



# MEETING NOTES

<b>Project Name:</b>	<u>MUSR RFMP</u>	<b>Date:</b>	<u>1/23/2014</u>
<b>Meeting Subject:</b>	<u>Rural Areas Workgroup</u>	<b>Project No.:</b>	<u></u>
<b>Location:</b>	<u>Western Canal W.D., Nelson, CA</u>	<b>Page:</b>	<u>1</u>
<b>Notes by:</b>	<u>Chris Fritz, PBI; Barry O'Regan, KSN</u>		

**Attendees:** See attached sign-in sheet \_\_\_\_\_

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**Notable Discussion Items:**

- Introductions
- RFMP Approach and Meeting Purpose
- Rural Areas Workgroup Topic Statement (see attached)
  - No comments.
- FEMA: Bigger-Waters Act overview and discussion
- General discussion regarding rural area improvements:
  - Identifying and protecting critical facilities is key:
    - Rice experiment station; Fertilizer plant in Richvale
    - High dollar ag facilities
    - Existing gas wells
    - Underground natural gas storage locations
    - Small community potable water wells
    - Small community sanitation facilities
    - Look at flood proofing options or E.R. contingency plans
    - ER work could be aligned to follow FEMA's work/reimbursement categories
  - There is a need for more detailed floodplain depth mapping in rural areas. Mapping analyses should look at various in-channel vegetation/sediment/debris scenarios in order to better gage the overall potential effects on residual flooding.
  - Goals of the Agricultural Floodplain Management Alliance which seek relief from FEMA regulations for rural communities is very important.
  - Need to identify and emphasize the environmental benefits and habitat value agricultural lands provide (i.e. how rice land benefits waterfowl and giant garter snake).
  - General discussion regarding conservation-agriculture partnerships:
    - Do not infringe on traditional farming practices.
    - Need more of a partnership for conservation easements; not an enforcer.
    - Stakeholders will not give up control over their land.
    - Conservation easements are not flexible enough to adapt to changing farming practices.
  - Concerns raised regarding Cherokee Canal operations and maintenance.
  - Increasing levels of in-channel vegetation increases risk for rural communities.
  - Look at establishing flood easements for the Butte Sink and Colusa Basin Drain w/ local landowner



## MEETING NOTES

compensation; these areas provide critical transitory storage for the entire system.

**Action Items:**

- Develop draft Rural Areas chapter of the RFMP and send it out for workgroup review and feedback (PBI)



REGIONAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT PLAN

SIGN-IN SHEET

Rural Areas Workgroup Meeting

Date: January 23, 2014

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## Rural Areas Workgroup

For rural-agricultural areas, the 2012 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) describes improving flood protection in a manner which is consistent with the preservation of rural-agricultural activities and viable local economies. However the CVFPP also promotes encouragement of land uses compatible with periodic flooding, and integration of actions to improve ecosystem services and functions which in some cases can be at odds with preserving rural-agricultural activities and viable local economies. The primary objective of the Rural Areas Workgroup will be to help the RFMP team identify feasible alternatives for reducing flood risk to rural areas what work for the rural residents, farms and businesses of Mid & Upper Sacramento River region.

Flood risk reduction solutions for rural areas do not necessarily need to target a specified level of protection, and could instead focus on those identified and known existing high risk deficiencies. This may provide a more cost-effective approach to rural levee repair and improvements.