



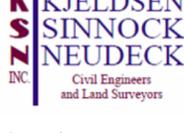
Send news tips, feedback, and subscription requests to [cindy@floodassociation.net](mailto:cindy@floodassociation.net)

## CALENDAR ALERTS

- Dec 4 -** Free Climate Change [Symposium](#), UC Davis Rec Ctr, Ballroom A, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
- Dec 5 -** Sites Reservoir EIR/EIS [meeting](#), 100 Capitol Mall (Embassy Suites), Sacramento, 1:00 pm
- \*\*Dec 5-8 -** CWEMF Water Hydrologic Flow Model [workshop](#), 3237 Peacekeeper Way, McClellan
- Dec 6 -** Deadline to file appeal on [certification of consistency](#) for Decker Island restoration project
- Dec 6 -** Oroville Repairs [Public Meeting](#), Oroville Municipal Auditorium 1200 Meyers St., 6:00 pm
- Dec 7 -** Deadline to nominate candidates for DPC [Leadership Program](#)
- Dec 7 -** Oroville Repairs [Public Meeting](#), Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds 442 Franklin Ave., 6:00 pm
- Dec 7 -** Sites Reservoir EIR/EIS [meeting](#), 122 Old Hwy. 99 West, Maxwell, 6:00 pm
- Dec 8 -** Deadline to [comment](#) on Draft [Delta Conservation Framework](#)
- \*\*Dec 8 -** Deadline to comment on Flood-MAR white paper
- \*\*Dec 8 -** [Sites Reservoir](#), EIR meeting, 122 Old Hwy 99 West, Maxwell, 6:00-8:00 pm
- Dec12 -** Conservancy meeting on Delta signage needs, Walnut Grove Library, 5:00-7:00 pm
- Dec13 -** [Ethics Training](#) for Local Officials, Downey Brand 621 Capitol Mall, 1:00-3:00 pm - **REGIS REQ'D**
- Dec13 -** Emergency Response Grant Funding Workshop, 3310 El Camino Ave., Sacramento, Rm LL-20
- Dec 14 -** Deadline to comment on EIR for Delta Plan amendments on levee investment strategy
- Dec 14 -** Emergency Response Grant Funding WebEx workshop
- Dec 14 -** Hearing on Delta Plan Amendments [EIR](#), 1110 W. Capitol Ave., West Sacramento, 4-7 pm
- Dec 15 -** Deadline to apply for San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency Executive Director position
- Dec 18 -** Deadline to comment on Delta Plan Amendments [Draft EIR](#), 5:00 pm
- Jan 15 -** Deadline to [comment](#) on Sites Reservoir [Draft EIR/EIS](#)
- Jan 19 -** USACE Regulatory Program [Workshop](#), 1325 J St., Rm 814, 1:30-4:00 pm
- Jan 29 -** Deadline to apply for statewide Emergency Response Grant Funding

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

## FEATURED ASSOCIATE MEMBER



**Kjeldsen, Sinnock & Neudeck, Inc.** (KSN) is a full service civil engineering, land surveying, and construction management firm specializing in the planning, design, construction management, and surveying and mapping of public works infrastructure, transportation, commercial, industrial, institutional and water resources related projects. KSN and its predecessor firm, Darhl I. Dentoni & Associates, have been providing civil engineering and surveying services to public and private clients throughout Central California since 1956. KSN has the expertise and capability to handle all phases of project development, from initial planning and site surveying, through design and construction management, and on to supporting the maintenance and operation of the completed project.

KSN's highly qualified staff of thirty-two professionals includes eleven Registered Civil Engineers, four Professional Land Surveyors, four construction managers and inspectors and additional technical and administrative support staff. KSN is located at 711 N. Pershing Avenue in Stockton. KSN is a California Certified Small Business (# 20146).

## FLOOD SEASON UPDATE

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

### Oroville Update

DWR has lowered the lake level in accordance with its interim contingency plan to keep releases down the partially repaired main spillway under 100,000 cfs and early storms proved how quickly the lake can fill when the water level in Oroville rose by [four feet](#).

As part of its [role](#) to conduct an [annual review](#) of the [State Water Project](#) and subsequently make recommendations to the Legislature, the [CA Water Commission](#) received presentations from DWR regarding the repair of the main spillway at Oroville dam, findings from NASA study regarding accelerated subsidence of the CA Aqueduct, and a review of the department's program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions related to operation of the SWP and the portion of the State Plan of Flood Control managed by DWR.

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, DWR released [Memo #13](#) from the independent [Board of Consultants](#) and provided additional [updates](#) on progress with repairs of the Oroville dam main spillway including joint sealing and completion of drainage systems. Completion of the secant pile wall being built into the bedrock below the emergency spillway is on schedule to be completed in January. Once weather permits, the wall will be supplemented by a concrete splash pad to prevent future erosion. In a recent media call, the contractor's project director disclosed that the second phase of construction may be more challenging, but did not provide details.

FERC, the federal agency responsible for dam safety has requested DWR to explain the appearance of [tiny cracks](#) in the newly installed concrete slabs and inquired what steps, if any, the department will take to address the appearance of these in the new main spillway. DWR claims the series of [small fissures](#) are common when massive amounts of concrete are poured and do not pose structural problems.

After reviewing a DWR technical memorandum, FERC issued a letter on [November 21, 2017](#) agreeing with DWR's assessment that the repair of the cracks is not necessary at this time, but expect DWR to continue to monitor and evaluate the "hairline" cracks during the flood season. FERC is also interest in learning more about alternative construction to avoid the cracking that DWR is evaluating in order to consider using in next phase of spillway construction next spring.

Lingering fear, distrust of DWR, and desire for more transparency and better communication from DWR are evident in responses Assemblyman James Gallagher received in a [survey](#) he mailed to his constituents. So it is not surprising that Oroville [mayor](#), Linda Dahlmeier, criticized DWR for failing to proactively inform residents below the dam that the appearance of tiny cracks in the newly installed concrete was expected. Instead, hearing about the concrete fissures after they appeared has once again created fear amongst a community that is still recovering from the trauma of being forced to flee in the dark of night back in February.

Local river guides have requested DWR to mitigate the build-up of [sediment](#) in the Feather River as a result of the Oroville dam incident in February when the river levels were dropped abruptly when problems with the main spillway occurred. The shallower water with large sandbars poses safety issue for recreational boaters and rafting.

## DELTA DOWNLOAD

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

### Bacon Island Levee Project Consistent with Delta Plan

On November 17<sup>th</sup>, RD 2028 submitted a [certification of consistency](#) with the Delta Plan to the Delta Stewardship Council for a project to rehabilitate 4.7 miles of levee along the western side of [Bacon Island](#) to meet the Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) standard, starting a 30-day period in which anyone can file an appeal of the certification in accordance with the DSC's [covered actions process](#). Work will include widening the levee crown adding a toe berm, armoring the waterside, and ensuring all-weather access on the road surface.

## LEGISLATIVE ACTION

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

### Delta Caucus Hosts Public Forum on Fiscal Concerns with WaterFix Project

Legislators representing the Delta region through a formalized Delta Caucus co-chaired by Assemblyman Jim Frazier and Senator Bill Dodd hosted a town hall meeting in Walnut Grove on November 30<sup>th</sup> to provide residents an opportunity to hear about findings in [recent report](#) by State Auditor and other [financial concerns](#). Caucus members Senator Steven Glazer and Assemblyman Kevin McCarty were also in attendance.

The legislators and audience members expressed appreciation of the thorough fiscal investigation conducted by the Auditor's office and for unveiling the secrecy surrounding the funding of the BDCP and WaterFix planning efforts. Both legislators and public were disturbed by DWR's inadequate document retention, cost overruns, not completing an financial or [economic analysis](#) to justify the WaterFix project, and failure to comply with state law when it hired an unqualified project manager that lacks the required engineer, architect, or general contractor license.

Following presentation by Auditor's staff, DWR Chief Deputy Cindy Messer commended the Auditor's staff for their professionalism during the 11-month investigation. She also indicated that DWR intended to release an economic and a financial analysis [in Spring](#) of 2018. However, she did not say that DWR was considering hiring a new project manager with the licensed credentials that are required under law.

Dr. Jeffrey Michaels, executive director of the Center for Business & Policy Research at the University of Pacific also discussed a [report](#) he authored in 2016 that analyzed the costs and benefits of the WaterFix Project that was funded by the [Delta Counties Coalition](#). He explained that his analysis was based on DWR's own documents and applications for the BDCP/WaterFix project and he found that optimistically there are 39 cents of benefits per \$1 of costs. He also pointed out that DWR does not need to know which water export districts will pay for WaterFix in order to prepare an economic analysis.

The Delta Caucus plans to continue to push for more transparency and to follow-up on Auditor's recommendations for DWR to establish a document retention policy and for Legislature to introduce legislation requiring public disclosure and justification when costs are 10% higher than budgeted or 12 months beyond schedule. Watch a [video](#) of the event to hear the entirety of the presentations and the comments and questions posed by the legislators and audience members.

## KEEPING UP

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

### Agriculture Using Flood Water to Recharge Groundwater

DWR presented a [white paper](#) at a November 17<sup>th</sup> public forum hosted by the Department of Food Agriculture providing details on idea to allow flood water to be applied on to agricultural lands in order to recharge groundwater aquifer. A [video](#) of the Flood-MAR concept and a [facts sheet](#) are available and DWR is accepting public comments on the white paper until December 8<sup>th</sup> (instruction for submitting are on page 3 of the white paper).

### New Year's Day is Deadline to Install Water Measurement Devices

Pursuant to SB 88 passed by the Legislature in 2015, [water users](#) that divert between 10 and 100 acre-feet per year have until January 1, 2018 to install Measurement Devices or submit an Alternative Compliance Plan. Certification of the Measurement Devices must be submitted with the annual reports due April 1, 2018 for permits and licenses and July 1, 2018 for water use statements. Forms for Measurement Methods, Alternative Compliance Plans, and Requests for Additional Time can be filed on the water board's Water Right Form and Survey Submittal [Portal](#).

### First Reservoir-System Model Created

Engineers at Caltech have created the first empirical [statewide model](#) of California's network of reservoirs. Developed with data over a 13-year period that includes the recent drought, the model will allow researchers to evaluate how the state's major reservoirs will respond as a unified system to conditions anticipated due to climate change. The data-analysis tool is intended to help decision makers when implementing effective and sustainable water management policies.

### Two-Year Delay of WOTUS Has Been Proposed

Federal agencies are proposing implementation of the Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) definition developed by the Obama Administration be [delayed for two years](#). This will allow time for the U.S. EPA and U.S. Army Corps to work on revisions to the definition and to prevent ongoing legal challenges to from interfering with that effort. The public has until [December 13, 2017](#) to comment on the proposal to delay the effective date of the WOTUS rule.

The courts have already put implementation of the Rule on hold under a [nationwide stay](#) by the 6<sup>th</sup> U.S. Court of Appeals while the venue and jurisdiction of multiple legal challenges are settled. The U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments last month on which court should have jurisdiction, which could nullify the current nationwide stay. If approved, the two-year delay proposed by U.S. EPA would remain in place regardless of the outcome of the Supreme Court case and allow time for revision of the Rule.

## 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.)

- [What's an 'atmospheric river' and why do we get supercharged storms?](#) - SF Gate
- [Fingers pointing every which way in flood litigation](#) - San Diego Union Tribune
- [Workshop Explores the Importance of Improved Forecasting on Water Management](#) - ACWA
- [The Pineapple Express has Arrived in California](#) - Weather Nation TV
- [Worst engineering failure in U.S. history made us safer](#) - The Hill
- [Arizonan confirmed as first woman to lead US Bureau of Reclamation](#) - AZ Central
- [More rain on the way; flood watch issued](#) - Times Standard
- [Storm onslaught to resume in Pacific Northwest this week](#) - Accu Weather
- [EPA, Army propose two-year delay of WOTUS](#) - Western Farm Press
- [Polar Satellite Launch Eases Concerns of Weather Data Gap](#) - EOS
- [California had record water year. Why Central Valley must invest in flood protection](#) - Sacramento Bee
- [Water in an Uncertain Future: Planning the New Normal](#) - Union of Concerned Scientists
- [Climate change is here. Can California's infrastructure handle it?](#) - Union of Concerned Scientists
- [ACWA Board of Directors Votes to Support 2018 Water Bonds](#) - Markets Insider
- [Cities explore the future of urban stormwater](#) - University of Denver Water Law Review
- [Engineers model the California reservoir network](#) - Phys.org
- [Rising Reservoirs: Less room for error this winter on San Joaquin River](#) - Record.net
- [\\$27 million later, the LA Snowpack Emergency of 2017 is over](#) - 89.3 KPCC
- ['King Tide' is coming to California, and global warming will only increase its effect](#) - The Tribune
- [With Winter on the Way, Most of California's Reservoirs Are Looking Good](#) - NBC Los Angeles
- [Water District improves flood protections](#) - Gilroy Dispatch
- [Life Amid the Levees](#) - Earth Island
- [ACWA Members Elect Yuba County Water District Chair Brent Hastey as Association President](#) - Markets Insider