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CALENDAR ALERTS

- Feb 6** – SWRCB [workshop](#) on dredge and fill regulations, 1001-I St, Sacramento
Feb 7 – Delta Science info [meeting](#) on McCormick-Williamson Project, 980-9th St, Sacramento
Feb 8 – Deadline to complete [survey](#) on 5-yr review of Delta Plan
Feb 12 - Deadline to submit application for [C.V. Tributaries](#) grant [program](#)
Feb 18 – Deadline to [comment](#) on Delta Public Lands [Strategy](#)
March 4 – Deadline to [comment](#) on Regional Flood Mngt. Assistance Program [Guidelines](#)
March 5 – SWRCB vote on dredge and fill regulations amendments
March 7 – Deadline to [comment](#) Sac Valley Conservation Strategy
June 25 – CA Extreme Precipitation [Symposium](#), ARC Conf. Ctr, UC Davis

FEATURED ASSOCIATE MEMBER



REMINDER

The annual Flood Forum will be held on Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at a new location – The Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd., Sacramento. A panel of speakers will discuss the potential opportunities and challenges associated with an upcoming study to evaluate the feasibility of re-establishing the Sacramento San Joaquin Drainage District property assessment. Speakers will be: Leslie Gallagher, Executive Office of CVFPB; Scott Shapiro, partner at Downy Brand LLP; and Tim Washburn with the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency. Deadline to [register](#) at early bird price of \$60 is Friday, March 8, 2019. Cost will increase to \$80 after that date.

STORM WATCH

Reservoir Management

As of November 1, 2018 DWR declared the [main spillway](#) is fully [reconstructed](#) and ready for releases. In February 2019, rivers in the State are running high and runoff into Oroville is increasing lake levels. Based on precipitation projections, DWR predicts the reservoir may reach 780-785 feet by the end of the month. However, DWR does not anticipate needing to use the newly reconstructed main spillway to [manage inflows](#), but if the water level does reach 780 feet then DWR and the construction contractor developed a plan to [remove equipment](#) from the spillway. On February 26th, DWR and the contractor began moving equipment from the spillway in accordance with their plan.

The USBR will [increase releases](#) from Shasta and Folsom reservoirs in order to maintain safe space for inflow potential from projected precipitations and snowpack melt. With the Feather River expected to rise 14 feet, the Yuba Water Agency began spilling water from [New Bullards Bar](#) Dam on February 25th.

Levee Patrol

Work is being done on [J Levee](#) on Sacramento River near Hamilton City, and crews worked to repair levee leak along [Cache Creek](#).

Emergency Proclamation

On February 21st Governor Newsom issued an emergency [proclamation](#) for 21 counties to help communities respond to and recover from severe winter storms that have caused flooding, erosion, mudslides, power outages, and damage to critical infrastructure. The Governor expanded the [declaration](#) for five more counties on [February 28th](#).

KEEPING UP

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

Changes to Definition and Regulation of Wetlands

The State Water Resources Control Board is nearing the end of a ten-year rulemaking process that will [expand](#) the definition of [waters of the state](#) that will determine when and where water board permits for any activities is necessary. Another public [workshop](#) was held on March 5th to further discuss regulatory language negotiated between landowner groups and environmental agencies on the procedures for discharges of dredged or fill material to waters of the state. The water board will vote on adoption at their meeting on April 2, 2019.

The federal definition of the Waters of the United State ([WOTUS](#)) has also been released by the USACE and U.S. EPA, which will [replace](#) the much-litigated definition adopted during the Obama Administration. Fewer ditches and ephemeral features will be considered jurisdictional. EPA and USACE held public meetings and webinars in February to explain the proposed changes. The [deadline to comment](#) on the new definition is April 15, 2019.

Private Flood Insurance Market Approved

Federal [banking regulators](#) ready to finalize [rule](#) that would direct banks to accept private flood insurance from borrowers seeking mortgages in special flood hazard areas. Once the new rule takes effect on July 1, 2019, then the market for flood insurance will be expanded beyond the current dominant provider, National Flood Insurance Program.

New FEMA Director

Following the resignation of Brock Long, President Trump [nominated](#) Jeffrey Byard as the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

DELTA DOWNLOAD

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

Smith Canal Appeal

On November 22nd DSC released a [staff draft](#) document recommending the Council deny the appeal. The Council is scheduled to render a final decision on the appeal filed by Atherton Cove Property Owners Association at a meeting on [March 21](#), 2019 in Stockton.

New Fremont Weir Fish Ladder Unveiled

A [video](#) shows the recently updated modernized version of fish ladder with a deeper and wider passageway and gate installed at the Fremont Weir that automatically opens when the Sacramento River rises to certain level. This is just one of many habitat and infrastructure [projects in the Yolo Bypass](#) to benefit fish and comply with Biological Opinions governing the operation of the CVP and SWP.

Yolo Flyway Farms Restoration Project Revealed

At the Bay Delta Science Conference, a [presentation](#) by [Chris Campbell](#) with [CBEC Engineering](#) provided details on the Yolo Flyway Farms Restoration Project to restore approximately 278 acres of tidal freshwater wetlands at the southern end of the Yolo Bypass within the Cache Slough Complex by breaching existing Toe Drain berms and creating an interior tidal channel network. Following excavation, the site will be planted with salvaged emergent marsh vegetation. Currently these parcels are grazed with cattle for six months during the year. Permits were secured in 2018, so construction has begun.

LEGISLATIVE LATEST

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

Delta Senator Proposes Oversight of WaterFix

Senator Dodd (D-Napa) introduced SB 204 to [require](#) DWR and the Delta Conveyance, Design and Construction Authority (DCA) to [submit information](#) to the Legislature about pending State Water Contracts [prior to](#) those two agencies moving forward with construction of WaterFix Delta tunnels.

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.)

- [Oroville Recreation Advisory Committee hears big plans for reopening, lake area improvements](#) - Chico ER
- [Unrelenting Rain Floods Roads, Forces Evacuations in Burn Areas](#) - NBC Los Angeles
- [Tiny Northern California town is sinking, new report finds](#) - SF Gate
- [New scale will measure atmospheric rivers in California from 1 to 5, like hurricanes](#) - LA Times
- [New Scale to Characterize Strength and Impacts of Atmospheric River Storms](#) - Scripps
- [Two year anniversary of Oroville Spillway Crisis: Emergency spillway nears completion](#) - KRCR TV
- [Lawsuit claims corruption, racism, sexual harassment contributed to Oroville Dam crisis](#) - Sacramento Bee
- [How Democrats hope to protect California flood money if Trump declares a national emergency](#) - Sacramento Bee
- [Oroville Spillways Construction Update: February 1, 2019](#) - DWR
- [Nutria Issues Continue for California Farmers](#) - Ag Net West
- [Corps, counties meet to collaborate on flood-risk management, share best practices](#) - USACE
- [Atmospheric river to blast California — heavy rain and gusts up to 50-70 mph expected](#) - SF Chronicle
- [Midweek California storm to bury Sierra Nevada under yards of snow, bring flooding risk](#) - Accu Weather
- [Oroville Dam: Two years after the mass evacuation, here's where we are](#) - Chico ER
- [American Canyon keeps Sites reservoir in its sights](#) - Napa Valley Register
- [State Aims To Exterminate Nutria Problem In San Joaquin Delta](#) - CBS Sacramento
- [Dam releases to increase as storm moves into NorCal](#) - KCRA
- [Garamendi introduces bill to prevent disaster relief funds from being diverted](#) - The Reporter
- [Another Looming Climate Disaster: Dam Collapses](#) - Buzz Feed
- [DWR to try to strike 'inflammatory' portions of Oroville Dam lawsuits at hearing Friday in Sacramento](#) - Chico ER
- [River levels reach monitoring state in Yuba-Sutter](#) - Appeal-Democrat
- [Flooding: Levee breaches in Novato; evacuations in Sausalito, San Jose](#) - SF Chronicle
- [El Niño Is Officially Here, NOAA Says; but Don't Blame It for Recent California Storms](#) - KTLA
- [Commentary: Sites Reservoir offers innovative water solutions](#) - Ag Alert
- [18 trillion gallons: Calif. has seen enough precipitation this month to fill Lake Shasta 12 times](#) - SF Gate
- [Recent rainstorms cause portion of Feather River levee to erode](#) - Appeal-Democrat
- [Asparagus: Historic Signature Crop of the Delta](#) - Sounding Magazine
- [Dual atmospheric rivers in NorCal bring flood concerns & yet more Sierra snow](#) - The California Weather Blog
- [Evacuations ordered as waters rise in storm-pummeled Northern California](#) - NBC News
- [Atmospheric River Is Pummeling California's Sierra With Feet of Snow, Topping February Records](#) - The Weather Channel
- [Crews fix levee leak after historic Cache Creek flooding](#) - KRCA
- [Work being done to reinforce the J levee on the Sacramento River near Hamilton City](#) - KRCR