

CALENDAR ALERTS

Feb 10 – Deadline to [comment](#) on 2022 Update of CVFPP [Conservation Strategy](#)

Feb 28 – Deadline to file appeal on [Yolo Bypass](#) East [Levee Project](#)

March 7 – Deadline to comment on DSC amendments to Admin. Procedures governing appeals

FEATURED ASSOCIATE MEMBER

LWA | LARSEN WURZEL
& Associates, Inc.

HIRING NOTICE!

Reclamation District 900 is seeking a General Manager. Application are being accepted until February 21, 2022. To view qualifications please go to our website: <https://www.cpsr.us/recruitment/1871> For further information contact: Andrew Nelson of **CPS HR Consulting** (916) 471-3329

KEEPING UP

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

Levee Improvement Construction Funded in Sacramento Pocket Area

In December 2021, the USACE Sacramento District awarded a [\\$40.9 million contract](#) for the construction of two miles of levee improvements on the Sacramento River in the Pocket neighborhood of Sacramento. Construction will include the installation of a seepage cutoff wall from Surfside Way down to Sump 132 at the Pocket Canal. Work will begin in the spring and be completed by the end of the year. Details about a public meeting being planned for March will be posted on USACE Sacramento District [website](#).

Construction to Begin on Yolo Bypass Fish Restoration Project

At the January meeting of the CA Water Commission, DWR provided an update on the Yolo Bypass Salmonid Habitat Restoration and Fish Passage Project known as the ["Big Notch"](#) to create floodplain habitat for juvenile salmon and improve the migration corridor for adult salmon. The project is necessary to fulfill the ESA regulatory requirements for the continued operation of the State Water Project and Central Valley Project water export pumps in Tracy. First proposed in the 1990s

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CalFed Program, the environmental documents were finalized by DWR and Bureau of Reclamation in 2019. The preferred alternative sets the peak flow at 6,000 cfs and reduced to 1,000 to 300 cfs after March 15th. The infrastructure will include a lowered intake channel to the Sacramento River with a three-gate headwork structure. The inundation of a portion of the Yolo Bypass will occur more frequently and duration will last two weeks longer. In 2021, the state decided to use its eminent domain authority to force flow easements for the project, which requires the Commission to approve Resolutions of Necessity as the first step in the eminent domain process. First, DWR must try to negotiate a settlement with the landowners. With permitting completed in 2021, construction is anticipated to start in May 2022 and completed in November 2023, with the real estate acquisition process continuing through 2023.

Manteca Considers Flood Assessment

The Manteca City Council gave its approval to participate in the Mossdale Tract Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District to [fund levee improvements](#) that meet a 200-year urban levee standard. The City of [Lathrop is taking the lead](#) on forming the new District. The improved flood protection for portions of Manteca, Lathrop, Weston Ranch and French Camp areas of Stockton is expected to cost around \$180 million. The financing district revenues will be supplemented with three other local funding sources. If increased protection is completed by 2030, then higher flood insurance rates and building moratoriums can be avoided.

Natomas Levee Project Delayed by December Deluge

Ongoing construction of levee improvements in the Natomas Reach B project experienced [delays in December](#) due to extensive rain in the region, but will resume as workers perform some site clean-up.

National Levee Safety Program Workshop Update

The USACE originally scheduled an in-person [NLSP](#) workshop for January 20th in Sacramento, but due to the rising COVID-19 numbers, all workshops will now be online. There will be [9 workshops](#) between January 18 and February 24, 2022, but each is limited to 100 participants.

New CalOES Funding Opportunities

The CA Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) released a [Notice](#) announcing new funding opportunities, including "Prepare California" to help socially vulnerable and high hazard risk communities and "PrepCA Match" to provide state funding to cover the full 25% local cost share. [Technical assistance](#) to help communities with application process is also being offered.

Storm Detection Capabilities to Expand

The UC San Diego Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes will be expanding its 13-week [Atmospheric River Reconnaissance flight program](#) to gather more data over the Pacific Ocean over a longer period of time. This program works in coordination with NOAA's Office of Marine and Aviation and the U.S. Force Reserve's "Hurricane Hunters" and with support from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the CA Dept. of Water Resources. These flights will be collecting data from atmospheric rivers that typically carry 25 times the water equivalent of the Mississippi and that can cover an area over 500 miles wide and thousands of miles in length. Obtaining accurate environmental measurements offshore by these flights, will significantly improve forecasting accuracy for landfall.

Warmer Oceans Equals More Severe Storms and Flooding

Earth was slightly cooler in 2021, but still sixth hottest year since 1880, but the majority of the planet covered by [oceans had their hottest year on record](#) in 2021. As the oceans warm, they expel more heat and water vapor into the air, which makes storms more severe. The western states and Canada have already been experiencing heavier downbursts of rain more frequently, which leads to flooding.

Biodiversity Conservation Plan Released

In response to the Governor's Executive Order N-82-20 calling for the conservation of 30% of our lands and water by 2030, the Natural Resources Agency released a [biodiversity plan](#) on December 15, 2022. The deadline to comment on the proposed 30x30 plan is February 15, 2022.

LEGAL MATTERS

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

Small Water Diversion Registrations Are Exempt from CEQA

A recent court decision confirmed that the [registration of small water diversions](#) by the State Water Resources Control Board is a ministerial project and therefore, exempt from CEQA. Accordingly, any errors in registration applications cannot be challenged under CEQA.

LEGISLATIVE LATEST

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

Governor Releases the 2022-23 State Budget

Like last year, the proposed budget also focuses on [investing in climate resiliency](#) with a \$5.2 billion expenditure. An additional \$750 million investment is also proposed for water conservation, drought relief, protection of fish and wildlife, and groundwater sustainability. The Governor proposes tackling five issues in his new budget, which he calls [The California Blueprint](#) with a [fact sheet](#) on addressing the climate crisis. The [LAO also released a report](#) providing an overview of the Governor's proposed FY 2022-23 State Budget.

Progress Report Released on Resilience Portfolio

In conjunction with the release of the State Budget, the Administration also published a [progress report](#) on the implementation of the 2021 Water Resilience Portfolio. The Portfolio is a blueprint to build climate resilience as the state experiences more whiplashes between extreme wet and dry weather patterns.

Changes in Assembly Committee Chairs

Due to the [resignation of another Assemblymember](#) who chaired the Appropriations Committee, created a domino effect of changes to several other committees. Of note for the Association is Assemblymember [Rebecca Bauer-Kahan \(D-Walnut Creek\)](#) has been named as the new Chair of the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee. She is a Bay Area native and attorney that previously focused on environmental enforcement and advocacy.

DELTA DOWNLOAD

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West Sacramento Certifies Levee Project

A Certification of Consistency was [filed](#) with the Delta Stewardship Council on January 27, 2022 by the City of West Sacramento for the Yolo Bypass East [Levee Project](#). The proposal is to repair and improve stability for a levee that was originally built prior to 1911 so that it meets current performance guidelines and requirements. The plan is to install stability berms, replenish waterside revetments, reconstruct maintenance roads, and improve the drainage system with a new pump station. The deadline to file an appeal challenging the consistency is February 28, 2022.

DSC Engages Technical Work Groups on Climate Variability

As part of its effort to develop a [Delta Adapts](#) initiative to identify climate resilient policies to incorporate into the Delta Plan, the Delta Stewardship Council has engaged technical work groups on flood and agriculture to meet over the next couple of months to identify management actions to improve regional resilience to climate change.

Delta Conveyance Project Webinars

DWR held a series of webinars to provide background information on the preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the [Delta Conveyance Project](#) to expand water export water facilities. The webinars covered [operations](#) of the SWP and new DCP facilities, [environmental justice](#), and [climate change](#).

IN THE NEWS

(Clicking the links will take you to news organization websites, where you can read the full stories.

- [The SF Gate reflects on the devastating 1862 flood in California: Climate Change: Warming temps driving California weather extremes | abc10.com](#)
- [Capturing the Flood in California's Ancient Underground Waterways - \(baynature.org\)](#)
- [California is 60 years behind on its climate goals. We can't catch up without green buildings \(sfchronicle.com\)](#)
- [Managing for Fish and Wildlife During a Dry Year in the Sacramento Valley – What Did We Learn in 2021? - Northern California Water Association \(norcalwater.org\)](#)
- [Petition against Sites Reservoir reaches 50,000 signatures after a deadly year for winter-run salmon \(dailykos.com\)](#)
- [CW3E Publication Notice: Evaluating the Meteorological Conditions Associated With Dusty Atmospheric Rivers – Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes \(ucsd.edu\)](#)
- [Farmers' voices heard on WOTUS rewrite | Farm Progress](#)
- [Idaho couple returns to Supreme Court to wage new WOTUS war - E&E News \(eenews.net\)](#)
- [Climate change overtakes archaic NOAA rain records - E&E News \(eenews.net\)](#)
- <https://www.modbee.com/news/local/article257128397.html>
- [Farmers share their struggles dealing with a megadrought \(kcra.com\)](#)
- [2021's biggest climate and weather disasters cost the U.S. \\$145 billion – here's what climate science says about them in 5 essential reads \(theconversation.com\)](#)
- <https://account.modbee.com/paywall/stop?resume=257128397>
- [California's 'climate whiplash' has been worsening for 50 years and will continue | University of Arizona News](#)
- [Climate Change: Warming temps driving California weather extremes | abc10.com](#)
- [25 Years After Deadly 1997 New Year's Floods, Here's How California is More Prepared](#)
- [US drought sets new record: 40% of Lower 48 in drought for 68 straight weeks - CNN](#)
- [CW3E Publication Notice: Large-scale environments of successive atmospheric river events leading to compound precipitation extremes in California – Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes \(ucsd.edu\)](#)
- [East Sand Slough project wraps up in Red Bluff – Red Bluff Daily News](#)
- [Fish Passage Improvement - Resource Conservation District of Tehama County \(tehamacountyrcd.org\)](#)
- [Pajaro Levee Project Takes Another Step Forward | Good Times Santa Cruz](#)
- [Clean Water Act policy could spur widespread disarray - E&E News \(eenews.net\)](#)
- [Biden administration repeals Trump's water rule | Farm Progress](#)
- [Climate Resiliency Strategies at the Community Level - Sierra Nevada Ally](#)
- [San Diego Community News Group - Hurricane Hunters chasing atmospheric river storms over Pacific Ocean \(sdnews.com\)](#)
- [Climate change: We didn't just make Earth hotter. We altered the rain. \(usatoday.com\)](#)
- [T&I Republican Leaders Press for Adequate Public Comment Period on Biden Administration's Harmful WOTUS Expansion | Transportation Committee Republicans \(house.gov\)](#)
- [Atmospheric rivers provide data to improve future forecasts of extreme storms | cbs8.com](#)
- [Sierra Snow Levels Still Above Average, More Storms Predicted First Week of February – NBC Bay Area](#)
- [Season snowfall totals have dropped since 1970 in the Sierra \(kcra.com\)](#)

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- [CA WATER COMMISSION: Update on the Yolo Bypass Salmonid Habitat Restoration and Fish Passage Project \(Big Notch\) – MAVEN'S NOTEBOOK | Water news \(mavensnotebook.com\)](#)
- [San Rafael to spend pandemic aid on flood project \(marinij.com\)](#)
- [Proposed ballot measure to build more California dams likely to be withdrawn \(mercurynews.com\)](#)
- [If the Supreme Court rolls back the Clean Water Act, California will be ready — thanks to Trump \(sfchronicle.com\)](#)
- [Climate change whiplash could mean more flooding, water-management challenges in California - capradio.org](#)
- [What is a bomb cyclone? An atmospheric scientist explains \(theconversation.com\)](#)
- [Increased Flooding and Droughts Linked to Climate Change Have Sent Crop Insurance Payouts Skyrocketing - Inside Climate News](#)

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