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CALENDAR ALERTS

- July 8 – USACE public mtg. on [Levee Safety](#) Engineering Circular, 2:00-3:30 pm
- July 10 – Deadline to comment on [NOP](#) for Delta Plan Chap. 4 Ecosystem Amendments
- July 27 – Deadline to [comment](#) on USACE Levee Safety Program policies
Sacramento

FEATURED ASSOCIATE MEMBER



KEEPING UP

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

Erosion Protection Project Progresses

In mid-June, the USACE and CVFPB held a virtual public meeting regarding the environmental review of a proposed 5,500-foot-long [bank stabilization project](#) along the American River from Glenn Hall Park to just past the H Street Bridge. Part of the American River Common Features project, the levee project is a collaborative \$1.8 billion effort to modernize the aging flood control infrastructure protecting a half a million people in Sacramento.

DWR Approves Grant Funding for Flood Control

The towns of Grimes and Knights Landing in Yolo County have been approved for [grant funding](#) in the second phase of the [Small Communities Flood Risk Reduction Program](#) administered by DWR. Sponsored by the Sacramento River West Side Levee District, the Grimes project includes rehabilitation of 1.5 miles of Sacramento River levees and the elevation of houses to increase flood protection for almost 400 residences from a 40-year level of protection to a 100-year level. This will also reduce flood risks for downstream communities in Colusa and Yolo Counties. The Knights Landing Project is sponsored by Yolo County and will improve levees to increase flood protection from 25-year to 100-year levels for 1,000 residences; reducing their flood insurance costs.

Keeping Focus on Reducing Flood Risk

According to a new [nationwide](#) flood modeling tool, the risk of flooding is significantly underestimated and warns that many areas in the country are unprepared in terms of flood planning, public safety policies, and legislative funding. Fortunately, California has been more progressive and aggressive in its flood risk reduction efforts with the implementation of the Central Valley Flood

Protection Plan. Progress continues since first being adopted. At the May Coordinating Committee, DWR gave a [presentation](#) on the 2022 update of the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan, including an overview of new data inputs and methodology for calculating risk analysis.

Legal Battle to Protect Federal Clean Water Act

The [legal battles](#) over rules governing the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) continue. A lawsuit to prevent implementation of a new [Navigable Waters Protection Rule](#) developed by the Trump Administration was filed by a coalition of tribes, environmental organizations, and labor advocates. The organizations claim the new rules would roll back provisions put in place by the Obama Administration they say protect waterways from pollution and degradation.

LEGISLATIVE LATEST

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

Balancing State Budget is No Easy Task

Just before the start of the fiscal year, the State Legislature reached a very difficult resolution of the [2020-21 State Budget](#), which was [signed into law](#) by the Governor. Finalizing the \$202.1 billion [spending plan](#) was accomplished after closing an unprecedented \$54.3 billion deficit by temporarily raising business taxes, delaying billions of dollars in payments to public schools, and cutting funding to courts, colleges and state worker salaries. However, the budget relies on borrowing, delaying billions of dollars in expenses to future years, and depletes the “rainy day” reserve built during the Brown Administration. It also anticipates receiving federal funding to backfill some of these cuts, which is uncertain at best. Therefore, significant budget cuts may still be on the horizon. This [reckoning](#) may come as early as mid-July once the state collects income tax payments that were delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Focus on Federal Infrastructure Funding

The U.S. Interior Assistant Secretary Timothy Petty officially submitted a \$108.7 million [funding request](#) to the chair of the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development for surface water projects in California to be included in the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act.

Placing his signature on an [Executive Order](#), President Trump invoked a NEPA provision that allows federal agencies to consult with the White House Council on Environmental Quality to determine “alternative arrangements” for complying with environmental review requirements during an emergency. The agencies have 30 days to report which projects they may accelerate using these emergency powers. There may be [legal risk](#) for entities that pursue [expedited](#) infrastructure projects with this exemption because [environmental groups](#) believe this is impermissible use of executive power because the emergency authorities cited in the order are not meant to be used for broad economic recovery and some worry this will have a [disproportional](#) negative effect on minority communities. In addition, California Attorney General Xavier Becerra joined a coalition of states [opposing](#) the executive order.

DELTA DOWNLOAD

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

DWR Moves Forward with Delta Tunnel Permitting and Land Acquisition

An amendment to the joint powers agreement between DWR and the Delta Design and Conveyance Authority (DCA) for the Delta tunnel conveyance project that will be owned and operated by the State Water Project (SWP). The [amendment](#) specifies that the DCA will identify the lands and easements to be purchased for the tunnel project, but DWR will be responsible for executing the purchase on behalf of the SWP or the Sacramento San Joaquin Drainage District administered by the Central Valley Flood Protection Board. It indicates these [property purchases](#) shall be made for any part of the Delta tunnel project identified by the DCA.

DWR is also [moving forward](#) with permits needed for the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP). After the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) issued a [Statement of No Objection letter](#) to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in May,

DWR subsequently [submitted](#) a revised application for a [Section 404 Clean Water Act permit](#) to the USACE. Although maps in the NOP and documents submitted to the CVFPB only propose a central alignment of the conveyance tunnel, the map submitted with the 404 application is an [eastern alignment](#). This [new option](#) may be in response to findings by an independent panel of experts that previously pointed out logistical impediments to the central alignment. Because the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has not agreed to fund the tunnel project or [preparation of an EIS](#) under NEPA, the initiation of the 404 permit will trigger preparation of an EIS by the USACE.

In addition, to the Sacramento River, the 404 permit lists 17 other navigable waterways that could potentially be affected by the Proposed Project: 1) San Joaquin River; 2) Mokelumne River; 3) Middle River; 4) Old River; 5) Snodgrass Slough and tributary; 6) Stockton Deepwater Ship Channel; 7) Burns Cutoff; 8) Black Slough; 9) Turner Cut; 10) Italian Slough; 11) Beaver Slough; 12) Hog Slough; 13) Sycamore Slough; 14) White Slough; 15) Disappointment Slough; 16) Whiskey Slough; and 17) Woodward Canal. Impacts to these numerous waterways will likely affect commercial and recreation boating, efficiency of thousands of local water diversion intakes for irrigation of Delta crops, and the maintenance, operation, improvement, and floodfighting of levees on both sides those channels.

Appeal Withdrawn for Delta Restoration Project

On June 12, 2020, the law firm representing the Solano County Water Agency submitted a [letter](#) to the Delta Stewardship Council withdrawing the appeal filed on the [Lower Yolo Ranch Restoration Project](#) because SCWA reached an agreement with Westland Water District that settles their issues of concern. Therefore, the DSC hearing on the [appeal](#) scheduled for July 6, 2020 is cancelled.

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.)

- [2065: Sediment builds up in SJ River while state inaction helps cue up major flooding](#) - Manteca Bulletin
- [New Study Shows Global Warming Intensifying Extreme Rainstorms Over North America](#) - Inside Climate News
- [Improving Atmospheric Forecasts with Machine Learning](#) - EOS
- [THE \\$120M QUESTION: PAYING FOR FLOOD WORK](#) - Manteca Bulletin
- [CA WATER COMMISSION: Preparing California's Water System for Climate Extremes](#) - Mavens Notebook
- [Climate change could dramatically reduce US snowstorms](#) - National Science Foundation
- [From Army Corps to Peace Corps and back](#) - USACE
- [Study suggests extreme weather conditions in California are a result of atmospheric rivers](#) - KUSI
- [Federal judge denies Democratic AGs' bid to halt Trump WOTUS rule](#) - Politico
- [Green groups challenge Trump water rollback](#) - The Hill
- [How DWR Research is Improving Forecasting for California's Variable Climate](#) - DWR
- [Millions of American think they're safe from flood waters.](#) They aren't