



CALIFORNIA CENTRAL VALLEY
FLOOD CONTROL
ASSOCIATION

CCVFCA'S Flood Flash

December 21, 2015

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

CALENDAR ALERTS

December 28

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

January 21

Delta Protection Commission Meeting 5:30pm located in Sacramento

****February 4-5**

Two-day [WEF workshop](#), Water 101, in West Sacramento, \$285 registration.

April 20-21

[CA Water Policy conference](#), UC Davis Conference Center.

**** = [New Calendar Alert](#)**

FEATURED ASSOCIATE MEMBER



WOOD RODGERS

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 Flood Flash**

DWR Launches Levee Funding Program for Small Communities

Funding for the repair and reconstruction of State Plan of Flood Control (SPFC) levees in non-urban areas is being made available through the new Small Communities Flood Risk Reduction ([SCFRR grant program](#)). In accordance with the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan, the program is intended to help small communities in the Sacramento Valley and Delta to attain FEMA's 100-year level of flood protection.

Eligible applicants are limited to cities and counties with land use authority for small communities (less than 10,000 residents) that are protected by the SPFC. To be consistent with the State System wide Investment Approach (SSIA) projects must be shown to be feasible and contribute to applicable integrated water management plan objectives which target public safety, economic stability, and ecosystem vitality.

The initial round of funding will only focus on feasibility studies to support the identification of a preferred alternative, which can include non-structural projects such as water proofing and raising structures out of the floodplains. DWR will fund all reasonable and eligible costs needed to complete a feasibility study, up to a maximum of \$500,000 per applicant/per project, with a 50% cost share for any amounts over \$500,000. Categories of eligible costs in Phase I includes: feasibility studies, geotechnical engineering, land/easement acquisition (willing sellers only), project construction/implementation (including non-structural and emergency response plans), monitoring, hydraulic modeling, flood project mitigation, and legal fees. DWR is also offering use of their database of updated hydrologic, hydraulic, geodetic, and geotechnical evaluations, as well as their expertise to assist and reduce costs of local agencies in preparing their feasibility study.

Upon completion of the feasibility study, local government entities may apply for funding for project design and/or implementation of the preferred alternative identified during Phase I. The cost share for the project design and implementation Phase II will be competitively allocated based on the outcome of the feasibility studies and remaining available funding. According to a recent public workshop in Courtland, DWR plans to allocate \$50 million from Prop. 1E for this program to be split with \$20 million for feasibility studies and \$30 for project construction.

Currently, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) is seeking input on the program guidelines through a workshop and a 60-day public review period. Once the guidelines are finalized then DWR will announce the deadline dates for submitting applications and when grant funding will be awarded.

[CCVFCA's comment letter on SCFRR](#) expressed support and appreciation for the new grant program for small communities that do not have the financial resources to solely lead an effort to implement projects to reduce flood risk, moderated by the Association's general concern about the expediency in which DWR can issue grant funding to applicants based upon 18-month delays recently experienced in another flood protection grant program. The Association recommends that DWR expedite the SCFRR funding process and consider allowing expenditures made prior to finalizing funding agreements be credited for future reimbursement. The greatest concern CCVFCA highlighted is the potential for underutilization of the program because of DWR's current requirement of indemnity (Section 8.2 of the Guidelines) that is overbroad and therefore may be an unacceptable condition that prevents applications being submitted from communities that may need it the most. The Association's letter recommends that in this initial feasibility study phase, the indemnity should be limited to claims arising out of breach of the funding agreement, particularly since there is opportunity to work out an appropriate indemnity provision for construction and operation in the second phase of the grant funding. CCVFCA also provided a list of technical and policy comments to ensure a high level of participation from cities and counties.

Comments on the SCFRR guidelines are due no later than 5:00 pm on Monday, December 28, 2015 via email to Stuart.Farley@water.ca.gov or mailed to:

S. Greg Farley
California Department of Water Resources
3464 El Camino Ave., Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95821

Additional information on eligibility requirements, cost-share ranking methodology, and the application process are available in the draft [Proposal Solicitation Package](#). Questions about the program or requests to receive email announcements about program updates and meetings should be sent to SCFRR@water.ca.gov.

The anticipated future timeline is DWR accepting applications in January 2016 and announcing the grant funding recipients by March 1, 2016. Funding agreements will be executed soon after with the expectation that the feasibility studies will be completed in the fall of 2016, with Phase II design and implementation occurring between late 2016 through 2019.

[New Optional Funding Method Proposed for Water, Sewer, and Flood Control Rates](#)

A local government coalition comprised of the Association of CA Water Agencies (ACWA), CA State Association of Counties (CSAC), and the CA League of Cities has [filed a constitutional amendment proposal](#) for preparation as a statewide ballot measure for voters to consider in 2016.

According to ACWA press advisory the proposal is structured to "maximize the discretion of local agencies to set rates that work for their constituencies." The measure would amend Article X of the constitution dealing with management of the state's water supplies, including reasonable and beneficial use of water. The intent appears to be the creation of an alternative, competing funding method to Proposition 218, but not replace it.

The coalition has 30 days to make revisions or rescind their initiative proposal, but is also considering introducing the measure as legislation to allow further deliberation and refinement before placing before the voters.

CCVFCA will be reviewing the proposal and offering input to the sponsoring agencies.

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.)

- [FEMA releases draft disaster plan for El Niño in the Central Valley](#) - Lodi News-Sentinel
- [El Nino to Bring Relief, Not Cure, to Calif. Drought](#) - Discovery News
- [Waiting for El Nino: Impact yet to be felt](#) - Capital Press
- [Understanding El Niño](#) - New York Times
- [El Niño fueling December storms](#) - Salinas Californian
- [Harbingers of El Niño are all around us](#) - Half Moon Bay Review
- [FEMA: El Niño to drench area](#) - Los Altos Town Crier
- [Mega Niño WILL bring relief to California: Nasa maps how weather ...](#) - Daily Mail
- [El Niño Could Ignite Amazon, Drench California](#) - Scientific American
- [Latest El Nino predictions for December through March 2016](#) - Digital Journal
- [Warm El Niño Water Meets a North Pacific Already Disrupted By The ...](#) - Bay Nature
- [Climate experts say West Coast will see wet winter](#) – SF Gate

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