MEETING NOTES
Feather River Regional Floodplain Management Plan
Reclamation District 1001 – Meeting No. 1
March 18, 2013

Attendees: Bob Scheiber (RD 1001 President), Eric Rolufs (RD 1001 Trustee), Andrew Stresser (RD 1001 Manager), Supervisor James Gallagher, Diane Fales (Former RD 1001 Manager – Retired), Mike Inamine (FRWG), Tom Engler (FRWG).

1. Background information on District: This is taken from the recent write up in the LOI with some additions provided by the RD after the meeting.
    a. Estimated Population - **approximately 1,540 residents and 43,395 acres;**
    b. Miles of Levees Maintained -**44 project levee miles and 16 non-project levee miles;**
    c. Drainage and/or irrigation facilities **– over 100 miles of drainage ditches and canals, the Main Drain Pumping Plant on the Natomas Cross Canal, and three smaller drainage pumping facilities on Yankee Slough;**
    d. Governing body and Staffing – **5 Board members, 5 full time staff including the Manager, 1 part time staff for administrative and bookkeeping services, and 3 seasonal employees;**
    e. Annual Budget and source(s) of revenue - **$725K annual budget;**
        i. Details on Sources if available (sunsetting, purpose / restrictions / etc.) – **Assessment District, agricultural leases of District owned property, and revenue on material sold from District owned mining pit;**
        ii. In place or planned fee programs or taxing district **– N/A;**
        iii. Capital Improvement Plan if adopted or in draft format - **N/A, "Can't afford one!" – however, it was pointed out that $9 million of development impact fees for Sutter County properties in the Natomas basin are approved to fund raising of the NCC levee. This project was also authorized in WRDA 1997 which could result in Federal funding. There are also projects included in the Federally authorized Mid-Valley project currently being re-evaluated.**
    f. Critical Infrastructure in the District including pumping facilities, railroads, highways, etc. – **see suggested write up below;**
    g. Critical Private Investment/Facilities (ie large ag processing or storage facilities / Energy Plants / Etc.) that are known…(for purposes of Economic Impacts) - **see suggested write up below;**
    h. Current status in Corps RIP/PL84-99 Program **– LOI approved at 3/22 CVFPB meeting to keep active status while a SWIF is developed and unacceptable items are addressed;** and
    i. Other relevant information **– N/A.**
2. Review and comment on DWR evaluation of projects evaluated in the Flood System Repair Projects (information to be provided by Feather RFMP prior to meeting): **DWR has not yet released information. Both Diane Fales and Andrew Stresser commented that no coordination was done on**

the POI's until this winter when a meeting was held with DWR and URS to look at wave wash area on the Natomas Cross Canal. District had no other input into the POI list per their recollection;

   a. Are all problem areas identified?
   b. Is information accurate?

3. List and brief description of historical problem areas not identified in Flood System Repair Projects – **Overtopping of NCC and Yankee Slough, Boils on the Feather from the Golf Course down to NCC, Slips and stability issues on the NCC;**
4. Problem Areas identified on DWR/Corps levee inspections – **2012 PI and DWR fall inspections identified numerous encroachment and channel maintenance (erosion/bank caving) issues;**
5. List of flood control projects for consideration in the RFMP – **See list in item 10 below;**
   a. Priorities….based upon criteria provided? – **Discussion regarding most critical areas in the District led to the conclusion that the District is less concerned with levees from the Golf course upstream on the Feather, Bear, and Yankee Slough, but they are very concerned with the NCC and Feather below the golf course. Those are areas of "big water" with connections to the Sutter bypass and Sacramento River that would result in the most catastrophic flooding of the District, and have the most issues.**
6. Areas of opportunity for ecosystem restoration, setback levees, environmental mitigation, or conservation areas, if any –
   a. **There is a rock weir on the right bank of the Feather near that starts near the golf course. This weir is believed to have been installed in the 1960's to keep the Feather River in its channel in order to prevent sedimentation of the Sutter Bypass. This weir causes severe erosion of the Feather levee and prevents more frequent flows through Nelson Slough. This area was once full of trees and ponds before the weir was installed. District would actively support removal of this weir and restoration of the Nelson Slough area;**
   b. **District owns approximately 6 acres in the Bear River floodway near the South Sutter diversion dam that could be used for habitat, the District mining operation could include environmental enhancements beyond what is required in the reclamation plan, and the District could be supportive of setback levee alternatives on the Bear/Yankee Slough system if the property owners were supportive;**
7. What are your typical maintenance activities and do you have adequate environmental coverage? M**aintenance activities include burning, disking, mowing, contouring levees, soil additions and spraying. District is not sure what, if any, environmental coverage exists, but it is typically not an issue.** Would you be interested in coverage of your activities through a DWR-led or other regionally based programmatic permitting strategy? **District is not sure if they feel it is necessary. However, they would be open to the discussion;**
   a. Types, volume, and seasonality of activities
      i. Vegetation management
         1. Mowing (how often, time of year, how high is blade set) **2x/year, spring and fall, blade set at 6";**

2. Prescribed fire (how often)- **As often as is possible, whenever Feather River Air Quality Management District allows and conditions are in favor of burning (usually once a year during the summer months).**
3. Herbicide application (how often, application method, type of herbicide applied **2x/year applied by sprayer. Types used are pre-emergent, annual and broad leaf killers as recommended by District's PCA.**

ii. Slope repair
1. Blading/track-walking (frequency, timing) **as needed, usually once per year;**
2. Rock placement (volume, frequency, timing) **as needed**

iii. Rodent control
1. Method used (type, frequency)- **Bait (by broadcast and Traps) and sulfur bombs, beginning in Spring and ending in Fall once walnut harvest begins;**
2. Burrow management (collapsing, jet grouting, frequency, volume, time of year) **Currently we do collapsing once a year, at the end of baiting, before the wet season.**

iv. Road maintenance (method, frequency, timing) **2x/year rock, light grade and compact road top as needed, we also spray road top once a year as well.**

b. What type of environmental documentation or coverage do you presently use? **None**

8. Other information that may be helpful to the plan?
9. **The following is a revised version of the write up that RD 1001 used in its LOI submittal regarding District size, population, and infrastructure protected:**

"Available data from the National Levee Database and O&M manuals indicate that levees in the RD 1001 levee systems provide protection for approximately 43,395 acres and a population of 1,540, which includes the towns of Rio Oso, Nicolaus, East Nicolaus, Verona, and agricultural areas behind the levees. Residential land use includes sparsely populated use in the agricultural areas and more densely populated areas within the towns. The RD 1001 levee systems protect State Highways 65, 70, and 99, two active Union Pacific Railroad lines, two volunteer fire stations, two Pacific Gas and Electric substations and numerous transmission lines, both the Rio Oso and Nicolaus Post Offices, two grammar schools, both the Nicolaus and Fairview Cemeteries, the main drain pumping plant on the Natomas Cross Canal, and three smaller drainage pumping facilities on Yankee Slough. There is also significant agricultural infrastructure protected by the levee systems including two rice drying and storage facilities, five walnut processing and storage facilities, a fertilizer and pesticide distributor and warehouse facility, a feedlot, a dairy, several cattle ranches, and numerous hay and equipment storage barns and warehouses. Although detailed estimates of property values are not readily available, levee failure could result in significant damage to property and impact the local economy. "

10. List of projects:
    a. **Remove Rock Weir on Feather right bank (see discussion in item 6a above)**
    b. **Buttress Natomas Cross Canal levee;**
    c. **Improve/Replace existing Main Drain Pumping Plant at higher elevation to avoid frequent sandbagging of facility;**
    d. **Backfill scour hole at landside toe of Feather levee where the levee broke back to the channel in the 1955 flood leaving a deep hole that now fills with water and cannot be flood fought during high water events;**
    e. **Re-rock levee crown patrol roads;**
    f. **Raise Natomas Cross Canal levee;**
    g. **Backup power on Main Drain Pumping Plant;**
    h. **Seepage/stability mitigation on Feather from golf course to Natomas Cross Canal;**
    i. **New pumping plant on the Cross Canal at end of Lateral 4;**
    j. **Repair, replace, or abandon existing drains and pipes through the levees, many of which were installed as part of the system;**
    k. **Better channel maintenance program by the State to stabilize banks in areas of high erosion, remove sediment (dredge) and control or remove vegetation from the channel;**
    l. **Lower Fremont Weir;**
    m. **Erosion protection on Bear River;**
    n. **Assist with in-channel spray permit to control invasive weeds that damage pumps;**
    o. **Financial assistance to do an engineering analysis in support of a Prop 218 election for increases in assessments.**