



Water Resources ♦ Flood Control ♦ Water Rights

## MEMORANDUM

March 2023

**TO:** Reclamation District No. 2023  
**FROM:** MBK Engineers  
**PREPARED BY:** Emily Pappalardo P.E.  
**SUBJECT:** March Engineers Report

Trustees:

Described below are the items constituting the engineer's report to be discussed at your scheduled March 25, 2023 meeting.

**2022-2023 Severe Winter Storm State/Federal Emergency Declaration** – The District is potentially eligible for direct federal assistance for debris removal, protective measures, and permanent work under the Public Assistance Program. MBK has been in coordination with the District, Solano County, CalOES, and FEMA on steps required to keep the District eligible within the Public Assistance Grant Program. We plan on coordinating with the District and preparing supporting information for submitting any claims for damages or repair/permanent work. Included is an initial damage estimate and preliminary cost estimate for repairs for overtopping sites on Montezuma Slough and the Sacramento River, based on what the reported are, and utilizing repair estimates for similar impacts from the 2017 emergency. We will get a better idea of damages in those areas as well as Spoonbill Creek and Honker Bay once the storm runoff recedes. The District might be eligible for hazard mitigation support, but there is uncertainty on this funding support.

The following permits will be required for environmental coverage for completing the entirety of emergency work, including in-water work:

CA Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) - Emergency Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement  
US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) – Regional General Permit 5, Repair and Protection Activities in Emergency Situations  
Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) – Notice of Intent  
SF Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) – Emergency Permit

We anticipate this initial permitting lift to cost approximately \$20k including application fees.

The RGP3 permit does allow for about 12,000 cu yds between Concord and Delta Farms where the worst damages exist but is not specific for emergency work. Based on initial estimates, this won't be sufficient to address all damages, but could allow initial critical repairs to be performed while emergency permit authorization is developed for the complete repair. But we will be cognizant of this as we get a better idea of actual damages.

We anticipate this initial permitting lift to cost approximately \$20k including application fees.

**DWR Subventions Emergency Grant Request – Delta Levee Subventions Program** – The District has the ability to request up to \$50,000 for the current emergency conditions. This funding is up to \$50,000 and advance requests can be submitted. The State/Local cost share is 75/25. These funds could help with preliminary permitting, and support some expenses related to emergency repairs.

**DWR Special Projects program Direct Funding Request** – Similar to 2017, the District may request direct funding from the Delta Levees Program to support emergency repairs. There is no guarantee of DWR support but the request can be submitted based on our preliminary estimates

**2023 Delta Levees Special Flood Control Projects Program 2023 Project Solicitation Package for Multi-Benefit Projects** - The Concept Proposal that was submitted includes rehabilitating the levee system along the Sacramento River between District Stations 60+00 to Stations 155+00. The District’s goal is to meet the highest level of flood protection obtainable under the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Regional General Permit 3 – Suisun Marsh Managed Wetlands Operations and Maintenance Project, RGP3. The work will rehabilitate the Sacramento River Levee on Van Sickle Island to a sustainable RGP3 permit design that includes a stability berm on the landside slope and setting the levee back from the waterside slope to create enhanced waterside habitat.

We expect to hear if we have been selected to submit a full application by the end of April. From there we will have 60 days to submit the full application. We expect that effort to take approximately \$20,000.

**DWR Salinity Modeling** - Initial DWR modeling results have shown that if Van Sickle is not reclaimed following an uncontrolled breach and inundation of the island, the export water projects would have to release additional water to maintain Delta water quality standards. According to DWR, this water quality impact appears significant enough to open up discussion with DWR, State Water Project Contractors and landowners on Van Sickle Island to determine a path forward to reduce flood risk and create habitat or carbon sequestration value. In fact, DWR reports that water contractors are now showing interest in the water quality value of the Van Sickle levee system.

As we reported last summer, RMA, a DWR modeling contractor has been conducting water quality modeling studies independent of DWR. We have contacted RMA to see if their studies are completed and whether we can obtain their results. RMA’s initial results last summer found that Van Sickle was the main source of salinity impacts due to flooding in the Suisun Marsh.

With this in mind, District landowners should consider opening discussions with DWR, water contractors and others interested in seeing a multi-benefit project on Van Sickle such as the Delta Stewardship Council and the Delta Conservancy. DWR has expressed interest on finding out what kind of projects Van Sickle landowners would consider. One option could be sale of the properties while maintaining hunting rights.

Thanks,

