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CALENDAR ALERTS

April 13 – Legislature scheduled to reconvene session (*subject to changer per COVID-19*)

April 21/22 – 2020 Watershed University [Summit](#) on flood risk reduction (*Webinar Only*)

FEATURED ASSOCIATE MEMBER



COVID-19 UPDATE

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

Governor Takes Actions to Address COVID-19 Pandemic in California

A coronavirus originating in China at the end of 2019 spread quickly around the world by early 2020. Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency on March 4, 2020 due to threat of COVID-19. With over 100,000 illnesses in over 110 countries, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the virus named COVID-19 to be a global [pandemic](#). That same day, California public health officials issued a statewide policy to cancel or postpone any [large gatherings](#) of more than 250 people and allowing smaller gatherings if organizers can provide at least 6-feet of social distancing. The [following day](#), Disney announced the closure of the happiest place on earth and Governor Newsom issued an [Executive Order](#) N-25-20 suspending existing law to [relax rules](#) governing public meetings under the Brown Act to provide flexibility for local and state agencies to conduct them via teleconferencing.

Many Meetings Cancelled in Response to COVID-19 Directives

In light of public health and safety, as well as compliance with multiple Executive Orders issued by Governor Newsom based on acceleration of COVID-19 cases identified in California, many meetings in March are cancelled or postponed, including the CCVFCA Flood Forum on March 18th, the USACE workshops on Levee Safety Program policy changes, flood board's Coordination Committee meeting, Delta Protection Commission, and many others. In addition, the State Legislature has suspended session until April 13th and the deadline to submit [scoping comments](#) on the Notice of Preparation for the single tunnel Delta Conveyance Project promoted by Governor Newsom has been extended until April.

Army Corps Issues COVID-19 Guidance to Construction Contractors

The [Director of Contracting](#) for the USACE issued [guidance](#) on COVID-19. Contracting officers are strongly encouraged to confer with government program managers to “*determine what, if any, measures should be taken to ensure the welfare and safety of the total force, while ensuring mission continuity.*”

(Continued on page 2)

Army Corps Partially Closes Recreation Facilities

To protect health and safety during the COVID-19 outbreak, the USACE has [temporarily closed](#) access to recreation facilities in the Sacramento District. All camping reservations scheduled after March 20 are cancelled and refunds will be provided. All events are postponed until further notice.

KEEPING UP

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

Flood Board Appointments Announced

On March 4, Governor Newsom announced the [reappointment](#) of Joseph Countryman and Timothy Ramirez to the Central Valley Flood Protection Board, but left one vacancy with the expiration of Clyde Macdonald's term.

FEMA Agrees to Increase Payment for Oroville Dam Repairs

In a surprise reversal, pursuant to an appeal filed by the State for federal payment of repairs to Oroville Dam spillway damaged in 2017 storms, FEMA is now agreeing to pay an [additional \\$300 million](#). The State now expects to be reimbursed for a total of \$750 million, with State Water Contractors paying for the remainder of the total \$1.1 billion in repair costs.

Army Corps Funds Levee Work on Sacramento

Construction contracts have been [awarded](#) by the USACE to conduct \$64 million of levee improvements along three miles of the Sacramento River under the American River Common Features program previously authorized by Congress. This levee work will occur on a two-mile stretch between Garcia Bend Park and the Freeport Regional Water Facility in the Pocket neighborhood with the addition of stability berms near Miller Park in downtown Sacramento.

Converting Flood Water to Groundwater Recharge

In October 2019, DWR hosted a public forum with 200 attendees discussing policies, strategies, and innovations designed to concurrently reduce flood risk, replenish aquifers, and enhance ecosystems. A [summary](#) of key findings and recommendations provides a path forward for future actions.

LEGISLATIVE LATEST

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

Budget Committees Evaluate Appropriations for DWR and CVFPB

The Legislature's arduous task of considering budget funding requests for all state agencies is in full swing. The budget committees (pages 15-17) are [supporting](#): annual staff funding of \$3,688,000 for the Central Valley Flood Protection Board through fiscal year 2022-23; staff funding to DWR for updating the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan; \$96 million from various bond funds to implement multi-benefit flood improvement projects; and a one-time \$46 million appropriation of General Fund to support the state's cost-share required for urban flood risk reduction projects implemented by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the American River Common Features Project.

Legislation Introduced to Address Proliferation of Homeless Encampments on Levees

Due to the unprecedented increase in [homeless encampments](#) appearing on levees in recent years, Assemblyman Jim Cooper (D-Elk Grove) and Assemblyman Kevin McCarty (D-Sacramento) jointly authored a new bill, [Assembly Bill 1958](#), to expand definition of activities that are prohibited on levees and allow enforcement by peace officers. Action on the bill is temporarily stalled because legislative hearings have been postponed due to COVID-19.

DELTA DOWNLOAD

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

Funding for Delta Subventions Discussed

At the Delta Levee Habitat Advisory Committee meeting on March 6th, Kris Tjernel with DWR discussed availability of funding for the Delta Levee Maintenance Subventions Program. He said the department plans to provide \$10 million to the Delta Subventions program for fiscal year 2020-21 from available funding previously appropriated by the Legislature from water bond.

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.)

- ['Miracle March': California's Sierra Nevada Pummeled By Feet of Snow](#) - The Weather Channel
- [Sacramento River levee improvements next step in \\$1.5 billion plan to modernize Sacramento-area flood infrastructure](#) - US Army Corp of Engineers
- [Seepage monitors installed at Oroville Dam](#) - KRCRTV
- [Bond measure would put \\$5.5 billion toward fighting climate change](#) - LA Times
- [Second Round of Rain Pounds Desert Southwest, Southern California; Water Rescues in Las Vegas](#) - The Weather Channel
- [DWR probes atmospheric rivers' impact on Calif. Reservoirs](#) - Western Farm Press
- [10 PLUS FEET OF WATER](#) - Manteca/Ripon Bulletin
- [Local scientists launch weather balloons to study 'atmospheric river'](#) - FOX 5 San Diego
- [Better management of wetland, floodplain and river habitats](#) - Science Daily
- [New Forecast Tool Looks Three Weeks Ahead for Chances of Atmospheric Rivers – The Storm Type Key to Water Supply and Flooding, that Can Break U.S. West Coast Droughts, and Douse Wildfires](#) - Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes
- [Stormy weather targets California before official start of spring](#) - AccuWeather
- [Santa Clarita Marks 92 Years Since St. Francis Dam Disaster](#) - KHTS
- [NRDC's Response to the Climate Resilient Water Portfolio](#) - NRDC
- [Follow Her Lead: Cindy Messer](#) - Comstock's Magazine
- ['Flood event' closes popular trail from Colorado River to hot springs](#) - Las Vegas Review Journal
- [California Department of Fish and Wildlife Closes License Sales Counters, Visitors Centers to Help Slow Spread of COVID-19](#) - Sierra Sun Time
- ['March Miracle' continues as several storms queue up for California](#) - AccuWeather
- [Low-lying Petaluma faces flooding from sea level rise: report](#) - Agrus Courier
- [Homeless camps damage California's levees; proposed legislation would protect the barriers](#) - Cal Matters
- [California now requires storm water permits for certain business licenses: Here's what you need to know](#) - North Bay Business Journal
- [Culvert, weir work 'plan' moves ahead to help stop Green Valley Creek flooding](#) - Daily Republic
- [Garamendi Urges California to Consider Western Route for Delta Conveyance](#) -
- [New flood damage framework helps planners prepare for sea-level rise](#) - Science Daily

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