



Meeting Summary

Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Channel Improvements
Project Stakeholder Meeting

Monday, August 26 2013

*Alfred Firebaugh Community Center 1655 13th Street, Firebaugh, CA
FINAL*

Attendees

Barry Baker, Baker Farms
Robert Brewer, San Joaquin River Association
Roy Catania, Paramount Farms
Steve Chedester, San Joaquin River Exchange
Contractors Water Authority
Jason Dean, Meyers
Steve Emmert, Emmert Farms/San Joaquin River
Association
Ali Forsyth, Reclamation
Seth Gentzler, URS
Steve Haugen, Kings River Water Conservation
District
Randy Houk, Columbia Canal Company
Ray Knight, Golden Valley Reality
Shannon Leonard, URS
Janie Logoluso, Logoluso Farms
Bill Luce, Friant Water Users Authority
Len Marino, Central Valley Flood Protection Board
Mari Martin, Locke Farms

Kenneth McDonald, City of Firebaugh
James Merrill, Farmers Water District
Michael Mitchener, Reclamation
Greg Mongano, Reclamation
Dave Orth, Kings River Water Conservation District
Don Peracchi, DJP Farms
Joe Perry, Perry Farms
Alexis Phillips-Dowell, Dept. of Water Resources
Bill Pipes, AMEC
Paul Romero, DWR
Jim Stillwell, Logoluso Farms
Mark Turmon, Sierra Valley Almonds
Bill Ward, BB Ltd.
Chris White, Central California Irrigation District
Mike Widhalm, Paramount Farms
Lisa Zaffran, Reclamation
Craig Moyle, MWH

Welcome and Introductions

Craig Moyle, the meeting facilitator, welcomed the meeting participants, and led introductions. He reviewed the agenda with the attendees, and

Program Update

Reclamation Reach 2B Project Manager Michael Mitchner provided an update on Program activities;

- Increase flows from Friant Dam
- Improve channel/structures to convey flows and improve habitat Reach specific projects moving forward:
 - Reach 2B – working on Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Report
 - Reach 4B – working on Alternatives Evaluation & Project Description
 - Arroyo Canal/Sack Dam – Final Environmental Assessment/Initial Study published in May 2013
- Fisheries Activities
 - NMFS released draft 10(j) and draft 4(d) rules and draft EA for public review in January 2013
 - Spring-run salmon broodstock activities underway
- Settlement requires 10 specific channel and structural improvement projects to address:
 - Channel capacity limitations
 - Fish habitat limitations
 - Fish passage and entrainment issues



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- Combined into 4 major projects:
 - Reach 2B, Reach 4B, Arroyo Canal and Sack Dam, Salt and Mud Slough Seasonal Barriers

Mendota Pool Bypass/Reach 2B Project Update

Seth Gentzler, Project Manager to Reclamation for the Reach 2B Project consultant team, provided an update on Reach 2B Project activities. He began with an overview of the EIS/R process and schedule. He then summarized received landowner comments in his presentation:

Landowner comment summary:

- Feel it is paramount to address flood control and structural issues
- Created a map identifying lands they wish to retain and other lands that are open to Program acquisition
- Expect full mitigation for program impacts, particularly:
 - City of Mendota wells on BB Limited property
 - Mendota Pool Group ability to pump groundwater to Mendota Pool
- Uniformly in opposition to Fresno Slough Dam
- Prefer appraisals using income based approach
- Prefer to interact with Program as a landowner group

Discussion followed:

- Some components of infrastructure were missing from the map. The project team noted that the map in the presentation was meant to be a high-level view.
- Protocols for timing of flood releases at Pine Flat and Friant

Gentzler reviewed Lower San Joaquin Levee District (LSJLD) comments on the Reach 2B project and presented them to the participants:

- District objects to the removal of the San Joaquin River control structure because:
 - Existing twin-structure configuration allows flood flows to be monitored simultaneously for safe and consistent operation
 - Existing structure is a grade-control point and removal could induce channel base level lowering and incision
 - It is unknown who would operate a new structure
 - Sediment and debris management is a concern
 - New levees between Reach 2A and the new structure would need to be designed for Reach 2A water levels
- Concerned about how fish passage would be accomplished with SJR flood flows diverted into Chowchilla Bypass
- Concerned about loss of revenue



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Mendota Pool Bypass/Reach 2B Geotechnical Investigations

Reclamation geologist Greg Mongano presented on the Reach 2B Geotechnical Investigations. He showed maps of the levee alignments, and the proposed locations for 230 Cone Penetration Test (CPT) holes, and 135 Drill Holes (DH) along the transects. Those include:

- Standard Penetration Test (SPT)
- Core samples
- Some completions as Observation wells

He continued by noting that drilling will not happen on holidays, and the schedule will be influenced by both the weather and harvest season. Mitchner added that since there is no preferred alternative yet, geotechnical work would be done on both alignments. Landowners will be provided with reports on CPT data and SPT data following a peer review process.

Discussion with meeting attendees followed the presentation:

- Appraisals will be done if Reclamation purchases property, and will be done in accordance with Federal law. Congress did not authorize any exemptions during this process, so a Federal process will be followed that includes an independent appraiser secured through the Office of Valuation Services.
- The Office of Valuation Services appraisal process was discussed further, as were the issues of:
 - Negotiating values that appear in the appraisals
 - Conservation easements
 - Public access, and trespassing/ littering issues (when Reclamation is a neighbor)
 - Payments to the landowner can be completed in 30 days (normally 60 to 90 days).

Meeting Wrap-up and Next Steps

For additional information contact Craig Moyle at 916-418-8248 or craig.moyle@mwhglobal.com

Meeting Adjourned

4:00 p.m.