



CALIFORNIA CENTRAL VALLEY  
FLOOD CONTROL  
ASSOCIATION

# CCVFCA'S Flood Flash

February 18, 2016

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

## CALENDAR ALERTS

### **February 19**

Deadline to comment on [Folsom Dam environmental restoration plan](#).

### **February 24**

CVFPB Coordinating Committee Meeting, 9:00 am-12:00 pm, 1110 W. Capitol Ave., West Sacramento..

### **February 24**

[CVFPB Executive Committee Meeting](#), 1:30 pm, 3310 El Camino Ave. Rm 130, Sacramento.

### **February 25-26**

[Delta Stewardship Council Meeting](#), 9:00 am, 980 Ninth Street, Sacramento.

### **\*\*February 26**

[Central Valley Flood Protection Board Meeting](#), 9:00 am, 915 I St., Sacramento.

### **March 1**

[Public Hearing](#) to Consider [Proposed Spray Applications Permit](#), 9:00 am, CalEPA, Coastal Hearing Room 1001 I St., Sacramento.

### **March 16**

[CCVFCA 2016 Flood Forum](#), 10:00 am-1:30 pm, Red Lion Hotel, 500 Leisure Lane, Sacramento.

### **March 22**

[White House Summit](#) on World Water Day

### **March 23**

CVFPP Coordinating Committee Meeting, 9:00 am-12:00 pm, 1110 W. Capitol Ave., West Sacramento

### **April 20-21**

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

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

## FEATURED ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Mead  
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## **KEEPING UP**

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

### **Flood Control Message Delivered to State Capitol**

The Metro Chamber, representing the economic interests of businesses in the six-county Capitol region, hosted a [State Legislative Summit](#) on February 11, 2016 to communicate local priorities to State political leaders. Included in their messaging were flood protection talking points developed by a team that included the Association's lobbyist, engineers, and attorney that focused on three key fiscal recommendations:

1. Provide General Fund appropriations to implement the Central Valley Flood Protection Board(CVFPB).
2. Support flood projects consistent with the principles of integrated water resource management.
3. Restore State funding for operation and maintenance of the State Plan of Flood Control (SPFC).

The event started with a panel of Legislators familiar to CCVFCA members: Senators Ted Gaines and Lois Wolk, and Assembly members James Gallagher and Jim Cooper. Then Metro Chamber members formed into teams that spent the afternoon meeting with legislators, staff, and representatives of the Brown Administration. Participants collectively advocated for the preservation of proposals in the Governor's budget to address critical deferred levee maintenance needs with \$100 million and an \$11 million increase for ongoing routine levee operations and maintenance activities. They also encouraged State investments in congressionally authorized projects be continued and educated political leaders about the important role levees play in protecting the reliability of statewide water supplies and reducing the State's liability from flood damage.

A big thank you to our local flood control leaders that worked hard on developing targeted fiscal messaging in support of levee funding: Derek Larsen and Sean Myers with Larsen Wurzel & Associates, Alex Tengolics from Yolo County, CCVFCA lobbyist Bob Reeb, Scott Shapiro with Downey Brand, Chris Fritz with Peterson Brustad Inc., and Ric Reinhardt with MBK Engineers.

### **PPIC Declares State Needs to Double Annual Flood Control Investments**

A new [Fact Sheet](#) by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) asserts that the State would need to double its level of annual funding to \$1.4 billion for the next 25 years in order address an estimated \$34 billion in upgrades to flood management infrastructure. Declaring flood management a "fiscal orphan" with no State plan for filling this funding gap, the PPIC paper points out that the risk to people and property is growing with one in five Californians and more than \$580 billion worth of structures (including contents) currently vulnerable to flood damage.

With overflowing rivers in the Central Valley, lowland coastal flooding when high tides and storm waves collide, localized urban stormwater flooding from impermeable surfaces and inadequate drainage systems, and flash floods and debris flows in Southern California, deserts and burn areas, there is no part of the state that is immune to flood damage.

The PPIC points to flood insurance and innovative integration of capturing flood waters to improve water supplies as opportunities for reducing effects of flood and drought as 21<sup>st</sup> methodologies worth exploring and funding.

### **UC Davis Report Asserts Levees Can Increase Flood Risks**

Levees often prevent loss of life and expensive flood damage, right? Not according to results of a recently published [study led by U.C. Davis](#), which declares levees can increase the flood risk of structures behind them. How? When levees overtop or fail, water spills onto the floodplain causing long-term damage that can be far worse than if those levees were not in place.

Lead author Nicholas Printer concluded, "Levee protection does prevent flood damage locally, but it needs to be examined very carefully, structure-by-structure, and quantified for all people and economic activities affected by that protection."

Based on economic losses in the Sny Island levee district along the Mississippi River in Illinois and Missouri, the scientists modeled four flood conditions: 2, 5, 100 and 400-year flood levels, with and without levees. They also modeled levee failures. Overall the research team found that the Sny levee system prevents about \$51 million per year in flood damage, but felt this was outweighed by the catastrophic losses that would occur to one-third of the residential and 22% of the commercial structures behind the levees.

### **NOAA Launches Mission to Study El Nino**

Mobilizing researchers and equipment quickly to take of advantage of studying one of the strongest El Nino patterns on record, NOAA and its partners have embarked on a land, sea, and air campaign in the tropical Pacific in an effort to improve weather forecasting capabilities.

The [El Nino Rapid Response Filed Campaign](#) will collect atmospheric data where these recurring weather systems are spawned through multiple methods including launching weather balloons up to eight times a day through March. NOAA assistant administrator for research, Craig McLean said, "This research will help us understand the first link in the chain that produces, among many other weather impacts, extreme precipitation events on the West Coast."

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## **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.)*

- [Winter precipitation patterns during every El Niño since 1950](#) - NOAA
- [2016 El Niño: Don't mock the croc](#) - NASA
- [El Niño 'is in full effect' this winter season](#) - The Southern News
- [El Niño Hasn't Vanished—It Might Be More Powerful Than We Ever ...](#) - Gizmodo
- [NASA: 2016 El Nino "has legs"](#) - KBTX
- [What Happened To El Niño?](#) - CBS Local
  
- [Floods in California](#) - PPIC
  
- [Behind the levees: Flood risk can be higher with levees than without them](#) - Science Daily
- [Sacramento Levee Repairs Are In President's Proposed Budget](#) - Capital Public Radio
- [Flood risk can be higher with levees than without them](#) - Phys.Org

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