

CALENDAR ALERTS

April 5th - EPA [workshop](#), funding stormwater projects, 1515 Clay St., Oakland, 9am-5pm

April 10th - Infrastructure [Funding Fair](#), 1234 North Market Blvd, Sacramento, 8:00 am

April 20th - [Seminar](#) on financing stormwater projects, 1001-I St, 10:00-11:30 am

May 9th - ACWA Spring [Conference](#), Monterey

** = [New Calendar Alert](#)

FEATURED ASSOCIATE MEMBER



Thank you to HDR for their "Gold Level" Sponsorship at our Annual Flood Forum

KEEPING UP

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

Legislation Introduced in Congress to Facilitate Construction of Sites Reservoir

Congressional Representatives [John Garamendi](#) and [Doug LaMalfa](#) have [introduced legislation, H.R. 1269](#), to accelerate the federal review of Sites Reservoir, a proposed 1.8 maf reservoir in Colusa and Glenn counties, west of Maxwell.

DWR Releases Investment Strategy Technical Memo for 2017 CVFPP Update

As part of the 2017 update of the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP), DWR has released the [Investment Strategy](#) Technical Memorandum, which is a follow-up to the [OMRR&R Cost Evaluation](#) Tech Memo.

The Investment Strategy identifies the programmatic investments needed to implement the CVFPP over the next 30 years and proposes the State place a priority on funding and providing a greater cost share for flood management improvement projects with multiple benefits. The financing plans developed in the Regional Flood Management Plans (RFMPs), including the regions' ability and willingness to pay for improvements are also incorporated. These financing plans are described as being critical to CVFPP implementation, given the uncertainty in State, federal, and local agency budgets and cost-sharing capabilities. The memo also acknowledges the property acquisitions and O&M costs that do not qualify for federal cost-sharing must be funded by non-federal project sponsors.

Chapter 5 describes the various types of investments (ie; systemwide, small community, urban, O&M, rural activities) and Chapter 6 covers the potential financing mechanisms such as implementation of new fees (Sacramento and San Joaquin Drainage District and River Basin assessments) and possible establishment of a state flood insurance program. On a related note, according to a Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) [statewide survey](#), 61% of residents agreed that it is very important for California to spend more money on water and flood management infrastructure.

The report concludes with a recommended Funding Plan that relies on more federal investment over State General Obligation Bonds, which may be overly optimistic and possibly unrealistic based on recent trending of federal contributions in the Central Valley. The expectation for greater federal funding is based on a larger degree of untapped potential for a much higher level of participation from the USACE on multi-benefit flood projects with ecosystem and other benefits beyond economic performance like federal programs in the Florida Everglades, Louisiana Coastal Area, and the Great Lakes.

State Flood Insurance Program May Offer Greater Economic Benefits than NFIP

According to a report by a U.C. Davis research group, California is [overpaying flood insurance](#) to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The study found that since 1994, damage payouts to California from the NFIP program total just 14% of the premiums collected from property owners, resulting in California [paying \\$3 billion more](#) than it received in the last 21 years. There are currently 290,000 NFIP policies paid by homeowners and businesses in the state.

The study's author, Nicholas Pinter, suggests that instead of participating in the federal NFIP program, the State could partner with private insurers to provide flood insurance, with a portion dedicated to paying for projects that reduce flood risk.

As mentioned above, the Central Valley Flood Protection Board and DWR will be evaluating the feasibility of establishing a [State Flood Insurance Program](#) to cover flood risk and damage as part of the 2017 update of the CVFPP. If this idea gains momentum, it would not be the first time the State has waded into the residential insurance business.

In 1996, the Legislature established the CA Earthquake Authority (CEA) which is a not-for-profit, publicly managed, privately-funded entity working with 75% of residential insurance companies to offer earthquake policies. Now, the CEA is one of the largest providers of residential earthquake insurance in the world with over \$14 billion in claim-paying capacity, has worked to reduce rates to make coverage as affordable as possible, and also funds public awareness campaigns to educate homeowners and renters how to reduce the risk of earthquake damage and loss.

Boating Restrictions Imposed Due to Flood Concerns Are Relaxed

After the 1997 flood event, CalOES released [protocols](#) on the process required for restricting vessel traffic in Delta waterways during periods of high water flood events.

Due to high water events in the Delta, [San Joaquin County Office](#) of Emergency Services [imposed boating restrictions](#) near Discovery Bay community in early March, but [recently relaxed](#) them [somewhat](#). The closures were necessary to reduce wave action that could cause overtopping of levees and to prevent any interference with flood fighting activities.

Boat traffic on Old River north of Victoria Slough and Woodward Cut to the San Joaquin River deepwater channel remained open to all boats with a 5-mph, no-wake zone enforced from two hours before posted high tide to two hours afterward.

Funding Fair for Water Management Infrastructure Projects

DWR and SWRCB have joined with other state and federal agencies to host a free infrastructure [funding fair](#) on Wednesday, April 6th in Sacramento. The event provides a one-stop venue for local water management agencies to learn more about combining available grants, loans, and financing programs to fund infrastructure projects in California.

Check-in is from 8:00-8:30 am, with agency presentations on their funding programs from 8:30 am to noon, and opportunity to discuss projects with agencies afterwards.

Oroville Spillway Update

Even near catastrophes come with big price tags when they are significant enough to warrant the evacuation of nearly 200,000 residents. According to information Assemblyman Gallagher's office received from DWR, the repair and clean-up work being done by approximately 160 DWR employees and 300-500 contractors is costing about [\\$4.7 million per day](#). The State is estimating that 75-90% of the costs will be reimbursed by FEMA.

Crews are working 12-hour shifts, seven days a week to continue the removal of 1.7 million cubic yards of debris below the damaged spillway, to reinforce and repair the spillway, and to get the Hyatt Powerplant running at full capacity. Outflows were increased at the powerplant when the [water level rose](#) at the Oroville reservoir during weeks that spillway releases were stopped to allow faster [removal of debris](#).

Due to progress made in reinforcing the primary spillway and successful efforts of DWR to lower the lake level, Butte County Sheriff Kory Honea recently [lifted all evacuation warnings](#) and advisories related to the February 12th spillway emergency.

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.)

- [Damage, design flaws in Oroville Dam spillway point to lengthy repairs, consultants say](#) - Sacramento Bee
- [Engineers Warn of 'Significant Risk' if California's Oroville Dam Isn't Fixed](#) - Wall Street Journal
- [Another reservoir overflows as Northern California receives more rain](#) - Los Angeles Times
- [Sacramento's rainfall in year in top 10 when it comes to wettest ever](#) - Sacramento Bee
- [State faces flood risk and funding shortfalls](#) - Record-Bee
- [Experts talk 2017 Delta flood season](#) - Delta Confluence
- [Experts calculate half a billion for full Oroville reconstruction](#) - ABC 10
- [Flood control trumps tunnels](#) - Recordnet.com
- [Pumping out the Inland Sea – Delta exports in a time of plenty](#) - California Water Blog
- [Smith Canal petition in the works](#) - esanjoaquin.com
- [Unheeded warnings and their big consequences](#) - The Orange County Register
- [Nature provides its own flood control. Time to use it?](#) - KQED
- [Big rains mean big clean-up along Sacramento River](#) - Oroville MR
- [Why record snow followed by warm temperatures is a dangerous combination for Owens Valley](#) - Los Angeles Times
- [Lake Oroville rises slowly as spillway flows halted](#) - Chico ER
- [Option: Consumers need to pay more for water safety, improvements](#) - Mercury News
- [Have we underestimated the West's super-floods?](#) - High Country News
- [Official: San Jose Was Warned About Flood, Failed to Act](#) - US News
- [Is this the worst flooding year ever?](#) - Bay Nature
- [California's robust mountain snowpack boosts flood concerns](#) - San Francisco Chronicle
- [Lake Davis fills as anticipated, spillway outflow begins](#) - Gridley Herald
- [Where Levees Fail In California, Nature Can Step In To Nurture Rivers](#) - KQED
- [Feather Levees still dropping after spillway flows were halted](#) - Appeal
- [More Spending on Water Infrastructure Important to Most Californians, PPIC Survey Says](#) - ACWA
- [California snowpack is one of the biggest ever recorded, and now poses a flooding risk](#) - Los Angeles Times
- [Lake Oroville turbine, out of order since 2015, inoperable for rest of year](#) - Chico ER