection for both Hamilton City and the surrounding agricultural lands will be increased from a 10- to 75-year level.

DWR's Flood Corridor Program is a unique local assistance program focused on providing nonstructural flood risk reduction integrated with natural resource and agricultural land protection. The Flood Corridor Program is implementing multi-objective projects that create and restore natural floodways, reconnecting streams and rivers to their historic floodplains, where feasible, and using other nonstructural approaches such as constructing levee setbacks, creating detention basins, and removing structures from flood-prone areas. The integrated approach helps DWR and the state achieve public goals of making communities safe from flooding while restoring important wildlife habitat and protecting farmland.