

CHAIRMAN ADAM GRAY

OPENING STATEMENT

MAY 9, 2019

Good morning. Welcome to the Committees on Governmental Organization and Water, Parks, and Wildlife joint informational hearing on flood management and emergency preparedness.

First, let me thank my colleague, Chairman Eduardo Garcia, for his partnership in organizing this hearing.

I appreciate all of his leadership and the work of his staff.

Fortunately, this has been a rebound year for California's water supply. But the abundance of water also carries a certain amount of risk.

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to meet with flood management officials and National Weather Service meteorologists at the Department of Water Resources' Flood Operations Center.

It was an opportunity to see first-hand the coordination between our state and federal flood management team and to ensure that we are not caught flat-footed by a flood emergency.

While the Sierras were inundated with a record number of atmospheric river events this year, we need to prepare for warmer temperatures in the short-term and severe droughts in the long-term.

For far too long, California has not had a real water plan. Real plans require real decisions, and previous administrations have refused to take on this tough issue.

California's aging water infrastructure as paid the price.

That is why I introduced Assembly Bill 638 earlier this year to force the state to actually address the very real impacts that climate change will have on our dams, canals, aqueducts, and levies.

As you know, California's flood control system is complex and local, federal and state agencies have developed a variety of physical structures to regulate flood flows.

Since 1992, every county in California has been declared a federal disaster area at least once for a flooding event.

More than 7.3 million people and structures valued at nearly \$600 billion statewide are located in an area with a 1-in-500 probability of flooding.

In the Central Valley alone, nearly 1-in-3 residents and crops worth nearly \$6 billion are located in flood prone areas.

Given the complexity of our flood management system, the risks to lives and property, it is important that we ensure our emergency plans are robust and up to date.

And our plans need to be consistent with most current risks and incorporate the best forecasting technologies.

When it comes to flood management, we also need to fully consider the consequences flooding has on our lifeline systems such as fuel, power, communications, drinking water and critical transportation.

I am looking forward to hearing your testimony.

Thank you to all of the presenters for taking the time to participate in today's hearing.

we should have a catastrophic plan for fire?