



**Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency
Feather River West Levee Project**

Summary Comments Report

**IPE Meeting No. 12
August 19-20, 2014**

**Construction and Gap Closures Design
Updates**

Report Prepared by:

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Mr. Donald H. Babbitt, PE, GE, Consulting Engineer**

August 29, 2014

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Mr. Michael Bessette, PE
Director of Engineering
Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency (SBFCA)
P.O. Box M
1441 Garden Highway
Yuba City, CA 95991

Re: Independent Panel of Experts (Panel), Meeting No. 12, Summary Comments Report

Dear Mr. Bessette:

This report covers an overview of the major comments from the IPE from Meeting No. 12 which included a field review of ongoing construction activities and presentations by the Design and Project Management (PM) Team held on August 19 and 20, 2014.

I. Introduction

This report presents general comments and concerns for consideration by the Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency (SBFCA) by the IPE following Meeting No. 12.

The two day meeting consisted of a field review of the ongoing construction in Project Areas C, B and D and also attending the weekly meeting with the Contractor and PM Team for both contracts, all on the 19th, and then presentations by the Design and Project Management Team members on the 20th. A copy of the agenda for the meeting on the 20th is attached. That meeting was held at the offices of HDR at 2379 Gateway Oaks, Sacramento, California.

II. Questions for the IPE by the Design and PM Team

- 1) *Based on the observations made during the field tour on the 19th of Project Areas B, C and D construction, does the IPE have any concerns about how the project is being constructed?***

The field review, the attendance at the construction meetings, presentations by the Design and Project Management Team, and subsequent discussions provided the IPE with an excellent opportunity to evaluate project construction and the design updates.

Progress of the work has been remarkable in light of the unanticipated number of archeological sites and their impacts on the project schedules. The design integrity is

being maintained. The QA/QC staffing and evolving processes appear appropriate given the overall length of the projects and that many worksites are active at any given time.

Overall the quality of the work is good. The IPE has only one concern. We were told of a SB wall near station 12+00 which had settled a significant amount (a little under two feet). Because this amount is much larger than any other SB walls which have been constructed throughout the valley some questions were raised. It appeared that the QA/QC and design team had not performed an extensive investigation as to why this had occurred. They stated that coarse gravels were the reason. However, we felt this may not be the reason or certainly not the only reason. We request that a more thorough investigation be conducted into possible reasons for this settlement.

2) Does the IPE have any issues or concerns about the construction information presented in the Monthly Progress reports or the QA/QC test results to date?

The IPE is not sure what the specific purpose of the Monthly Progress Report is but find them to be very sketchy for the non-informed reader. If the purpose is to keep Agency folks and the IPE informed we recommend that a few more details be included.

For instance, there is no background as to how the Cultural Recourse issue became so big, only that it was causing delays and increases in costs.

Also on page 5, second paragraph of the Draft Project C, July 2014 Report, there is the statement that says, *"The Contractor is currently construction the DMM wall without an approved mix design as required per the Contract"*. No further details are provided and this statement leaves the reader with the impression that the Contractor is out of control and no action by the PM team is planned.

3) Does the IPE have any concerns or comments about the 90% Gap Closure Designs presented for Area C?

The IPE has not completed its review of the 90% design documents and will be following up with specific comments. However, the design presentations were consistent with what was previously presented and discussed.

4) Does the IPE have additional comments on the work performed to date or the actions planned for the future?

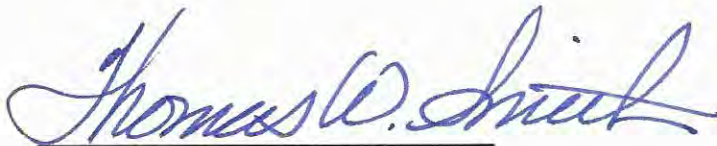
a) Construction Schedule for 2014 – The IPE may be able to help support a request for a contract extension past November 1st if the weather conditions are favorable and SBFCA thinks our endorsement would be valuable.

b) ERDC Proposal for Soil Amendments – The IPE supports this proposal as presented by ERDC. Anything that will help promote a stronger stand of grassy vegetation prior to the heavy rainfall season can be a benefit. It appears that the only cost to the agency will be staff time for coordination and monitoring.

- c) **Bid Price for Relief Wells** – The bid prices for Project Area B and D do not seem realistic and could skew the choice of alternatives if used in comparative cost estimates.
- d) **Safety** – The reported power line incidents are some cause for concern. The IPE recommends that PM team continue to pursue the safety effort vigorously and assures themselves that all required training is being performed.

**Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency
West Feather River Levee Project**

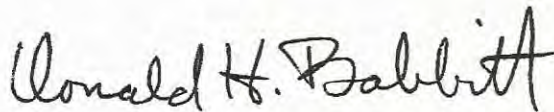
Independent Panel of Experts



Thomas W. Smith, PE, GE
Chairman



George L. Sills, PE



Donald H. Babbitt, PE, GE

Subject:	SBFCA – IPE and Agency Meeting No. 12		
Project:	Feather River West Levee Project 1	Meeting Dates:	8/20/14 @ 8:30 am – 5:00 pm
Meeting Location:	HDR – 2379 Gateway Oaks Sacramento, CA 95833		
Attendees:	SBFCA, USACE, DWR, CVFPB, HDR, Wood Rodgers, URS, MHM, PBI		

I. Introduction (8:30 – 8:45) Team

- A. Executive Director comments (*Inamine*)
- B. Introductions (*Bessette*)
- C. Meeting purpose and agenda review (*Bessette*)

II. Overview of FRWL Program status (8:45 – 9:15) Team

- A. FRWL Project 1 Overview (*Bessette*)
- B. Key Project Activities and Schedule (*Bessette/Krivanec*)

III. Design Quality Control Reviews (9:15 – 9:30) Krivanec

- A. QA Status – Project Areas B, C & D Review Closeout status
- B. IPE Report No. 11

IV. Break (9:30-9:45)

V. 90% Project Area C Gaps Designs (9:45-10:45) Kors

- A. UPRR and Yuba City Raw Water Intake 90% Design
- B. 5th Street Bridge Gap 90% Design

VI. Construction Status and Observations – Project Areas C (10:45-12:00) Team

- A. Schedule overview and construction status (*Lorenzen*)
- B. QA/QC Test Results (*Lorenzen*)
- C. Key Issues (*Lorenzen*)
 - 1. Cultural Sites
 - 2. DMM Cutoff wall mix design
- D. Reach 13 close out (*Kors/Hughes*)
 - 1. Final Reach 13 TM and evaluation of end around effects
 - 2. Erosion protection
 - 3. Long term monitoring plan

VII. Lunch (provided) (12:00 – 1:00)

VIII. Construction Status and Observations – Project Areas B & D (1:00-2:00)

Lorenzen

- A. Schedule overview and construction status
- B. QA/QC Test Results
- C. Key Issues
 - 1. Conventional cutoff wall backfill

IX. Other Project Sites (FSRP and Prop 13) (2:00 – 2:15) *Bessette/Inamine*

- A. Gridley Bridge Erosion Site
- B. South Star Bend
- C. Cypress and Laurel Avenue
- D. Oroville Wildlife Area

X. Break (2:15 – 2:30)

XI. IPE/Agency Feedback – Gaps Designs and Areas B, C & D Construction (2:30 – 3:00)

- A. IPE Feedback (*Smith/Sills/Babbitt*)
- B. DWR Feedback (*Fasani/Avila/Costa*)
- C. CVFPB Feedback (*Moricz*)
- D. USACE Feedback (*Perlea*)

XII. Anticipated Next Steps (3:00 – 3:15) *Krivanec*

- A. Design and Construction Schedule
- B. Schedule next IPE meeting

XIII. IPE Executive Session (3:15 – 4:30)

XIV. Discussion of IPE Observations and Draft Report No. 12 (4:30 – 5:00)

XV. Adjourn (5:00)