

Information Item

Update on the Delta Levees Investment Strategy

Summary: This report provides an update on the Delta Stewardship Council's work to develop updated priorities for State investments in Delta levees (Water Code section 85306). Staff will discuss recent stakeholder outreach efforts and next steps in the deliberation process as we work towards an investment strategy for risk reduction in the Delta and Suisun Marsh.

Background

Over the past few months, staff and the Arcadis team have discussed with the Council various aspects of efforts of the development of the Delta Levees Investment Strategy (DLIS), including updates on representing State interests in the Decision Support Tool (DST) and estimates of risk to those State interests.

At the April 2016 Council meeting the DLIS team presented maps showing where State interests are protected by levees within the Delta and Suisun Marsh and also, in the case of habitat, where potential tidal habitats could be restored if levees were altered. At the May 2016 Council meeting the project team presented maps showing where risks to State interests had been identified within the Delta and Suisun Marsh.

General Update

For today's briefing, staff will update the Council on how the information is being used in stakeholder discussions, what feedback has been received, and how the DST will be used in the upcoming DLIS deliberation process.

In addition to regularly scheduled interagency coordination, the DLIS team conducted several targeted outreach meetings in June with stakeholders including two public meetings in the Delta. The first meeting was held June 6 in Brentwood and the second was held June 9 in West Sacramento. The DLIS team also met with subject matter experts to discuss risks to specific State interests such as water supply or habitat. The main focuses of these meetings was to demonstrate how the DST can consider risks to State interests and to receive feedback about the risk maps, assets information, and other concerns. At each event the DLIS team distributed a "Stakeholder Input Sheet" (Attachment 1) to provide additional opportunities for public participation and to collect input from participants in developing a risk based tiered listing of islands. Staff will discuss feedback and comments received and how this information can be used to inform the upcoming deliberation process with the Council.

Staff also has completed review of the report describing the methodology used to evaluate risks to State interests in the Delta and Suisun Marsh. This report not only describes the process of estimating risks to the identified State interests, but also discusses uncertainty in the analysis and assumptions that were made. This final methodology report will be posted on the DLIS project webpage by the end of June: <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-levees-investment-strategy>.

Next Steps

Council staff and the Arcadis team will conduct additional outreach meetings with stakeholders, other agencies, and subject matter experts to discuss how State interests have been identified in the DLIS effort and how risks to these State interests are being examined. The objective of the outreach efforts is to receive feedback on how others would approach the prioritization of levee investments for risk reduction.

A joint meeting with the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) is being scheduled to discuss the coordination of the Council's efforts to develop a risk reduction strategy for the Delta and Suisun Marsh and the CVFPB's efforts to update the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan. This joint meeting is in the planning process to occur in August.

In the coming months, staff will seek input from Council members regarding the prioritizing of islands and tracts within the Delta and Suisun Marsh into categories ranging from higher risk to lower risk.

Fiscal Information

Not applicable.

List of Attachments

Attachment 1: Stakeholder Input Sheet

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