

CALENDAR ALERTS

- *July 9 Deadline to comment on Lower Elkhorn [Levee Setback](#)
- *July 9 FMA Extreme Precipitation [Symposium](#), UC Davis Conference Center
- *July 13 USACE Regulatory [workshop on 404 permits](#), 1325 J Street, Room 814, 1:30 pm
- *July 20 Deadline to comment on [Draft Guidelines](#) for C.V. [Tributary Program](#)
- *Aug 27-29 CA Adaptation [Forum](#), Sacramento

** = [New Calendar Alert](#)

FEATURED ASSOCIATE MEMBER



LEGISLATIVE ACTION

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

Central Valley and Delta Levees Receive Boost in State Budget

On June 27, 2018 the [Governor signed](#) the FY 2018-19 State [Budget](#) with \$295 million General Fund augmentation for flood risk reduction and the companion resources trailer bill, [SB 854](#), which permanently adopts the 75% State cost share for the Delta Levee Maintenance Subventions Program. The Association has spent the last two years aggressively lobbying for both of these outcomes and is therefore extremely pleased Governor Brown supported these significant funding increases for flood protection in his last year in office. CCVFCA will have work to do in encouraging the new Governor elected this November to continue with these critical public safety investments.

Federal Funding Flowing into California

In early June the 2018 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) with nearly \$3 billion to improve the nations ports, harbors and shorelines, dams, flood protection and other water-related projects was [approved](#) by the House of Representatives by a nearly unanimous vote of [408-2](#). It includes language inserted by Congressman John Garamendi (D-Walnut Grove) directing USACE to expedite a [Cache Creek](#) flood study for providing greater protection to the north and northeast side of the community. The U.S. Senate is expected to approve its own version within the next few weeks.

A South Sutter County project to improve a five-mile stretch of levee between Tudor Road and Cypress Avenue is expected to receive [\\$50 million](#) in federal funding according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' [work plan](#) for 2018. The rest of the \$77 million project cost will be cost shared by the State and the Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency (SBFCA) and construction could begin in the summer of 2019. On June 9th SBFCA was joined by nearly 100 people, including local elected officials, at a [dedication ceremony](#) at Shanghai Bend in Yuba City for the Feather River West Levee Project. Hamilton City is slated to receive \$8.1 million in federal funding for [J Levee](#), which is in addition to another \$8.3 million provided in March, allowing [construction](#) crews to recently begin work.

The Senate passed the Energy and Water Development appropriations bill with [\\$575 million](#) for USACE and USBR water development and drought resilience programs. The bill also requires an [independent](#) risk analysis of Oroville Dam and for [FERC to report](#) to the committee about independent panel recommendations.

Water Bond Approved by Voters

On June 5th California [voters approved](#) a \$4.1 billion water bond, the California Clean Water and Safe Parks Act (Prop. 68), placed on the ballot by the State Legislature (SB 5). The CCVFCA board of directors supported [Prop. 68](#) because it includes \$550 million for flood protection. A second water bond sponsored by the Natural Heritage Institute with another \$8.9 billion for water projects will be on the November 2018 ballot.

DELTA DOWNLOAD

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

Destructive Species Invading Central Valley

There are 185 [invasive species](#) in the Delta, but the latest invader can be very destructive as they consume vegetation and burrow into levees. [Nutria](#), a large rodent native to South America reproduces quickly which means their population will grow extremely fast unless the State pursues aggressive control measures. These rodents of unusual size (you Princess Bride fans recognize the reference) have been spotted in Lathrop, prompting the CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife to send letters to over 7,000 residents in [Stockton](#) seeking permission to check for these voracious rodents. Any potential sighting of Nutria should be reported to the Department of Fish and Wildlife [online](#), by email at invasives@wildlife.ca.gov, or by calling (866) 440-9530. Property owners or their agents are [authorized to kill](#) by any legal means nutria that are damaging crops or property, but should immediately provide the carcass to CDFW so they can determine sex, age, and reproductive status.

DSC Defends Delta Plan Amendments

On June 28th the Delta Stewardship Council Executive Officer released a [statement](#) asserting that the Council remains committed to defending amendments recently adopted in the Delta Plan. The statement was in response to 17 parties filing four lawsuits in late May challenging the Delta Plan amendments and the associated EIR approved by DSC in April 2018 on three topics: 1) performance measures; 2) water conveyance and storage; and 3) Delta Levee Investment Strategy and other flood chapter changes.

KEEPING UP

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

City Proposal Would Eliminate Independent Status of Reclamation District

The City of West Sacramento voted recently to initiate a process to replace Reclamation District 900 trustees with either the city council members or directors the council appoints. Since 1911, [RD 900](#) has operated as an independent special district responsible for maintaining 13.6 miles of levees to protect residents and businesses from flooding. Pointing out RD 900 has done a good job in performing its flood control duties, West Sacramento residents expressed concerns about the city potentially assuming fiscal liability for any future flood damages if it absorbs RD 900 as a subsidiary of the city. West Sacramento Mayor Christopher Cabaldon disagreed that the city will become liable for flood damages and contends that emergency response will be improved under the change in governance, oversight, and management of levees protecting the city.

Secondary Spillway Approved for New Bullards Bar

To increase dam safety and [reduce flood risks](#) for downstream communities in Marysville, Linda, Olivehurst, Plumas Lake and Yuba City, the Yuba County Water [Agency](#) approved moving forward with [construction](#) in 2022 of a secondary emergency spillway at New Bullards Bar Dam.

High Tide Flooding Threatens Coastal Communities

A new National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) [report](#) found that the frequency of coastal [flooding at high tide](#) in the U.S. has doubled in the last 30 years. Another report by the Union of Concerned Scientists finds that about 4,400 homes in [Marin County](#) may be flooded out by 2045.

Guidelines Released for Delta Watershed and Flood Control Grant Programs

[Guidelines](#) for [multi-benefit](#) flood risk reduction projects eligible for funding from the DWR Central Valley [Tributaries Program](#) are open for public comment until July 20, 2018. The Delta Conservancy has released its Draft [Cycle 4 Guidelines](#) to fund multi-benefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects for public [comment](#) through June 29, 2018.

Final Scoring of Water Storage Projects Released

On June 28th the CA Water [Commission approved final scores](#) for eight water storage projects. Commission staff will use the cumulative scores to rank the projects in tiers, which will then guide the preliminary [funding decisions](#) on July 24-26th when the Commission will conditionally award Prop. 1 funding.

DWR to Lower Oroville Lake Level to Meet November 1 Construction Completion

The June [construction update](#) declares expectation for [completion](#) of concrete placement by [November 1st](#) with continuation of other work (i.e.; dry finishing and curing of concrete, joint sealing, connecting drainage systems, backfilling side walls, and site cleanup) to continue into 2019. The Independent Board of Consultants met with DWR for the 18th time at the end of May and in early June DWR met with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to coordinate on the update of the 2018-19 flood control operations plan for Lake Oroville. DWR sent a [letter to FERC](#) on June 11th providing additional details on actions it is taking to address issues raised by the Independent Forensic Report.

On June 22nd DWR [announced](#) it will be lowering the lake level to 808 feet to facilitate construction access to the upper chute of the main spillway, which will in turn make some boat ramps inaccessible this summer. Congressman Doug LaMalfa, Senator Jim Nielsen, and Assemblyman James Gallagher sent a joint letter to DWR [urging a delay](#) in the lowering of the lake until after the 4th of July holiday in order to avoid further harm to the region's recreation economy. To compensate for the closure of boat ramps during spillway repairs, boat launching fees are being [waived](#) for two days a month through September. DWR will reimburse the CA Department of Parks and Recreation for revenue loss associated with these free-access days.

In late June a team of UCLA researchers released a study claiming [global warming](#) which increased Sierra snowpack runoff by 30% was a major contributing factor for the Oroville spillway collapse in February 2017.

No longer associated with the Oroville Chamber of Commerce, the [Oroville Strong!](#) advocacy group is now called the Feather River Recovery [Alliance](#) which is circulating a "Hold DWR Accountable" petition which calls for specific actions to improve community safety and provide compensation for losses during the February 2017 evacuation. A lawsuit filed by Butte County against DWR for damages associated with Oroville spillway incident will move forward after a Butte County Superior Court [judge rejects](#) request for dismissal filed by DWR. An [appeal](#) may be filed by DWR.

Report Summarizes Legal Framework for Implementing Stormwater Capture Projects

With climate change expected to increase the frequency of drought and floods, many are focusing on capturing stormwater runoff not only as a flood management measure but as a water supply source to improve resilience against drought. A June 2018 [report](#) by the [Pacific Institute](#) summarizes the regulations, laws, and statewide initiatives governing stormwater capture projects.

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.)

- [New technology can purify 'dirty' winter storm water](#) - The Mercury News
- [Brown may leave with two big projects on the bubble](#) - Calmatters.org
- [California State Officials Voice Concerns Over a Federal Plan to Raise the Shasta Dam](#) - Pacific Standard Magazine
- [U.S. Coastal Flooding Breaks Records as Sea Level Rises, NOAA Report Shows](#) - Inside Climate News
- [Folsom, Shasta among dams at-risk of 'insider threats'](#) - The Sacramento Bee
- [Foster City levee bond passes](#) - The Daily Journal
- [It's back: El Niño expected later this year, forecasters say](#) - ABC 10
- [Sites Reservoir —Potential Benefits for Fish, Potential to Worsen Conditions for Fish Working Pre-sumption: Thumbs Down](#) - calsport.org
- [\\$7.5M approved for project under Long Beach Airport that uses rainwater to replenish water supply](#) - Press Telegram
- [Adapting to Change: Recommendations for Improving U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Reservoir Management](#) - Standford
- [Flood-Managed Aquifer Recharge \(Flood-MAR\)](#) - DWR
- [Marin Voice: Two projects will help reduce Ross Valley flood threat](#) - Marin IJ
- [LADWP repairs will mean high-water flow in the Owens River](#) - Sierra Wave Media
- [Added scrutiny for Hermosa Beach stormwater project](#) - Easy Reader News
- [Plans to curb Green Valley Creek flooding](#) - Sonoma West
- [Deferred maintenance on city storm water system may lead to emergencies](#) - Fox 5