CCVFCA'S Flood Flash

CALIFORNIA CENTRAL VALLEY FLOOD CONTROL ASSOCIATION

September 14, 2015

Send news tips, feedback, and subscription requests to cindy@floodassociation.net

CALENDAR ALERTS

September 17
Delta Protection Commission meeting will be held from 5:00 pm –7:30 pm at the Jean Harvie Center, 14273 River Rd. in Walnut Grove, CA. Please Click Here for agenda

September 17
SAFCA will hold their board meeting from 3:00 - 5:00 pm at 700 H Street, Sacramento CA. Please Click Here for the agenda packet.

September 17
SJAFCA will hold their board meeting at Council Chambers, City Hall, Second Floor 9:00 am 425 N. El Dorado Street, Stockton, CA. Please Click Here for agenda.

September 23
Comment Deadline for the Delta Independent Science Board draft, Adaptive Management in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta HOW IT CAN BE USED AND HOW IT CAN BE IMPROVED? - Click Here to review the draft report. To comment please Click Here

September 23
Infrastructure "Funding Fair," Sacramento County Sanitation, 10060 Goethe Rd, 8:30 am – Noon. Registration Required: https://www.events.rcac.org/assnfe/ev.asp?MODE=&ID=497

September 25
CVFPB will hold their regular business meeting at 9:00 am at the Sacramento City Hall Council Chambers

October 13
San Joaquin Co. Preseason Flood Coordination meeting, 9:00-11:00 am, Cabral Center (SJC EOC), 2101 E. Earhart Ave, Assembly Room 3, Stockton. Click here for meeting flyer

October 9
Deadline to submit comments on CA WaterFix 404 permit application submitted by DWR to USACE for construction of new conveyance facilities in the Delta.

October 15
Sutter Region Preseason Flood Coordination Meeting, 9:00-11:30 am, Whiteaker Hall, 44 Second St, Yuba City.

October 22
Sacramento Region Preseason Flood Coordination Meeting, 9:00-11:30 am, CVRWB, 11020 Sun Center Dr, Rancho Cordova

October 30
Deadline has been extended 60 days to comment on BDCP's new Preferred Project and EIR/EIS recirculation for public review. Documents and information about the new alternatives and where to submit written comments will be available on BDCP's website: http://baydeltaconservationplan.com/2015PublicReview/PublicReviewRDEIRSDEIS/

FEATURED ASSOCIATE MEMBER

MAPE'S RANCH AND LYONS' INVESTMENTS ESTABLISHED 1923

KEEPING UP

First of Two USACE Permits for CA WaterFix (BDCP) Submitted by DWR

DWR submitted a 404 permit application on August 26, 2015 to the USACE to construct the CA WaterFix SWP conveyance project in the Delta, involving activities in Waters of the U.S. and on federal levees that trigger the Corps' regulatory authority the federal Clean Water Act and Rivers and Harbors Act. The CA WaterFix permit cites continuing levee vulnerability from subsidence of lands within the Delta, increasing seismic risks, and rising sea levels as reasons the project is necessary to protect export water supply reliability.

According to the application, the CA WaterFix project will result in the unavoidable fill of approximately 774 acres and temporary impact to approximately 1,931 acres of Waters of the U.S., with a total amount of fill material (soil, rock, concrete, grout, sheet piles) to be discharged during construction of the conveyance facilities, and disposal of excavated material, is estimated to be 15,022,645 cubic yards.

However, the permit fails to mention the numerous point source discharge locations or the amounts to be put in the Sacramento River and tributaries from the hundreds of dewatering pumps placed every 75 feet around the perimeter of all construction areas. According to the DEIR/DEIS, some of the construction dewatering equipment will be capable of pumping as much as 10,000 gallons per minute, and operating 24-hours a day, seven days a week, for at least six of the ten years of construction. Also absent is any mention of mitigation measures for the environmental impacts to water quality and endangered fish from this significant and long-term discharge activity.

The WaterFix project is currently only at about a 12% design level. Once the project reaches a 60% design level, then DWR will also need to apply for a 408 permit from the Corps for the construction of intakes on and installation of pipes through federal levees on the eastside of the Sacramento River that are the responsibility of the non-federal sponsor, the Central Valley Flood Protection Board.

In addition, the application acknowledges that the components of the project that require 408 authorization cannot be approved under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act until the 408 authorization is obtained. Therefore, in order to allow certain portions of the project to be constructed sooner than others, DWR will seek necessary permits from the USACE in three phases:

- **Phase 1** – Construction of the pumping plant at Clifton Court Forebay
- **Phase 2** – Construction of the North Tunnels (pipes from intakes to intermediate forebay), Intermediate Forebay (on Glanville Tract, east of Pearson District and west of I-5), and Dual Main Tunnels (twin tunnels); disposal of tunnel muck; CCF dredging; and modification of existing CCF into two bifurcated forebays.
- **Phase 3** – Construction of the three intakes in the north Delta (on eastside of Sacramento River) and a permanent barrier and operable gate at the Head of Old River.

The purpose of the future review of certain project components under Section 408 (Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, codified in 33 USC 408) is to ensure than an action would not impair the usefulness of a federal civil work, or injurious to the public interest. The review under Section 408 is intended to ensure that alteration of any one part of the system would not substantially increase flood risk for any part of the system. In other words, the primary focus is to maintain the integrity and function for flood risk reduction of the SRFCP and SJRFCP.

A detailed hydraulic study per USACE standards for Section 408 NEPA analysis is not available at this time, but the elements of the preferred alternative 4A in CA Water Fix that may trigger Section 408 permission specific to federal civil works for flood risk reduction once design is at a 60% level are:

- Three new diversion intake structures on the east levee of the Sacramento River (part of SRFCP)
- Channel margin habitat enhancement to mitigate for habitat effects resulting from the intakes
- Tunnel construction under the San Joaquin River Deep Water Channel
- Head of Old River Barrier, an in-channel structure placed between federal project levees (part of SJRFCP)
- Barge landing on the San Joaquin River Deep Water Channel

Each of the three intakes on the project levees located on the eastside of the Sacramento River will also include twelve large gravity collector box conduits that will extend through the levee to convey flow to the sedimentation system. Water will pass through baffled fish screens and flow under the modified levee and rerouted Highway 160 through the gated box conduits, exit the box conduits into one of two sediment basins, and then flow through an afterbay to the discharge shaft that leads to the tunnel system.

Five temporary landings will be installed for the 10-year construction period, each with in-water and over-water structures such as piling dolphins, docks, ramps, and possibly conveyors for loading materials, and will involve piles at each landing. At the Head of Old River, a permanent barrier will be installed with operational gate to be operated October 1 through June 15 and opened between June 16 and September 30.

The new intermediate forebay on Granville Tract will be 28 acres in size and have a bottom elevation of -20 feet. After modifications, the Clifton Court Forebay (CCF) will be expanded by approximately 590 acres, for an overall footprint of about 2,805 acres, with an operational storage capacity ranging from 4,300 to 10,200 acre-feet and a water storage surface area of about 822 acres, depending on depth. The shallow foundation beneath the existing CCF requires improvement to prevent strength loss and seismic settlement. The ground improvement would be to elevation -50.0 feet within the footprint of the structure, and another 25 feet beyond the structure. The work will be performed within the sheet pile installed for embankment filling.

There are also 11 tunnel muck disposal sites identified, which will be located no farther than 16,000 feet from each launch shaft, with muck stacked between 6-15 feet high. Excavated tunnel muck will be transported to spoil sites primarily by conveyor. The daily volume of tunnel muck removed at any one shaft location would vary, but on average would be approximately 6,000 cubic yards excavated per day, with transport of the muck from tunnel shafts to spoil sites happening continuously.

The application says mitigation ratios will be at a minimum of 1:1. For Phase 1, DWR indicates it is considering is purchasing credits from approved mitigation banks such as the Consumnes Floodplain Mitigation Bank operated by Westervelt Ecological Services, and is also assessing two locations of privately owned properties. Construction of the private lands in the north Delta would entail excavating/ sculpting the interior with one or more breaches or notches in the existing non-project levee at the lowest end of the island and setback levees in the central Delta so that existing non-project levees could be removed or breached in multiple locations.

The Corps also anticipates that U.S. EPA will take a procedural action to identify the Delta as aquatic resources of national importance (ARN), and will issue a "paragraph 3A" or "ARNI letter" to preserve future coordination opportunities.

Deadline to submit comments is Friday, October 9, 2015 and should be sent to:
Zachary Simmons, Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sac District
1325 J Street, Ste. 1350
Sacramento, CA 95814-2922
Email: Zachary.M.Simmons@usace.army.mil

IN THE NEWS

(Clicking the links will take you to news organization websites, where you can read the full stories. CCVFCA is not responsible for content on these external sites.)

DWR Applies for USACE 404 Permit for Construction of CA WaterFix Facilities

Forecasters Upgrade Chances of El Nino Winter to 95%

- With El Niño Threatening to Turn California's Drought Into Drenching Winter, Worries Mount – Emergency Management
- SF City Departments Bracing For El Niño Floods - sfist
- With El Niño threatening to turn California's drought into drenching winter, worries mount - Mercury News
- With El Niño threatening to turn California's drought into drenching winter, worries mount - Santa Cruz Sentinel
- Worries mount about El Niño effect in California - Times-Herald News
- For California, El Niño's Dark Clouds Could Mean Rain but Also Trouble - The New York Times
- Fed upgrade El Nino to strong, but not as big as 1997-98 - CBS 8
- El Niño odds rise again, tracking to be a blockbuster - SFGATE
- Forecasters see 95% chance of El Niño this winter - Sac Bee
- El Niño reaches 'strong' intensity, will dramatically reshape world's weather - Mashable
- 7 Things You Need To Know About El Niño and the Drought - KCET
- NOAA predicts strongest El Niño on record - KRON 4
- El Niño looking better and better for upcoming winter - Reno Gazette-Journal
- El Niño update: Still on track for a stormy SoCal winter –89.3 KPCC
- El Niño Prediction "No Guarantee" of End to Drought - KLIV 1590
- El Niño almost a sure thing, but the north state may get missed
- A Strong El Nino Is Here, and Likely To Last Through Winter and Spring, NOAA Says - The Weather Channel
- Answers to your questions about El Niño - San Diego Union Tribune
- New report shows 95 percent probability - Record-Bee
- El Niño stays warm, boosting hopes for wet California winter - Fresno Bee
- El Nino Will Be Big, But It Probably Won't Kill the Drought - Wired
- Winter El Nino outlook: Wet S. California, dry Northwest - Capital Press
- Parched California could benefit by forecast of big El Niño - USA TODAY
- El Niño forecast strengthens - Monterey Herald
- El Nino Puts on Big Boy Pants - Patch
- Vallejo flood control watching weather patterns - Times-Herald

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