

This chapter describes initial and ongoing consultation and coordination efforts made by the flood control study team led by Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority (TRLIA) to engage the local community; stakeholders; and federal, state, and local agencies in identifying solutions to flooding in the Reclamation District (RD) 784 service area. Consultation and coordination efforts of Yuba County Water Agency (YCWA) regarding the Yuba-Feather Supplemental Flood Control Project (Y-FSFCP) are also included in this chapter because the levee setback included in Alternatives 2 and 3 of the Feather River Levee Repair Project (FRLRP), the current project, is a modification of the Feather River levee setback element of the Y-FSFCP. As described below, focused consultation and coordination efforts have been conducted through three primary mechanisms with three key groups:

- ▶ public involvement,
- ▶ Yuba-Feather Work Group (Y-FWG) involvement, and
- ▶ agency consultation.

## **9.1 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

Public and stakeholder involvement is an important element of efforts to improve flood control in the RD 784 area and is critical to reaching solutions that meet the needs of the local community and the region. Section 15083 of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines (State CEQA Guidelines) authorizes and encourages an early consultation or scoping process to help identify the range of actions, alternatives, mitigation measures, and significant effects to be analyzed in depth in an EIR and to help resolve concerns of affected agencies and individuals.

As mentioned above, the potential setback of the Feather River levee included in the current project, the FRLRP, is a modification of one of the segments of the Feather River levee setback that was proposed and evaluated in the Y-FSFCP programmatic EIR. Therefore, a number of public outreach activities that were conducted for the Y-FSFCP laid a foundation for the subsequent consideration of a levee setback under the current project. These activities are summarized below, followed by a description of scoping activities for the FRLRP.

### **9.1.1 PRIOR PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES**

Representatives of YCWA and RD 784 began coordination with landowners well before the FRLRP was initiated by TRLIA and the CEQA process was started for the current project. Flood control elements of the Y-FSFCP were defined through a process that included public scoping. These elements included a levee setback along the Feather River downstream of the Yuba River. The Y-FSFCP levee setback was proposed for two segments, which were referred to as the Above Star Bend and Below Star Bend levee setbacks.

On October 23, 2001, YCWA issued a Notice of Preparation (NOP) informing agencies and the general public that an EIR for the Y-FSFCP was being prepared and inviting specific comments on the scope and content of the document at public scoping meetings. The NOP included a

description of the project and the alternatives being considered. YCWA held scoping meetings in Marysville and Oroville in August 2001 to solicit public comments and to determine the scope of the EIR. Notices were published in local newspapers announcing the date, time, location, and purpose of the meetings. Each scoping meeting presented an overview of the meeting's purpose and a description of the Y-FSFCP, and identified potentially significant environmental issues. More than 20 attendees gave written and/or oral comments.

A scoping report was prepared that summarized the input received at the scoping meetings and the written comments received in response to the NOP. YCWA reconsidered and reformulated proposed flood control elements based in part on this input. In addition, in spring 2002, the YCWA Board of Directors held a public workshop to present the progress of its development of flood control elements and solicit feedback.

Public comments were subsequently solicited on the Y-FSFCP programmatic EIR, including the Feather River levee setback in the Above Star Bend segment. Comments were received in a public meeting held December 9, 2003, and in comment letters received during the public comment period (Yuba County Water Agency 2004).

### **9.1.2 SCOPING FOR THE FEATHER RIVER LEVEE REPAIR PROJECT**

On June 14, 2006, TRLIA issued an NOP informing agencies and the general public that an EIR for the FRLRP was being prepared and inviting specific comments on the scope and content of the document. The NOP was sent individually to approximately 100 local landowners in the project area, in addition to approximately 150 representatives of federal, state, regional, and local agencies. The NOP included a description of the project and the alternatives being considered.

TRLIA held a scoping and informational meeting in Marysville on June 29, 2006, to solicit public comments and to determine the scope of this EIR, and to provide information on TRLIA's full program of completed and ongoing flood control improvements. Notices were published in local newspapers announcing the date, time, location, and purpose of the meeting. Information on the date, time, location, and purpose of the scoping meeting was also included in the NOP. The scoping meeting presented an overview of the meeting's purpose and a description of the FRLRP, and identified potentially significant environmental issues. Several attendees discussed project features with board members, management, and the consultant flood control team, and some attendees provided oral and written comments. A transcript of the comments received at the scoping meeting and the written comments received in response to the NOP is included in Appendix A of this EIR. All comments received during the scoping process have been considered during preparation of this EIR. At least one public meeting will be held during the public review period for this draft environmental impact report (DEIR) (see Section 2.12, "Public Participation and Additional Steps in the CEQA Review Process," in Chapter 2), as well as a subsequent public meeting to consider certification of the final environmental impact report (FEIR).

## **9.2 YUBA-FEATHER WORK GROUP INVOLVEMENT**

The Y-FWG was formed in 2000 as an advisory group focused on evaluating and making recommendations regarding ecologically sustainable, no-new-dam flood control elements for the Yuba-Feather River system. The Y-FWG membership includes 12 participating entities,

including the key federal, state, and local agencies and major stakeholders in Yuba-Feather River flood management and ecosystem restoration activities. Consequently, the Y-FWG is a unique combination of agencies and stakeholders focused on flood control and resource management issues related to the Yuba-Feather River system. Y-FWG discussions have greatly enhanced the member organizations' understanding and agreement about approaches to flood control in the RD 784 area. The group's recommendations have helped shape the Y-FSFCP's integrated approach to flood management and ecosystem restoration, particularly the development of TRLIA's levee setback options, and Y-FWG members have spoken before The State of California Reclamation Board (The Reclamation Board) in support of the TRLIA projects.

### **9.3 INFORMAL CONSULTATION WITH AGENCIES**

Representatives of TRLIA and YCWA have consulted informally with various agencies regarding RD 784 flood management activities. As discussed above, the potential setback of the Feather River levee is an expansion and modification of the Above Star Bend segment of the Feather River levee setback element of YCWA's Y-FSFCP programmatic EIR; therefore, a considerable amount of informal agency consultation for what became the FRLRP was completed for the Y-FSFCP, before the FRLRP was formally initiated. These consultation activities are described in detail in Chapter 9, "Consultation and Coordination," of the Y-FSFCP programmatic EIR (Yuba County Water Agency 2003). Comment letters were also received from several agencies, including the California Department of Conservation, California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), California Department of Transportation, California Department of Water Resources (DWR), the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, and the Sutter County Community Services Department, on the Y-FSFCP programmatic EIR (Yuba County Water Agency 2004). These comments were taken into consideration in the development of the FRLRP.

TRLIA's Phase 2 and 3 flood control improvements have included very close coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), DWR, The Reclamation Board, Sutter County, Yuba County, RD 784, RD 1001, and federal and state resource agencies; these coordination efforts are continuing into the FRLRP effort. Moreover, the key agencies are part of the Y-FWG and receive updates and participate in planning discussions through the Y-FWG.

### **9.4 NOTIFICATION AND CONSULTATION LIST**

The following entities will receive a copy of the DEIR or notice of its availability. Individuals who have expressed an interest in the DEIR will receive a notice of its availability and public libraries in Marysville, Yuba City, and Sacramento will receive a copy of the DEIR for public review.

#### **Local Agencies**

City of Marysville

City of Yuba City

Feather River Air Quality Management District

Olivehurst Public Utilities District

Reclamation District 784  
Reclamation District 1001  
Sacramento Area Council of Governments  
Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency  
Sutter County Board of Supervisors  
Sutter County Department of Public Works  
Sutter County Planning Department  
Yuba County Agriculture Department  
Yuba County Board of Supervisors  
Yuba County Community Development Department  
Yuba County Water Agency

**State of California**

California Air Resources Board  
California Department of Boating and Waterways  
California Department of Conservation  
California Department of Fish and Game – Region II  
California Department of Toxic Substances Control  
California Department of Transportation  
California Department of Water Resources  
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Governor’s Office of Planning and Research – State Clearinghouse  
Native American Heritage Commission  
Office of Historic Preservation  
State Lands Commission  
State Water Resources Control Board – Water Quality  
The Reclamation Board  
The Resources Agency

**Federal Agencies**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Regulatory Branch and Civil Works Branch  
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region IX

Federal Emergency Management Agency

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Ecological Services Division

National Marine Fisheries Service

**Elected Representatives**

California State Assembly – Assemblymember Rick Keene

California State Assembly – Assemblymember Doug LaMalfa

California State Assembly – Assemblymember Tim Leslie

California State Senate – Senator Sam Aanestad

California State Senate – Senator Dave Cox

U.S. House of Representatives – Congressman Wally Herger

U.S. House of Representatives – Congressman Dan Lungren

U.S. Senate – Senator Dianne Feinstein

U.S. Senate – Senator Barbara Boxer

**Stakeholder Groups**

Environmental Defense

Friends of the River

Sierra Club

South Yuba River Citizens League