

Dear Participants:

I would like to compliment the Working Group participants on their hard work on complicated issues. As I explained in the meeting, the Working Group has made tremendous progress in quite a short time given the complexity and importance of the issues. Moreover, I am impressed by how thoughtful the Working Group has been in asking questions and considering information.

Many in the group believed that they needed additional information before they could express preferences among alternatives. It was made clear by a number of Working Group members that they would very much appreciate the resource agencies bringing their expertise to bear so that the Corps, the County and the Working Group will have a better understanding of the environmental benefits and possible impacts of various alternatives. The group would also like to hear from the resource agencies regarding which alternatives, given the current base of information, are not likely to be viable from an environmental perspective. Some group members also asked for more information on other issues that are not strictly environmental, e.g., engineering design details, salinity intrusion on farmland, cost, etc.

Given the importance of information to the process, I have summarized the requests for information below. There is some overlap among questions and we have taken editorial license to capture the sense of what came out of a couple of hours of discussion. I encourage each participant to review this list and see if there is other information that they would like to have to give them information they believe they need to express preferences among alternatives. We will share these requests with the County, the Corps and the resource agencies at the meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup>. As a result, I would appreciate if you would contact us with any additional requests for information before then.

In closing, I would like to confirm the date that the Working Group selected for their next meeting: May 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. It is clear that input from the resource agencies is very important to the Working Group and we expect a progress report from them at the May 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

Thanks for the hard work. I look forward to hearing from you. – Valerie Lee, Facilitator

### **Requests for Information Related to Environmental & Archaeological Issues**

What design elements are good for fish and what are bad for fish?

What are the fisheries benefits, if any, associated with each alternative?

For each alternative, what potential does it hold for future restoration activities for salmon and wildlife?

How does each alternative square with the guidelines that have been developed in connection with the 4(d) rule for chinook salmon?

In terms of wildlife benefits, how would the resource agencies rate each alternative, given the current level of information?

What are the show stopper issues from the resource agencies' perspective?

How will the Corps, Tribes, and resource agencies address archaeological sites, where are they etc.?

Are there any alternatives that, based on currently available information, the resource agencies know are not viable because of environmental considerations?

How do the alternatives fare when measured by compliance with laws (e.g., instream flows, GMA, ESA, Exec.Order 11988 regarding use of federal money to develop in a floodplain)?

How would the resource agencies rate each alternative in terms of opportunities for partnering?

From an environmental perspective, do the resource agencies have any preferences among alternatives?

**Requests for Information on Non-Environmental Issues**

What is the local share match for each alternative?

What recreational opportunities, if any, does each alternative offer?

What is the farmland acreage lost/gained in each alternative?

What is FEMA's position regarding changes to flood insurance?

Are there opportunities for partnerships in each alternative?

What are the final changes to the economic data and how could this affect the selection of alternatives?

For each alternative, what areas sustain flooding and who (i.e., which areas) receives more flood water than he or she does now?