

**San Francisco Bay Joint Venture
Legislative Affairs Committee Meeting Notes
Thursday, November 30, 2006
Save The Bay Conference Room, Oakland**

Attendees: Abe Doherty (Coastal Conservancy), Arthur Feinstein (Citizens' Committee to Complete the Refuge), David Lewis (Save the Bay), Debbi Etgar Van Wisserkerke ((SF Estuary Project), John Gurley (Audubon), Steve Goldbeck (BCDC);
Via conference call Dave Widell (Ducks Unlimited) – Chair, Grant Davis and Marc Holmes (The Bay Institute), Tom Kendall (Army Corps of Engineers)
JV Staff: Beth Huning, Coordinator

Agenda items discussed:

- 1) Review of Bay Area delegation, new leadership committee chairs both federal and state
- 2) Strategy for funding requests
- 3) Development of key messages, packaging, and timing
- 4) Schedule and process for DC Hill visits and Sacramento JV Leg. Day

**1) Federal and State Leadership
Senate, House, State**

There was a discussion related to changes in House, Senate and State Legislature, particularly related to committee assignments and committee makeup. As committee assignments continue, JV staff will keep the board updated.

**2 and 3) Strategy for Funding Requests
Federal**

There was discussion about whether the non-governmental members of the JV wanted to package JV requests as a Bay program and seek an authorization. It was concluded that while we may want to “test” this concept with legislators, we should also package priority projects seeking federal funding and promote them as a package drawing on different funding sources. The JV current projects lists were distributed along with an initial first stab at identifying those seeking federal funding. The Corps and the Conservancy provided information on the funding needs for priority projects. This “package” should also represent all areas of the Bay to ensure full delegation “buy in”. There was discussion about structuring these requests as an ala carte menu that includes a full list of projects needing federal funding in the next 3-5 years, a mid-range, and a lower budget range.

Legislative requests will focus on military properties. Skaggs Island is at a critical turning point. Discussions will be initiated with Congresswoman Woolsey to build support for transfer. It was suggested that we pursue same strategy for Alameda, Hunters' Point and Mare Island and possibly Concord.

Next Steps: A subcommittee was formed to help develop the content and draft some key messages for the federal requests this year and to possibly develop the concept for an authorization. The JV Public Outreach Committee will take this information and develop a nice publication to accompany partners to DC. The entire process will need to be complete by the end of January. The committee is: Marc Holmes, John Gurley, Beth Huning. The JV Restoration Strategy/Technical Committee has developed the lists, and those that were circulated plus the Corps and Conservancy lists will be the basis for program content. Arthur would like to review. It was agreed that all Leg. Committee members will have the opportunity to review the content before it is sent to the Outreach Committee. Steve Ritchie will also be asked to review the draft. Marc will start a first draft so that we can have content by Christmas.

Other Action items: Projects- There is a need to analyze the federal appropriations budget to identify other pots of money and which projects might fit where.

State

Prop. 84 funding:

The Coastal Conservancy has submitted a request for appropriation of Prop 84 funds and should have the Prop. 84 funding in June for the Bay Conservancy. Committee members would like to see a breakdown of the bond funding.

It was noted that we need a state version of projects and legislation similar to the federal version. We will need to secure funding from Prop. 84 other than through the Bay Conservancy, particularly for acquisition, since the Bay Conservancy will need to cover not only wetlands but uplands, public access, and the coast. It will also be important to seek funding from other sources for monitoring and planning, since there is a 10% limit on spending of Prop 84 funds on these activities.

State Legislation to watch:

- a) ballast water- State Lands will be reporting to the Legislature which will determine whether State Lands will continue to regulate. There is a lot of concern about State Lands in this role. Ways to influence this decision include speaking with the new Lt. Governor as he sits on State Lands and coordinating with the Public Trust Working Group.
- b) BCDC Enforcement for Suisun Marsh- BCDC is seeking potential sponsors for legislation for this year or next that will model the enforcement bill in the Bay.
Peripheral Canal- Semitian is making a strong push to legislatively resurrect the Peripheral Canal by some other name. With research showing that Delta Smelt populations are declining due to the pumps, this may be the case for justifying this new proposal

Other State Issues:

- a) DFG Reorganization and Water Division- After some discussion and no clear understanding of the reorganization, it was recommended to invite Carl Wilcox to make a presentation at the January JV Management Board meeting.
- b) Marine Life Protection Act (MPLA) Planning- The North Central Coast will be next for planning, then possibly the Bay.

Next Steps:

Prop. 84 funding- Dave and Abe will share that information or it is available on the Yes on 84 web site. John G. and Arthur volunteered to analyze Prop. 84 for other funding opportunities

State Legislation

- a) *Ballast water/State Lands issues-* Create bullet list of issues with State Lands (Dave W. Arthur, Marc), and Dave will work to set up meeting with Garamendi.
- b) *BCDC Suisun Marsh Enforcement-* Steve Goldbeck will keep the group informed and will circulate language.

Other State Issues

- a) DFG Reorganization – Beth will invite Carl Wilcox to make a presentation at the January JV Management Board meeting
- b) MPLA planning- Track this

4) DC Hill Visits and JV Sacramento Leg. Day

Hill visits

February: Week of Feb. 12- Corps

Feb. 19- Joint Venture week, includes Arthur, Dave Widell, Fritz Reid, Beth Huning, Others?

March: Week of March 5- Estuary Project week- Marcia Brockbank, Debbi E., Others?

Week of March 5- The Bay Institute;

Week of March 5 – BCDC

Uncertain- David Lewis, Save the Bay

Not Yet identified- Audubon, Coastal Conservancy

JV Leg. Day- SFBJV will join with the Central Valley and other CA JV's for a Leg. Day in Sacramento on February 7. In addition to the general message, SFBJV will determine our own priorities from those discussed and others that come to our attention and will do our own messages.