



CALIFORNIA CENTRAL VALLEY
FLOOD CONTROL
ASSOCIATION

CCVFCA'S Flood Flash

October 19, 2015

Send news tips, feedback, and subscription requests to cindy@floodassociation.net

CALENDAR ALERTS

October 19-24

California Flood Preparedness Week. [Click here](#) for more information.

October 22

Sacramento Region Preseason Flood Coordination Meeting, 9:00-11:30 am, CVRWB, 11020 Sun Center Dr, Rancho Cordova.

****October 23**

Delta Stewardship Council Meeting, discussion DLIS Project, 9:00 am Park Tower Plaza, 980 Ninth Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room, Sacramento.

October 24

[Delta Flood Safety Fair](#), noon to 4:00 pm, Delta Farmer's Market, Hwy 12 & 160.

****October 26**

Natural Resources Agency [public workshop](#) on [draft plan](#) for adapting to climate change, 10:00am-Noon, 1516-9th St (Energy Commission), Sacramento.

****October 27**

Sacramento River Watershed Program [Annual Stakeholder Meeting](#), 9:00am-3:00pm, 1321 Garden Highway (Sierra Health), Sacramento.

October 27

[Sustainable Groundwater Implementation technical session](#) for local public agencies, 1:00-4:00pm, 1001 I St, Coastal Hearing Room, Sacramento.

October 29

Public Workshop on Folsom Dam Water Control Manual Update, 9:00am-Noon, Sterling Hotel, 1300 H St., Sacramento. **Please RSVP by sending email to ssherry@ccp.csus.edu with a simple "YES," "NO" or "MAYBE."** Direct any questions regarding this workshop to [Cynthia Brooks](#), Senior Project Manager, Joint Federal Project, Sacramento District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, (916) 557-6745. To review information previously provided on the Manual Update, [click here](#).

October 30

Deadline has been extended 60 days to comment on BDCP's new Preferred Project and EIR/EIS. Documents and information about the new alternatives and where to submit written comments available on BDCP's website: <http://baydeltaconservationplan.com/2015PublicReview/PublicReviewRDEIRSDEIS/>

November 6

[USACE Regulatory Program Workshop](#), 1:30-4:00 pm, 1325 J St, Rm 814, Sacramento. *Space limited, RSVP required to attend.*

November 9

[Deadline to submit comments](#) on [CA WaterFix 404 permit](#) application submitted by DWR to USACE for construction of new conveyance facilities in the Delta.

****November 13**

Deadline to comment on DSC's ["Draft Levee-Related Habitat Review"](#)

****November 30**

Deadline to comment on ["Safeguarding California: Implementing Action Plans"](#)

****December 11**

Dec 11 – Deadline to comment on draft [Small Communities Flood Risk Reduction Program Guidelines](#) for allocation of funding for levee improvement projects.

** = *New Calendar Alert*

FEATURED ASSOCIATE MEMBER



Wood Rodgers offers a full range of consulting services including civil engineering, land planning, surveying, landscape architecture, geotechnical, environmental, water resources, transportation and structural engineering.

KEEPING UP

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

Nationwide Stay Granted on WOTUS, Restoring Prior Rules – For Now

The U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals issued a nationwide stay of the new Clean Water Rule on October 9, 2015, restoring the previous definition of Waters of the United States (WOTUS) for all states. The Court found particular merit with two of the arguments put forth by petitioners: Rule is at odds with Supreme Court's *Rapanos* decision and it violated Administrative Procedures Act requirements for rule-making. If the Sixth Circuit Court is determined to not have jurisdiction to hear the case, then this ruling could be short-lived as it would also lack jurisdiction to grant a stay. More details on this most recent court order are available in an article on [Downey Brand's website](#).

Guidelines for 2015-16 Small Communities Flood Risk Reduction Grants Released

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has released Small Communities Flood Risk Reduction ([SCFRR](#)) [draft guidelines](#) for allocation of funding to help small communities with fewer than 10,000 residents that are protected by the State Plan of Flood Control (SPFC) to achieve a 100-year level of flood protection. Information regarding a 60-day public comment period ending on December 11, 2015 is available on [SCFRR webpage](#). Another 60-day public comment opportunity will be offered once the project proposal solicitation package (PSP), which is currently under development, is released by DWR.

Initially, funding is being provided to study the feasibility of flood risk reduction projects, with funding for design and construction to be awarded in subsequent phases. Projects in the SCFRR program must repair, rehabilitate, reconstruct, or replace SPFC facilities and be consistent with the Central Valley Flood Protection goals and objectives.

To receive announcements about upcoming public workshops being planned for Colusa and Sacramento, program news, and grant solicitations, send an email with your name and email address to SCFRR@water.ca.gov.

Delta Levee Investment Modeling Decision-Support Tool Previewed at DSC Public Meeting

Consultants gave a demonstration to the public and the Delta Stewardship Council (DSC) of the modeling methodology and decision-support tool they are developing for application of the Delta Levee Investment Strategy (DLIS) currently scheduled for release in December. The many layers of data in the model appear to be focused on producing a cost-benefit analysis for each island to determine whether there is a "State Interest" for funding levee maintenance or rehabilitation -- or not -- depending on the assets and people protected.

The DSC staff report for October states the next steps include developing a list of Delta islands/tracts ranked by risk for Council consideration and approval, which will form the basis for developing alternative levee concepts. In early 2016, the Council will consider alternative portfolios of levee investments as an output of the decision-support tool that will form the basis of the draft investment strategy and alternatives, including a preferred alternative in the draft EIR.

At their October 23rd board meeting, DSC will also discuss a [Draft Levee-Related Habitat Review](#) document which is intended to provide guidance to the Council to ensure that levee investments will also contribute to long-term improvement of river corridors, with a net benefit for fish and wildlife. Staff will present the habitat guidance document and announce details regarding the opportunity for the public to submit comments through Friday, November 13, 2015.

The staff will also propose adjustments to the [DLIS schedule](#), recommending the timeline for release of Final Draft Strategy and Draft EIR be pushed out until next fall with the certification of EIR and adoption of investment strategy into the Delta plan in March 2017.

The extra year is to allow for more robust coordination with the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) per its recently released [Consultation Guidelines](#) and for DSC staff to refine the DLIS methodology and planning tool pursuant to the recommendations in the [Independent Science Panel report](#) before the project moves to the next phase.

The CA Central Valley Flood Control Association has raised issues similar to the Independent Science Panel regarding the use of more current and quality data; and the need to respect flood responsibility jurisdictions and existing statutory directives on protecting the Delta, including the cost-effective and successful Delta Subventions Program outlined in the CVFPB's consultation guidance policy. CCVFCA will continue to actively engage with the DSC, CVFPB, Delta Protection Commission, and local Delta stakeholders in the development of a Delta levees investment strategy.

Governor Signs Legislation Directing DWR to Increase Focus on Atmospheric Rivers

Governor Brown recently signed [SB 758](#) authored by Senator Marty Block (D-San Diego) to improve flood protection and water reliability by gaining more knowledge of atmospheric rivers (ARs). The bill creates the Atmospheric Rivers Research, Mitigation, and Climate Forecasting Program which would require the DWR to study the causes of atmospheric rivers and their impact on extreme weather conditions. DWR will also be required to operate reservoirs in a manner that improves flood protection and captures water produced by ARs.

State's Climate Change Reports Fail to Emphasize Flood Control Measures and Agencies

Ironically, despite the Governor signing SB 758 to study the potential for more catastrophic flood events caused by Atmospheric Rivers, the Administration's strategy for preparing for climate change impacts does not identify "Flood Control" as one of the critical sectors needing a specific action plan to reduce the risks and effects through levee and flood bypass maintenance and improvements. The fact that many local, state, and federal agencies are actively promoting Flood Preparedness Week October 19-24 makes the omission even more glaring.

In response to an Executive Order by Gov. Brown, the Natural Resources Agency released and is seeking public comments on a draft report updating the state's climate adaptation strategy, "[Safeguarding California: Implementing Action Plans](#)". A follow-up to the "[Safeguarding California: Reducing Climate Risk](#)" plan finalized in 2014, this new draft strategy proposes actions to identify the state's vulnerabilities to climate change by sector; outline primary risks; and identify the agencies to lead adaptation efforts in each sector.

According to the "[Safeguarding California](#)" website, the state is committed to facing the risks of climate change and proactively preparing. However, the report only has a brief description in the "Water Sector Plan" chapter of the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan and State Plan of Flood Control system of project levees and bypasses, but does not include a comprehensive acknowledgement of the many components in DWR's FloodSAFE program, or explain in any detail the methods used by local, state, and federal agencies to reduce the probability and risks of flood damage from future super storms. Apparently, the authors of this report have not read the dozens of news stories every week warning about the growing likelihood that California will be slammed by El Nino weather pattern that could lead to deadly flooding throughout the state this winter.

Because the SPFC system of levees and bypasses protects more than 1.9 million acres, one million people, and approximately \$70 billion in assets, it is the state's first line of defense against sea level rise and more frequent and intense storms under a future with escalating climate change impacts. The funding of the state's numerous flood control and emergency preparedness agencies, programs, and infrastructure are also critical to protecting most of the ten sectors in the plan, particularly: water supply, public health and safety, agriculture, transportation, energy delivery, and habitat biodiversity.

CCVFCA encourages its members to provide input about adding "Flood Control" into the report as one of the necessary public safety sectors by attending the public workshop on Monday, October 26th, from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the California Energy Commission's Rosenfeld Hearing Room, 1516-9th Street in Sacramento. If you cannot attend the public workshop, email your written comments by November 30, 2015 deadline to climate@resources.ca.gov, or mail to California Natural Resources Agency, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA, 95814.

Remind them that state funding for levee and bypass maintenance and improvements is a critical component of preventing the loss lives and property as California experiences more severe storm events and gradual sea-level rising.

Grant Funding for Agricultural Water Suppliers Available

Agricultural water suppliers serving between 10,000 to 25,000 acres of irrigated lands have until May 31, 2016 to [submit application](#) receive grant funding up to \$50,000 for new Agricultural Water Management Plans and up to \$10,000 to update existing AWMPs. More information on eligibility and guidelines for the AWMP grant program is available on [DWR's website](#).

Chief Engineer for CVFPB Announces Retirement

After 39 years, Len Marino has announced "it's time for something new" and effective Friday, October 16, 2015 he will officially be in retirement. Although his presence will be missed at the CVFPB, the Association wishes him well in his next endeavors. We will keep you informed about announcements from the Board regarding the appointment of his replacement.

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.)

Governor Signs Legislation to Improve Knowledge on Atmospheric Rivers

- <https://scripps.ucsd.edu/news/legislation-improve-understanding-atmospheric-rivers-authorized-governor>
- <http://patch.com/california/lajolla/new-law-mandates-prediction-storms>
- <http://www.10news.com/news/scientists-study-atmospheric-rivers-and-role-they-could-play-this-winter-101415>

Fears of Size and Intensity of El Nino this Winter Increases . . .

- <http://www.chicoer.com/general-news/20151015/butte-county-prepares-for-winter-flooding>
 - <http://fox40.com/2015/10/15/winter-rain-forecast-brings-risk-of-flooding-mudslides/>
 - <http://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/1998-El-Ni-o-pounded-an-unready-Bay-Area-Are-we-6564050.php>
 - <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-massive-el-nino-is-now-too-big-to-fail-scientist-says-20151009-story.html>
 - <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/evidence-mounts-for-el-nino-that-could-ease-calif-drought/>
 - <http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:e0ec213afe264bb8baafead986a966b3>
 - <http://www.dailynews.com/environment-and-nature/20151013/prepping-for-el-nino-la-county-launches-website-deploys-sandbags>
 - <http://www.kpbs.org/news/2015/oct/13/county-leaders-emergency-officials-prepare-stronge/>
 - <http://abc7.com/weather/monstrous-el-nino-expected-to-hit-southern-california/1032185/>
 - <http://www.chinookobserver.com/co/local-news/20151013/el-nino-warm-blob-expected-to-supercharge-storms-redistribute-marine-species>
 - <http://www.accuweather.com/en/weather-news/how-will-el-nino-affect-us-weather-winter-forecast/52974535>
 - <http://www.mercedsunstar.com/news/article39004383.html>
 - <http://www.chicoer.com/general-news/20151013/with-rain-delayed-preparations-progress>
 - <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-el-nino-forecast-20151015-story.html>
 - <http://www.santamariasun.com/cover/13747/el-nino-cometh-meteorologists-forecast-winter-storms-of-historic-proportions-on-the-central-coast/>
 - http://www.uniondemocrat.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=117886&Itemid=1
 - <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-3272744/This-winter-not-normal-Forecasters-say-El-Ni-o-set-outgrow-1997-event-warn-phenomenon-big-fail.html>
 - <http://grist.org/climate-energy/this-chart-shows-why-even-a-powerful-el-nino-wont-solve-californias-water-issues/>
 - <http://www.aol.com/article/2015/10/14/us-el-nino-forecast-california-east-to-bear-brunt-of-impacts-t/21249034/>
 - <http://www.latimes.com/home/la-hm-el-nino-20151017-story.html>
 - <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-el-nino-drought-20151016-story.html>
 - <http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/El-Ni-o-looking-like-a-rainy-winner-for-6572344.php>
 - <http://www.ibtimes.com/california-drought-strongest-el-nino-years-still-wont-end-crisis-2142586>
 - <http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/California-Drought-El-Nino-Winter-Forecast-Rain-Snow-333072441.html>
 - <http://www.scpr.org/news/2015/10/15/55056/strong-el-nino-likely-means-wet-winter-for-souther/>
 - <http://www.kpbs.org/news/2015/oct/15/forecast-strong-el-nino-will-improve-california-dr/>
 - http://www.mercurynews.com/drought/ci_28974825/el-nino-wet-winter-likely-all-california
 - <http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2015/10/15/report-el-nino-unlikely-to-pull-california-out-of-drought.html>
 - <https://www.climatecentral.org/news/el-nino-winter-weather-forecast-19550>
 - <http://www.newsweek.com/el-nino-drought-pacific-northwest-noaa-winter-outlook-383831>
 - <http://www.trinitynewsdaily.com/el-nino-drought-relief/4239/>
 - <http://www.dailynews.com/lifestyle/20151015/10-tips-to-prepare-for-the-rainy-season>
 - <http://www.scpr.org/news/2015/10/15/55068/flash-flood-warnings-issued-in-southern-california/>
 - <http://www.pe.com/articles/winter-783597-california-ni241o.html>
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- <http://www.usatoday.com/story/weather/2015/10/15/winter-weather-forecast-el-nino-noaa/73986186/>
- <http://mashable.com/2015/10/15/winter-outlook-wet-california/#vBR5ZBUJGmqM>

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