

# What comes after “drought” in California’s disaster dictionary? FLOOD

*The risk of flood can never be eliminated – but a robust levee and flood bypass system reduces risk and increases public safety.*

*Did you know . . .*

- Approximately **200 floods** have occurred in drought years.
- Californians have consistently experienced both major droughts and Central Valley floods in every decade since 1950.
- **One in five** Californians lives in an area exposed to flood risk.
- Cars are easily swept away by only two feet of water.
- Damage from a few inches of flood water in a single-family home can cost tens of thousands of dollars.
- Homeowners have about a 26% chance of a 100-year flood occurring during their 30-year mortgage.
- Most homeowners insurance does not cover flood damage.
- California’s State Plan of Flood Control project protects more than **one million people, 1.7 million acres** and almost **\$70 billion in assets** from flood risk.



## Hypothetical Flood Depth Risk at Central Valley Landmarks Currently Protected by State Plan of Flood Control Levees\*

- State Capitol: 1-5 Feet
- Old Sugar Mill (Clarksburg): 6.5 Feet
- Stockton Golf and Country Club: 4-12 Feet
- Robbins Elementary School (Robbins): 25-30 Feet

\* Examples above are for illustrative purposes only. Sources: Various local agency and DWR modeling estimates.

# Major Drought And Flood Events In California Central Valley

## California Droughts Since 1950

(Source: DWR "Drought in California" 2012 Brochure)

- 1947-50
- 1959-62
- 1976-1977
- 1987-1992
- 2000-2002
- 2007-2009

## Central Valley Major Flood Storms Since 1950

(Source: SAFCA and DWR "Flood History" website pages)

- 1951 - American River watershed has first of five record storms.
- 1955 - Floods in Central Valley and northern CA result in 67 deaths.
- 1956 - Newly constructed and empty Folsom Dam fills in just one week when second record storm arrives -- saving Sacramento from flooding.
- 1964 - Third record flood in less than 15 years.
- 1986 - Storm dumps 10 inches of rain in 11 days. Resulting levee failure causes 14 deaths and \$1.5 billion in property damage, and leads to a \$464 million *Paterno* flood damage settlement against the State of California 18 years later.
- 1997 - Fifth record flood event in 46 years causes levee failures with flood flows inundating Modesto, Arboga, Olivehurst, and Wilton, resulting in 8 deaths and more than \$2 billion in property damage.
- 2005/06 - Governor declares state of emergency due to threat of major flooding in northern CA and San Joaquin Valley. [A National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration storm summary declared 2005 the wettest December on record, with reported high winds and the second-highest astronomical high tide in the Delta; but advance reservoir releases and weir flows into the State Plan of Flood Control bypass system prevented major flooding incidents, with only minor levee breaches in Suisun Marsh.]



California Central Valley Flood Control Association

[www.floodassociation.net](http://www.floodassociation.net)