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## CALENDAR ALERTS

- April 10** – Public workshop on [Marysville Ring Levee](#) Supplemental Env. Assmt., 4:00 pm  
**April 10** – Deadline to [comment](#) on new WOTUS definition  
**April 15** – Deadline to comment on Prospect Island Habitat Project [Partially Recirculated EIR](#)  
**April 19** – Deadline to comment on USACE [Regional General Permit](#) for habitat discharges  
**April 22** – Deadline for scoping comments on Lookout Slough Habitat Project [NOP](#)  
**June 25** – CA Extreme Precipitation [Symposium](#), ARC Conf. Ctr, UC Davis  
**Sept 3-6** – Floodplain Management Association's [annual conference](#), San Diego

## STORM WATCH

### **Reservoirs Increase Water Releases**

With [Shasta Dam](#) 87% full in early March, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation doubled [releases](#) up to 50,000 cfs which will result in [higher water levels](#) downstream on the Sacramento River. When lake level at [Oroville reservoir](#) rose ten feet and filled it to 65% of capacity, DWR increased releases from 1,750 to 5,000 cfs through Hyatt Powerplant. Although Oroville Dam release gates remained closed, water began [seeping](#) down the main spillway when the lake level rose above 813 feet. With inflow about twice as much as outflow, [Folsom Lake](#) is expected to reach capacity by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Cache Creek Evacuations Ordered**

Due to [overtopping of levee](#) on Cache Creek in late February, residents in the town of Yolo were advised to [evacuate](#). Lee Middle School in Woodland provided shelter to evacuees.

### **Rushing Rivers Are Dangerous**

A 5-year old girl [drowned](#) when she was swept under the swift current of the swollen Stanislaus River flowing at 4,200 cubic feet per second, and near Isleton a father jumped in after his one-year old toddler that fell [overboard](#). Rescuers recovered and revived the toddler who was wearing a life jacket, but the father who was not wearing one is still missing.

## KEEPING UP

*\*\*Check [CCVFCA Website for](#) more information on topics in Flood Flash*

### **FEMA Reimbursement for Oroville Less Than DWR Requested**

There is good news and bad news regarding federal reimbursement requests submitted by the State to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the repair of the Oroville Dam spillways damaged during the 2017 storm events. On March 7<sup>th</sup>, DWR announced [FEMA's approval](#) of \$205 million for reimbursement of Oroville Dam repairs, in addition to the previously approved \$128.4 million FEMA reimbursement for emergency response, debris removal, and other costs. However, the following day a news article reported that the Trump Administration is [refusing to pay more than \\$300 million](#) requested by DWR due to a wide-range of [pre-existing problems](#), which means FEMA would only be willing to [pay about 1/3](#) of the total costs that currently exceed \$1 billion. DWR plans to file an [appeal](#) of FEMA's denial. The appeal by DWR is [supported](#) by State Water Contractors.

### **Refinement of Marysville Ring Levee Project Proposed**

Refinements are proposed to the original design for the [Marysville Ring Levee Project](#) to allow for seepage and stability improvements. Modifications include the addition of a cutoff wall in each segment, levee realignment in specific locations, and a levee slope increase to meet the new standard of three feet horizontal to one foot of height (3H:1V). The U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers (USACE) is hosting a public workshop at 4:00 p.m. on April 10, 2019 at the Yuba County Government Center, 915-8<sup>th</sup> Street, Marysville to receive comments on the draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment/Initial Study ([SEA/IS](#)).

### ***Compromise Proposed for West Sacramento Flood Protection***

The Yolo County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) has been evaluating options for [consolidating](#) local agency and city flood protection governance. The City of West Sacramento initially proposed to have the City Council assume control over all reclamation district (RD) finances and operations for drainage and levee maintenance and eliminate the two existing RDs. Currently both Reclamation Districts 537 and 900 are fully funded and debt free. After a year of discussions, an alternative governance plan is being proposed by the two RDs that would entail consolidation and splitting of responsibilities. Levee maintenance currently performed by RD 900, RD 537, and Maintenance Area 4 (State responsibility) would all be consolidated into RD 900, and all internal drainage services would be unified under the city's jurisdiction and responsibility. This would standardize the level of care for levee maintenance while eliminating any duplication of efforts and costs. LAFCO is expected to take up this matter sometime in the spring.

### ***Vote Scheduled on New Dredge and Fill Discharge Regulations***

CCVFCA Executive Director Melinda Terry testified at SWRCB public workshop in March, expressing support for language negotiated with environmental organizations to exclude levee maintenance from proposed permit and compensatory mitigation requirements. On [April 2<sup>nd</sup>](#) the State Water Resources Control Board is [scheduled](#) to consider adoption of [regulations](#) to define [State Wetlands](#) and govern permitting of [dredge and fill](#) activities. A set of final [amendments](#) negotiated between stakeholders will also be considered.

### ***Water Board Briefed Sacramento Valley Fish Restoration Efforts***

At their March meeting, the State Water Resources Control Board heard presentations from RD 108, Northern California Water Association, and other entities involved in habitat restoration projects designed to increase food base for juvenile salmon in the floodplain by inundating the Yolo Bypass. During public comments, CCVFCA Executive Director Melinda Terry informed the water board that the key to success with these projects was the willingness of the environmental organizations to respect the importance of not reducing the level of flood protection provided by the bypass and other flood control infrastructure.

### ***TNC Has Opening for Water Reporting Position***

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is looking to hire a qualified person to fill a Stewardship [Water Associate position](#). They are looking for someone with bachelor's degree, five years natural resource experience, and familiarity with principles of water acquisition and water rights to join either their Sacramento or Chico team. They will be responsible for implementing best management practices for TNC complex portfolio of water rights across California, including compliance with all state and local reporting requirements for use of groundwater and surface water. This person would work on emerging technologies for measuring and managing data, implement efficiency measures, ensure the water is used for the conservation outcomes for which they were acquired and monitor the ecological impact of TNC use of its water. Deadline to apply is April 17, 2019.

### ***Full Environmental Review of Sites Reservoir Project Requested***

A coalition of fishing, Native American, and environmental organizations have [requested](#) a full environmental review analysis be developed for the Sites Reservoir project to evaluate impacts to fish and water quality

### ***Overhaul of Federal Flood Insurance Proposed***

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is [proposing changes](#) starting in October 2020 on how [flood insurance rates](#) are set under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). New technologies and better mapping will be used to produce more [actuarial flood-risk rating](#) system called "Risk Rating 2.0." These changes will be implemented within FEMA's [statutory authority](#), so does not require Congressional approval and is separate from pending legislation to reauthorize the NFIP.

### ***Regional Permit for Salmon Recovery***

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is proposing to issue a new [regional general permit](#) (RGP) for habitat restoration activities to support recovery of salmon in the Sacramento-San Joaquin watershed and Suisun Bay. Deadline to submit comments on the proposal is April 19, 2019. The proposed RGP would authorize permanent or temporary work in navigable waters of the U.S., including the discharge of fill materials associated with salmon habitat restoration projects that meet CDFW's Fisheries Restoration Grant Program ([FRGP](#)).

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## **DELTA DOWNLOAD**

\*\*Check [CCVFCA Website](#) for more information on topics in Flood Flash

### ***DSC Denies Appeal on Smith Canal Project***

At its meeting on March 21<sup>st</sup>, the Delta Stewardship Council denied an appeal filed by the Atherton Cove Property Owners Association to stop construction of a flood control gate at the mouth of the Smith Canal and Atherton Cove. The [Council's](#)

[decision](#) said the homeowners association failed to demonstrate that the San Joaquin Flood Control Agency lacked substantial evidence to support its certification of consistency with the Delta Plan.

### ***NOP on Lookout Slough Habitat Restoration Project Released***

DWR, in partnership with the [Ecosystem Investment Partners](#), released a Notice of Preparation ([NOP](#)) and [Initial Study](#) under CEQA for the Lookout Slough habitat restoration project, located in the Cache Slough region of the Delta. A public scoping meeting will be held from 6:00-8:00 pm on April 10<sup>th</sup> at the Old Vets Hall in Dixon, located at 231 N. First Street and the deadline to submit written comments is 4:00 p.m. on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### ***Public Comment Period Re-Opened on Prospect Island Tidal Restoration Project***

DWR released a [Partially Recirculated draft of EIR](#), limited to recent changes made to the [Prospect Island](#) Tidal Habitat Restoration Project. The Proposed Project Description has been revised to delete mitigations requiring monitoring and repair of Prospect and Ryer Island levees along Miner Slough or monitoring of seepage on Ryer Island and to reflect progress with land acquisition. Deadline to comment on the project changes in the recirculated draft is April 15, 2019.

### ***DSC Seeking Evaluation of its Public Participation Process***

The Delta Stewardship Council is developing a [Public Participation Plan](#) with best practices on engaging the public in their decision-making processes. As part of this effort, the Council is asking Delta stakeholders to fill out a [survey](#) to help guide how they interact with the public. The deadline to respond to survey is April 30, 2019.

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## **LEGISLATIVE LATEST**

*\*\*Check [CCVFCA Website for](#) more information on topics in Flood Flash*

### ***Federal Funding for Sites Reservoir Proposed in Congress***

Congressmen John Garamendi (D-Davis) and Doug LaMalfa [co-sponsored](#) legislation, [HR 1453](#), directing the Bureau of Reclamation to conduct a [feasibility study](#) on construction of [Sites Reservoir](#) and offering additional funding and technical support if necessary. An additional \$2.1 billion from State and local sources has already been identified.

### ***Delta National Heritage Area Signed into Law***

President Trump [signed](#) the John D. Dingell Jr. Conservation Management and Recreation Act ([S. 47](#)), which [includes creation](#) of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area Act ([H.R. 357](#)) authored by Congressman John Garamendi (D-Davis), which will provide \$10 million in federal grant funding over a 15-year period. The Delta Protection [Commission](#) will be responsible for preparing a heritage area management plan.

### ***Reform of Delta Stewardship Council Proposed***

[Assembly Bill 1194](#) authored by Assemblyman Jim [Frazier](#) (D-Oakley) proposes to expand the Delta Stewardship Council from 7 to 9 voting members, with two non-voting ex-officio members. The two new voting members must be [local representatives](#) selected by Delta county and municipal process. The bill will be heard in the Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee on April 9, 2019.

### ***CalEPA Secretary Appointment Confirmed***

With only three no votes, the State Senate [confirmed](#) the appointment of Jared Blumenfeld as Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA).

### ***Governor Appoints Agriculture Liaison***

Former Secretary of California Department of Food and Agriculture, Bill Lyons, was appointed by Governor Newsom to serve in a new position – [Agriculture Liaison](#) in the Office of the Governor.

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## **IN THE NEWS**

*(Clicking the links will take you to news organization websites, where you can read the full stories. CCVFCA is not responsible for content on these external sites.)*

- [February storms doubled Sierra snowpack, state snow survey shows](#) - SF Chronicle
- [Gov. Newsom declares state of emergency after Russian River flooding](#) - SF Chronicle
- [‘Rivers in the sky’ are why California is flooding](#) - National Geographic
- [Yolo County Levees Repaired As Authorities Prepare For More Rain](#) - CBS 13
- [Carmel Man Sentenced To 30 Months In Prison For Illegal Dumping In Protected Waters](#) - SF Gate

- [Aerials of the Island-like Northern California Town Cut Off by Flooding \(PHOTOS\)](#) -The Weather Channel
- [Garamendi bill to protect Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta passes House](#) - The Reporter
- [California's largest reservoir shot up 39 feet in elevation in February](#) - SF Gate
- [Frazier's AB 1194 would increase local representation on Delta Stewardship Council](#) - Daily KOS
- [Heavy rain causes bureau to increase water flows in Sacramento River](#) - Record Searchlight
- [Healdsburg declares emergency after wastewater facility floods](#) - SF Gate
- [Before and after: Photos show severe flooding along Russian River](#) - SF Gate
- [A Full Yolo Bypass Means Sacramento's Flood Controls Are Working](#) - CBS13
- [Yolo County Levees Repaired As Authorities Prepare For More Rain](#) - CBS 13
- [How atmospheric river storms tamed California's drought](#) - San Diego Union Tribune
- [Levee Patrol: As rain storms through Northern California, water officials monitor for flooding](#) - ABC 10
- [Portfolio Solutions for Water – Flood Management](#) - California Water Blog
- [Latest North Bay disaster underscores growing need for flood insurance](#) - Sonoma News
- [Sierra snowpack doubles in a month](#) - Handford Sentinel
- [Federal effort to raise Shasta Dam by 18.5 feet is getting some serious pushback](#) - Berkeley News
- [California Storm Could Cause More Flooding and Debris Flows as Feet of Snow Pile Up in Sierra Nevada](#) - Weather.com
- [‘We look like a Third World country’: Russian River communities grapple with heaps of flood debris](#) - Press Democrat
- [City of Ukiah may declare state of emergency after last storm](#) - Ukiah Daily
- [Why California's droughts and floods will only get worse](#) - Popular Science
- [Floods disrupt Yolo County farms](#) - Daily Democrat
- [Flooding on the Russian River](#) - Earth Observatory
- [California should stop thinking about more dams. The state is brimming with them](#) - LA Times
- [Guerneville floods more than anywhere in the Bay Area. Why can't it be fixed?](#) - Mercury News
- [Sonoma County prepares for more rain as Russian River communities continue cleanup efforts after flood](#) - Press Democrat
- [DWR increasing Hyatt Powerplant releases, water reaches Oroville Dam spillway gates](#) - Oroville MR
- [City of Ukiah declares state of emergency after recent downpour](#) - Ukiah Daily Journal
- [Northern California rains weaken after floodwaters rage in Tuolumne. What about the snow?](#) - Sacramento Bee
- [Sacramento River levels inch toward Anderson homes, causing concerns Thursday](#) - KRCR TV
- [Climate change will endanger 3 times more Californians than previous estimate, study says](#) - Sacramento Bee
- [New US Geological Survey-led Research Helps California Coastal Managers Prioritize Planning and Mitigation Efforts Due to Rising Seas and Storms](#) - USGS
- [Sea Level Rise in Bay Area is Going to Be Much More Destructive Than We Think, Says USGS Study](#) - KQED
- [Supervisors boost funding for emergency flood control projects](#) - My Valley News
- [In California, abundant rains, 618 inches of snow and an end to drought. More winter and water are coming.](#) - Washington Post
- [As Risks Rise, An Overhaul Announced for Federal Flood Insurance](#) - Yale Environment 360
- [March 2019 king tides, fueled by pull of supermoon, to cause flooding in coastal areas of US](#) - Accu Weather
- [March 1928: Remembering the St. Francis Dam Disaster](#) - NBC Los Angeles
- [Marysville awarded grant for ring levee accreditation Yuba Water Agency board approves \\$200,000 to complete certification process](#) - Appeal-Democrat
- [How rising sea levels could impact Delta, Sacramento Valley](#) - KCRA
- [This Spring's Predicted Flood Risks: An Essential Reading List](#) - Pacific Standard

- [Reclamation districts offer a compromise on city's proposed take-over of levees, drainage systems](#) - West Sacramento News– Ledger
- [Expert Claims CA Water Officials Are Flirting With Disaster At Oroville Dam](#) - KFBK
- [Reservoirs release more water in anticipation of snowpack](#) - Calaveras Enterprise
- [State of California begins treatment of invasive aquatic plants](#) - The Press
- [California Resident Files Injunction to Prevent Dynamite Blasting at Oroville Dam](#) - The Epoch Times
- [Another storm unloads soaking rain, heavy snow in California](#) - Accu Weather
- [Dangers rising along with rivers as the heaviest snowpack in recent years melts](#) - Modesto Bee
- [Possible fixes to Knights Landing Levee Basin considered](#) - Daily Democrat
- [What Makes a Catastrophic Flood? And Is Climate Change Causing More of Them?](#) - NY Times
- [CDFW Marks One-Year Anniversary of Nutria Eradication Effort: Biologists Report More Than 400 Invasive Rodents Captured to Date](#) - CDFW News
- [Sites Project draws criticism from fishermem, tribes, conservation groups](#) - Trinity Journal
- [Editorial: FEMA failed to protect disaster survivors' data, but Congress has failed, too](#) - San Francisco Chronicle
- [California's water infrastructure to be tested this spring as massive winter snowpack melts away](#) - SF Gate
- [THIS JUST IN ... DWR Plans to Use Oroville Main Spillway on Tuesday, April 2 \(with photo gallery\)](#) - Maven's Notebook

California Central Valley Flood Control Association  
910 K Street, Suite 310  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 446-0197  
[www.floodassociation.net](http://www.floodassociation.net)