

# Acceleration of Flood Control Investments

**Department:** Water Resources **Priority:** 1  
**Title of Proposed Change:** Proposition 1: Central Valley, Delta, and Coastal Watershed Flood Risk Reduction  
**Estimated Cost:** \$387.1M one-time appropriation  
**Fund:** Proposition 1 (2014)  
**Positions:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**DWR:** 102.4 FTE (Existing)  
**Central Valley Flood Protection Board:** 2 FTE

**Issue Summary:**

The Department of Water Resources is requesting a one-time appropriation of \$387.1M and 102.4 existing FTEs for the Division of Flood Management to implement high-priority flood risk reduction projects over the next two years that address current conditions and increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events. Consistent with the requirements of Proposition 1, funding will be coordinated with expenditure of remaining Proposition 1E and Proposition 84 funds. Also consistent with the requirements of Proposition 1, funded projects will improve public safety while also achieving other public benefits, including fish and wildlife habitat enhancements.

Over \$50 billion in flood project needs across the state have been identified by the Department and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the *California's Flood Future (2013)* report. The current public draft of the *State's Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (2017 Update)* identifies at least \$21 billion of need in the Central Valley to address the needs of the State Plan of Flood Control (SPFC) levees and facilities. This estimate does not include additional funding needed to address non-SPFC levees and facilities, including those that protect the majority of Sacramento – San Joaquin Delta islands and small communities in the region.

Given the tremendous need and limited available bond funds (Prop 1: \$395M minus state bond costs), investments must reflect careful prioritization and an overall balanced portfolio approach to address flood risk management. Below is a table summarizing the requested allocation of Proposition 1 multi-benefit flood funds. Figures are in millions of dollars.

	Program Area	Prop 1 Available	Total Appropriation
Delta	Urban Flood Risk Reduction	295	65
	Delta Levee Subventions		27
	Delta Special Projects		57.1
	"Systemwide" Flood Risk Reduction		130
	Emergency Response		10
Central Valley & Coastal Watersheds	Coastal Watershed Flood Risk Reduction	100	27
	Central Valley Tributary Projects		50
	"Systemwide" Flood Risk Reduction		21
			387.1

**Allocation Summary and Reasoning:** Proposition 1 provides \$395 million total for multi-benefit flood risk reduction projects, allocating \$295 million to the legal Delta and Suisun Marsh region and \$100 million to other areas across the state.

*Sacramento – San Joaquin Delta: \$295 million*

- **Urban Flood Risk Reduction (\$65 million):** State legislation (SB 5, 2007) requires Central Valley and Delta urban communities to achieve a 200-year flood risk protection standard. Since the passage of that legislation, State, local, and Federal investments have achieved that standard for the vast majority of affected urban areas. These proposed funds will help finish this important work, with a likely focus on the communities within the Sacramento and Stockton regions.
- **Delta Levee Subventions (\$27 million):** The Delta Levee Subventions Program provides financial resources to reimburse local public agencies (reclamation districts) for regular levee maintenance and emergency response activities. The program has an average annual expenditure rate of approximately \$10 million. Funds allocated here will assist with normal system repairs as well as increased needs due to current flood conditions that are putting abnormal strain on the Delta's flood infrastructure.
- **Delta Special Projects (\$57.1 million):** The Delta Special Projects Program provides assistance to local public agencies (reclamation districts) for the reconstruction and upgrading of levees within the Delta. In addition to localized flood risk reduction, funded projects help protect Delta water quality, providing both regional and statewide public benefit. Funding will be accelerated to address existing deficiencies and those anticipated due to current flood conditions.
- **Delta "Systemwide" Flood Risk Reduction (\$130 million):** Systemwide improvements are those that provide both localized and broad landscape-level reductions in flood risk. Examples include levee setback projects and flood bypass facility improvements that significantly reduce peak flood stages around urban, small community, and rural areas. Identified projects in the lower Sacramento River system (e.g. lower Yolo Bypass) and the lower San Joaquin River system (e.g. Paradise Cut flood bypass) are critical to achieving regional flood management goals, including legislatively mandated 200-year flood protection for Central Valley urban areas (SB 5, 2007). These investments will complement ongoing systemwide work funded primarily by Proposition 1E.
- **Delta Emergency Response (\$10 million):** Emergency response funds will be used to assist local agencies in flood emergency response efforts. Projects include local flood emergency planning, early flood warning systems, and acquiring flood fight materials and equipment.

*Central Valley and Coastal Watersheds: \$100 million*

- **Coastal Watershed Flood Risk Reduction (\$27 million):** Coastal communities across the state are being severely impacted by current flooding. Funded projects will address the pressing and unique challenges faced by coastal urban and non-urban areas. Projects will address issues including but not limited to coastal flood system improvements to increase public safety, coastal flood-reservoir improvements, and actions to resolve ecosystem and flood management conflicts.
- **Central Valley Tributary Projects (\$50 million):** Flood management needs in the Central Valley (not including the Delta) exceed \$21 billion. This funding will address known flood risk and will include but not be limited to projects that also contribute to voluntary agreements being developed by the Natural Resources Agency, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, and various stakeholders to address larger Bay-Delta water quality and ecosystem objectives.
- **Central Valley Systemwide Flood Risk Reduction (\$21 million):** This funding will address known deficiencies at various state-owned facilities. Examples include projects that will improve flood water conveyance at key flood bypass/weir structures while also reducing related fish stranding concerns. Projects have been identified as high-priority capital improvements critical to the function of the overall Central Valley flood system.