

Cherokee Canal is off the flood plans for now

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SACRAMENTO — A proposal to widen Cherokee Canal and divert floodwater from the Feather River across Butte County to the Sacramento River was officially removed Friday from the current version of the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan.

The idea was protested during a meeting in Richvale in March, as farmers were wary of changes to their land, the price tag and more.

During the meeting of the flood board Friday, a state flood framework and resolution were adopted, and specific language was included to exclude the Cherokee Canal.

The complete resolution is at www.cvfpb.ca.gov

Page 19 states: "The board has serious concerns that the proposed Feather River Bypass (including the enlargement of the Cherokee Canal) (a) could have adverse, unmitigated hydraulic effects on downstream landowners, and (b) is unlikely to be found economically justifiable."

Also, the board acknowledged the flood-carrying capacity of the canal is limited as currently designed.

"Therefore, the proposed Feather River Bypass is removed from the CVFPP."

The concept may be brought up again when the flood plan is updated in 2017.

Locally, the Butte County Farm Bureau worked with landowners in opposition of the canal, which they believed would have economically harmed people in the area.

After the announcement, the Farm Bureau thanked Jane Dolan of the Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum, and a member of the flood board, for "her commitment to agriculture" by opposing the plan.