

CALENDAR ALERTS

****Jan. 19th** - [Delta Protection Commission Meeting](#), 5:30pm-7:30pm @ West Sacramento City Hall Galleria, 1110 W. Capitol Ave., West Sacramento.

****Jan. 26th** - CVFPB Executive Committee [Meeting](#), 1:30pm @ 3310 El Camino Ave, Suite 170.

****Jan. 27th** - CVFPB Business [Meeting](#), 9:00am @ Sacramento City Hall Council Chambers.

****Mar. 15th** - CCVFCA Annual [Flood Forum](#), 1:00 am - 1:30pm @ Holiday Inn Sacramento Downtown, 300 J Street, Sacramento.

****Mar. 31st** - [Comments due](#) for Draft Central Valley Protection Plan Update.

** = [New Calendar Alert](#)

FEATURED ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Mead & Hunt

www.meadhunt.com

KEEPING UP

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

Two Public Workshops on DSC's Delta Levee Investment Strategy (DLIS)

On January 17th and 19th, the Delta Stewardship Council (DSC) is hosting [community meetings](#) in Stockton and Walnut Grove to receive public input on proposed [Delta Plan amendments](#) to the flood risk reduction regulatory policies and an associated list of [Delta islands prioritized](#) for receiving State funding.

Discussion will include an update on the timeline for when the DSC will approve a final levee investment strategy and information on submitting written comments.

Pick one of the following dates and locations to attend:

Tuesday, **January 17**, 2017 5:00-7:00 pm Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center, Stockton
Thursday, **January 19**, 2017 5:00-7:00 pm Jean Harvie Community Center, Walnut Grove

DPC Extends Comment Period on Their Delta Levee Financing Feasibility Study

After receiving comments from CCVFCA Executive Director Melinda Terry and other interested parties at a public meeting on December 8th, a Subcommittee of the Delta Protection Commission (DPC) extended the deadline to submit comments on the Draft Report for the Delta Flood Risk Management Assessment District Feasibility Study (DFRMADFS) until March 1, 2017. Letters can be emailed to either dpc@delta.ca.gov or Erik.Vink@delta.ca.gov.

A primary conclusion in the [97-page Draft Report](#) and [153-page Appendices](#) released for public review on December 2, 2016, is that the current approach to collecting funds for Delta levees is not in proportion to the benefits received, so new financing mechanisms and cost allocations should be further explored.

According to the Draft Report, in-Delta agriculture and municipal water users receive benefits from water moving through channels, diversion and discharges, that is separate and in addition to the property assessments they already pay to Reclamation Districts for levee maintenance. This means in-Delta water users (farmers and domestic water districts such as Stockton-East Water District, Contra Costa Water District, and Solano County Water Agency) could potentially be charged new fees in addition to property assessments paid to RDs for levee maintenance if these fees are approved by the Commission for further evaluation as the most feasible mechanisms for funding Delta levees.

The new fees and existing funding mechanisms are identified in the ***"Preferred Feasible Financial Mechanisms for Further Investigation"*** section (pages 59-72). In addition to a Water Conveyance fee that would apply to CVP/SWP water exporters, two of the three new funding mechanisms that would be applicable to in-Delta landowners as property and user fees layered on top of RD property assessments include:

Delta Flood Protection Fee – The Draft Study asserts that in-Delta water users do not currently pay for levee maintenance in proportion to the benefits received for levees that provide a salinity barrier or facilitate water conveyance, and in-Delta dischargers are not currently paying for impacts their activities have on levee stability and maintenance. The new fee would be a *"property-based charge that would apply to a broader set of beneficiaries including property owners in local Delta communities, all Delta water users and exporters, and infrastructure owners."* The collection mechanism would depend on the beneficiary type. *"Landowners' fees could be based on acreage, while water users' fees could be based on pumping capacity."* [page 71] Therefore, the Study recommends a new property-based fee collected by the State which *"could be imposed on each parcel or structure"* protected by levees in the Delta region, including linear infrastructure such as pipelines, highways, and railroads. The Study estimates that farmers would be responsible for 25-50% of costs using a beneficiary-pays approach applied in the reports' archetypes on islands dominated by agricultural uses. It proposes that the landowner fee could be based on acreage like the existing [State Responsibility Area fee](#) for fire protection: "Delta Flood Protection Fee could be assessed on structure or parcel basis." [page 72]

Delta Water User Fee – The Delta Water User Fee is *"for general use of Delta waters"* and would *"reflect benefits received by in-Delta water users, water exporters, and upstream dischargers."* The fees would be charged *"based on the amount of water diverted from or discharged into Delta waters."* The fee most *"likely would be limited to metered withdrawals"* as [measured per SB 88](#) statutory requirements being implemented by SWRCB. [page 67-68] The fee would be applied to *"agricultural and municipal water user, both in-Delta and exporters"* as well as in-Delta and upstream dischargers.

The details regarding how much in-Delta and upstream water users and water exporters would pay, or what state agency would have responsibility for collecting and disbursing revenues would require further evaluation in a secondary implementation study.

The Draft Study suggests the follow-up Implementation Study should also evaluate *"whether the State should adjust its cost share formulas"* to be consistent with new cost allocations and financial mechanisms in a beneficiary-pays approach. Currently, the State funds up to 75% of project costs in [Delta Levee Maintenance Subventions Program](#) and up to 100% in the [Delta Special Projects Program](#).

The DPC's feasibility study will be utilized by the Delta Stewardship Council (DSC) to finalize their Delta Levee Investment Strategy (DLIS), which will include adoption of new regulatory policies on levee financing in the Delta Plan.

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.)

- [RESERVOIR AND WATER CONDITIONS for January 2, 2017](#) - Maven's Notebook
- [Long-sought flood control projects eased passage of California water bill](#) - Sacramento Bee
- [California Flood Risk and the National Flood Insurance Program](#) - California Waterblog
- [Folsom Dam opens floodgates](#) - Folsom Telegraph
- [What you need to know about Folsom Lake water releases](#) - KRCA
- [Sierra Nevada snowpack below average despite recent rain](#) - The Press Enterprise
- [Reservoir and water conditions for December 26, 2016](#) - Maven's Notebook
- [States key Delta research vessel berths in Antioch](#) - East Bay Times
- [Radical Change Urged for California's Flood Risk Insurance](#) - News Deeply
- [Reservoir and Water Conditions for December 19, 2016](#) - Maven's Notebook
- [Fish fuel: Looking to flooded rice fields as a new source of food](#) - Appeal Democrat
- [California Officials Debate Giant Reservoir Project](#) - Water Online
- [RESERVOIR AND WATER CONDITIONS for December 5, 2016: First look at snow, return of GRACE, and 2017 Water Year update by CW3E](#) - Maven's Notebook
- [Better Forecasts Ahead for Western Weather and Natural Disasters](#) - News Deeply
- [The Areas America Could Abandon First](#) - Bloomberg
- [Temperance Flat is linchpin of Valley's water future. It must be built](#) - Fresno Bee
- [Bay Commission fines island owner \\$772,000 for altering levees](#) - Mercury News
- [The race to turn stormwater from gray to green](#) - News Deeply
- [A quick recap on last week's rain and snow across California](#) - AccuWeather
- [Atmospheric rivers fueled by climate change could decimate wild oysters in San Francisco Bay](#) - Los Angeles Times
- [Yolo Bypass helps protect Sacramento from flooding](#) - ABC 10
- [Storm drenches Sacramento, north state, puts dent in drought](#) - Sacramento Bee
- [Why are Sacramento dams releasing so much water right now?](#) - ABC 10
- [Obama signs water bill; what does it mean for the Delta?](#) - Sacramento Bee
- [Rule set for applying for project funding](#) - Daly Democrat
- [Rain totals were 400% of normal in parts of Northern California this fall](#) - SF Gate
- [Sites Reservoir project one step closer](#) - The Union
- [Yolo Bypass quietly keeps Sacramento on dry ground](#) - Sacramento Bee
- [Giant 'rivers in the sky' could cause vast, extinction-level floods](#) - Science Alert
- [Massive 'rivers in the sky' will bring more deadly floods due global warming](#) - Independent
- [Temperance Flats distracts from real water solutions](#) - Fresno Bee