Regent Tom Zuckerman welcomed and thanked the attendees led self-introductions around the table. He gave a brief update of on-going processes including the Delta Vision planning process, the BDCP, and the DRMS project. He repeated the three components of flood plain addressed by the Dialog: the State flood plan; funding; and governance. He noted that the issues and concerns raised in the Dialog process are being incorporated into proposed legislation.

Margit Aramburu, Director, Natural Resources Institute, welcomed the group and asked that comments regarding the draft notes of the January 2007 meeting be forwarded to her for revision.

**Discussion of the Status of Department of Water Resource’s Preparation of a State Flood Plan:**

Ricardo Pineda, Department of Water Resources, presented an update on the State’s update of the state plan of flood control. He noted that while funds will be set aside for additional staff and tasks in the next fiscal year, DWR is proceeding with repairs to existing levees with the levee bond funds. In addition, DWR is working with local counties to inventory existing flood infrastructure and an inventory of needs. He said planning grants for regional flood plans might be integrated with grants for integrated water management planning. He noted DWR is documenting the facilities that provided flood protection including the 1600 miles of project levees in the Valley, including how they are operated and maintained and the sponsor. He noted more information is available at [www.floodsafe.water.ca.gov](http://www.floodsafe.water.ca.gov).

Mr. Zuckerman asked if the 500-year flood maps from the Comp Study are available; Mr. Pineda said he could provide them.

Mr. Pineda noted one issue is that levees are now very close to the river channels and are being eroded due to the sediment-starved environment. He mentioned that the Corps is preparing a white paper on vegetation on levees. He said DWR is very busy considering: long term vision including reoperation of reservoirs with no assumption of new reservoirs.

Mr. Zuckerman asked what assumptions are being made re: climate change in DWR’s planning; Mr. Pineda agreed that hydrology would be impacted by climate change but noted that the actual impact cannot be quantified at this time.

Mr. Pineda said DWR will look at flood hazard identification and will include economic data sets.
Mr. Pulver expressed his concern for local governments due to lack of firm data and FEMA’s changing process for local governments to determine where future development may safely proceed.

Mr. Troppmann also expressed concern about integration of flood control plans into regional water management plans. He said the FEMA standards are changing with new data.

Mr. Pineda summarized that DWR is carrying out repairs to existing levees, carrying out an extensive levee drilling program for urban levees, and processing applications for “ready to go” projects to be funded from the levee bonds. He said the new maps from DWR would be completed in 3-5 years.

Mr. Troppmann expressed concerns about the validity of the economic engine needed to implement the larger program; Mr. Pineda said the biggest actions would be to enhance flood protection for urban areas subject to deep flooding. Mr. Troppmann asked how communities will be able to reach 100-year flood protection and mentioned the economic impacts when areas are determined to not meet FEMA standards, including increased costs of flood insurance and loss of value of buildings deemed subject to flooding, and he asked if the State will evaluate the economic consequences. Mr. Pineda said no such analysis is available and said the federal agencies believe that the goals of federal programs are savings to federal emergency relief programs. He noted that DWR is supporting enhanced 200-year level of protection for urban areas.

Mr. Zuckerman asked how communities determine 200 year flood protection, particularly in the Delta area where the urban areas are in the lowest areas of large watershed; Mr. Cowdin said new data will be available at the end of the planning process.

Mr. Flinn suggested that region wide models need to be studied by DWR.

Mr. Troppmann said he is concerned about the need for a usable process, not just collection of new data. He stated his concern about the DWR move toward a 200-year standard for flood protection and how the funding and permitting would actually work.

Mr. Pulver expressed concern that the statewide plan will not be workable and used RD 17 as an example.

Mr. Pineda said the Governor has adopted a position that the State should not require mandatory flood insurance for property owners. He also noted that seepage is the focus of concern, rather than overtopping.

Mr. Flinn suggested that planning should be on a watershed basis and suggested that the State take lead for preparation of regional plans. Mr. Zuckerman agree that the State should prepare the big picture, including the issue of liability, and suggested that there
needs to be an implementation plan. He asked about areas where there is a mixture of project and non-project levees; Mr. Pineda said the bond funds are for safety.

Mr. Geyer suggested evaluating off-loading peak flood flows upstream and suggested evaluating broader solutions that just levees. He suggested using landowners as assets.

Mr. Troppmann suggested evaluating multiple use areas upstream to capture overflow and to provide open space, habitat and/or agriculture values. He also recommended that the State emphasize implementation, not just data collection.

Mr. Zuckerman suggested evaluating areas for collection of flood flows that can also replenish the groundwater table.

Mr. Sakato noted that in the Sacramento value landowners have different views including some who would readily sell if the offer was right; some that would have a more difficult time due to commit to land and land uses; and some that would not be interested in selling and fear condemnation. He suggested that the State needs to step in and provide an overall program, and not let regions prepare their own plan. Mr. Zuckerman suggested if the State does not prepare a plan for flood overflow onto agricultural lands, it will happen but in a random/unplanned manner.

Dean Ravi Jain welcomed the Dialog participants. He supported the wholistic approach and supports long-term solutions.

Mr. Zuckerman thanked the participants for helping support UOP’s Dialog as a way to help develop long-term solutions and expressed concern that government policy can be short sighted, but said the long term, durable solutions are needed.

Mr. Pulver suggested that new solutions and ideas are needed, and suggested that processes that did not work in the past will not work in the future. He suggested focusing on location solutions to maximize protection.

Mr. Flinn suggested that we need to do a better job to educating the public and that DWR should help delineate between areas that would be subject to shallow water flooding versus deep flooding and how emergency preparedness should address these areas. Mr. Pineda said a new program is being developed to notify each property owner of the flood risk to their property and notify each one each year.

Mr. Cowdin and Mr. Troppmann discussed the issue of change of value to property when an area is reassigned from X zone to A. Mr. Cowdin suggested that the change resulting from lands being remapped from an X zone to an A zone is an increased potential for damage which can be readily measure. Mr. Troppmann agreed but suggested that the analysis should not stop there and should also evaluate the potential losses of property tax revenues and other regional fiscal impacts.
Mr. Pineda said that FEMA map modernization process would create some provisionally approved levees. He noted that one big issue is that the State is deemed the owner of levees by the Feds.

Mr. Pineda asked that George Qualley of DWR be invited to any future meetings related to Feasibility Study for San Joaquin County (qualley@water.ca.gov)

**Discussion of Budget for Levee Bond Funds:**

Ms Aramburu noted that at the March meeting there had been a lively discussion of the DWR proposal for expenditure of the levee bond funds. Shortly thereafter, several flood control groups from the Delta, Sacramento Valley, San Joaquin County and the Three Rivers area met to discuss the bond funds. While there was not agreement between all the parties, both San Joaquin County interests and Sacramento Valley interests came to a joint agreement as to how the bond funds should be distributed between urban and rural areas and to include emergency plans and planning. Comments from both groups have been forwarded to members of the Legislature for consideration for inclusion in pending legislation. Ms Aramburu noted that information on this issue was sent prior to the Dialog meeting.

Mr. Zuckerman suggested there is a need to identify areas that cannot be protected.

Mr. Troppmann suggested that sites that have been identified for development should be kept to allow for future community growth.

**Issue of Governance:**

Ms Aramburu noted that several bills that address issues of governance have been drafted and are moving through the Legislature. She reviewed the general purpose and status of the various bills. Ms Aramburu noted that information on this issue was sent prior to the Dialog meeting.

**Other Matters:**

Mr. Zuckerman noted that the Central Delta Water Agency is preparing a Delta Vision to submit to the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Panel for consideration. The Blue Ribbon Panel has recently issued an invitation for groups to submit their individual visions for consideration by the Blue Ribbon Panel.

**Adjournment:**

The Dialog Meeting was adjourned at 1 pm.