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## CALENDAR ALERTS

- March 1**  
[Public Hearing](#) to Consider [Proposed Spray Applications Permit](#), 9:00 am, CalEPA, Coastal Hearing Room 1001 I St., Sacramento.
- \*\*March 9**  
Delta Flood Assessment District Study Meeting, 900 N. St., Sacramento, 9:00 am.
- \*\*March 10**  
Lower San Joaquin RFMP Project Selection, 22, E. Weber Ave, Rm 166, 1:30 pm.
- March 16**  
[CCVFCA 2016 Flood Forum](#), 10:00 am-1:30 pm, Red Lion Hotel, 500 Leisure Lane, Sacramento.
- \*\*March 17**  
[Delta Protection Commission Meeting](#), 5:30 pm-7:30 pm, The Ryde Hotel, 14340 CA –160, Ryde.
- 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.
- \*\*March 23**  
CVFPP Executive Committee Meeting, 1:30 pm, 3310 El Camino Ave., Rm 130, Sacramento.
- \*\*March 24**  
[Delta Stewardship Council Meeting](#), West Sacramento City Hall Galleria, 1110 West Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento.
- \*\*March 25**  
[CVFPP Regular Business Meeting](#), 9:00 am, 915 I St., Sacramento.
- April 20-21**  
[CA Water Policy Conference](#), [UC Davis Conference Center](#).

\*\* = New Calendar Alert

## **KEEPING UP**

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

### **Federal Funding Appropriated for Central Valley Flood Control Projects**

Congress has appropriated 2016 funding for several local flood control projects in the Army [Corp of Engineer's FY 2016 work plan](#), including construction-related activities to improve 24 miles of levees surrounding the Natomas basin. The Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) has already completed work on more than one-third of the Natomas levees.

Studies and projects in the region that were allocated funding include:

- Folsom Dam auxiliary spillway construction (\$71.9 million)
- Folsom Dam raise design and construction (\$18.6 million)
- Hamilton City flood risk reduction/ecosystem restoration construction (\$15 million)
- American River Common Features (Natomas Basin) levee improvement design and construction start (\$14.5 million)
- Marysville ring levee construction (\$7.3 million)
- Sacramento River bank protection construction (\$6 million)
- Yuba River restoration feasibility study (\$700,000)
- Lower Cache Creek feasibility study (\$570,000)
- Sacramento River General Reevaluation study (\$500,000)
- Sutter flood risk reduction continue design (\$100,000)

Sacramento [Congresswoman Doris Matsui](#) also praised President Obama's FY 2017 budget proposal released on February 9<sup>th</sup> that requests an additional \$20.7 million to complete the Folsom Dam auxiliary spillway, and funding for ongoing construction projects in Folsom, Hamilton City, Marysville, and Natomas.

### **Flood Insurance Purchases on the Rise**

According to a FEMA spokesperson, Californians are taking the warnings about El Nino very seriously based upon the surge in the number of people purchasing flood insurance during the past four months. The number of policies jumped 24% between August and December 2015, for a total of 285,137 now providing coverage statewide, with 27,000 new policies purchased in December alone.

### **Political Muscle Flexing to Build Dams Instead of Trains**

Critics of high-speed rail are partnering with agriculture interests to gather signatures for an initiative that if approved by voters would divert \$8 billion in unsold rail bonds approved by voters in 2008 to fund water storage projects instead. The initiative would also shift \$2.7 billion in Prop. 1 water storage money just approved in 2014, which has interests already fully engaged in building Sites Reservoir and Temperance Flat Dam worried this could disrupt the CA Water Commission's current process to allocate bond funds early next year. Half of the re-allocated money would go to specific projects including raising Shasta Dam, expanding San Luis Reservoir, and building new storage facilities near the Sacramento River and on the San Joaquin River. The other half of the money is not specifically designated, but could be used for other water supply projects such as capturing runoff in urban areas.

In addition, the [proposed water initiative](#) would amend the constitution to establish domestic water use and irrigation as the first- and second-highest priorities – elevating them above environmental conservation. Transportation interests believe voters will be concerned that the water proposal overreaches by rewriting water long-standing prioritization laws and shifting costs of water projects historically paid by water users to taxpayers.

Meanwhile, this money grab is on a fast track of its own with \$2 million to fund a signature-gathering campaign, initiative proponents claim to already have 500-700 people in the field on any given day collecting the 585,000 signatures needed by July 25<sup>th</sup> to qualify for the November ballot.

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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.)

- [Disastrous 1986 storms still impact Northern California today](#) - KCRA 3
- [Sacramento agencies ask: Why release water from Folsom Lake during drought?](#) - Sacramento Bee
- [Could high-speed rail help farmers get more water?](#) - Visalia Times-Delta
- [Proposal would shift bullet train funding for use on new water projects](#) - LA Times
- [Bay Area weather: New radar better predicts just where and just how much rain to expect](#) - San Jose Mercury News
- [Researchers seek the science behind El Niño](#) - New York Times
- [What happened to the "Godzilla" El Niño?](#) - CBS News
- [Where is El Nino?](#) - ABC10
- [EL NINO: New flood insurance signups set record](#) - The Press Enterprise
- [FEMA: Strong El Niño has California residents buying more flood ...](#) - 13abc Action News
- [Threat of El Niño triggered record increase in flood insurance policies in California](#) - San Gabriel Valley Tribune

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