



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF  
RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 1600

Wednesday, October 25, 2023  
Bypass Farms, 14130 County Road 117, West Sacramento, CA

Trustees attending: Michele Clark, Ammy Reyes, Rebecca Yeung

Others attending: Nicole Ortega-Jewell (MBK Engineers, District Engineers), Sabrina Synder (Yolo County planner for Elkhorn Basin), Ric Reinhardt, Wood Rogers, Inc. (outreach consultant for the Upper Elkhorn Bypass Steering Committee)

Call to Order: Clark called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm with all Trustees in attendance.

Presentation by Ric Reinhardt, PE, Wood Rogers Inc., on the Upper Elkhorn Yolo Bypass Levee Setback Planning Process. Reinhardt led a discussion on the proposed two alternatives for addressing the enlargement of the Yolo Bypass: a setback levee or a secondary levee. He showed the proposed locations of each and answered questions about the implications of each for the District. For either alternative, the District size would be reduced and current agricultural land would be diminished. The goal would be for DWR or another entity to assume the liability for the operation and maintenance of the levees (both the Bypass and Sacramento River), and have additional agricultural resiliency elsewhere in the County as part of the project.

Reinhardt expects the timeline for the project to be 10 to 15 years from now. Currently, the project is being led by DWR and Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency in hopes that the Army Corps of Engineers would adopt the recommendation proposed by DWR and SAFCA after input from Yolo County, RD1600, landowners and interested stakeholders, and fund the project.

Technical studies are still to be conducted as to each alternative.

Yeung described her family's past and on-going difficulties with maintaining customary agricultural practices as the result of DWR's weir widening project in the Lower Elkhorn. Reinhardt noted the distinction between the two projects, with Lower Elkhorn funded solely by the State of California using bond funds, and Upper Elkhorn looking to be funded by Army Corps. Reinhardt believes that by using the Army Corps process the District and the County have the opportunity for input into the Upper Elkhorn project. The Lower Elkhorn was implemented without a comparable planning process.

Ortega-Jewell is preparing a memorandum for the District outlining the District's goals in adopting either alternative. The memo will incorporate the concerns raised by Yeung with the goal that they would be alleviated in the Upper Elkhorn project.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm

Approved on December 7, 2023 by  
Board of Trustees

  
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Ammy Reyes, Secretary