

CALENDAR ALERTS

- Mar. 30th** - Water storage [project application workshop](#), 1001 I St., Sacramento, 9:30 am
- Mar. 31st** - [Comments due](#) for Draft Central Valley Protection Plan Update and EIR.
- April 5th** - EPA [workshop](#), funding stormwater projects, 1515 Clay St., Oakland, 9am-5pm
- May 9th** - ACWA Spring [Conference](#), Monterey

** = [New Calendar Alert](#)

FEATURED ASSOCIATE MEMBER



Thank you to Mead & Hunt for their "Gold Level" Sponsorship at our Annual Flood Forum

KEEPING UP

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

Flood Control Infrastructure is Hot Topic

Governor Proclamations, Federal Disaster Declarations, Legislative Hearings, Flood Reports, and Flood Forum illustrate the level of interest in flood risk when serious high water events occur. While this is a hot topic now, can the level of interest be sustained long enough to gain political support to pay for repairs and long term maintenance of the Central Valley's levee and bypass systems? The Central Valley and Delta levees performed relatively well in this year's storms, but not without experiencing widespread and significant damage that may prevent levees from doing as well in the next high water event unless emergency levee repairs are completed before then. Will sufficient funding necessary to implement immediate repair of damaged levees be provided before political and public interest wanes? If not, can these damaged levees withstand the next big storm?

Governor Issues New Emergency Proclamation

Governor Brown issued two more proclamations on [March 7, 2017](#), declaring a state of emergency due to January and February storms and sent another [letter to President Trump](#) on March 19, 2017 requesting a Major Disaster Declaration to financially assist state and local recovery efforts from damage to critical infrastructure associated with statewide mudslides, power outages, and levee breaches and flooding. These new declarations are intended to extend and expand the level of federal aid beyond the assistance for the Oroville spillway incident that was [approved last month](#) by President Trump.

The Governor's recent letter describes widespread damage that was constant and continuous due to unprecedented precipitation and reservoir releases, and specifically mentions levee breach on Tyler Island, and estimates damage assessments totaling more than \$539 million. However, this is but a [fraction of the billions of dollars needed](#) for the long term protection of Central Valley residents and economy from floods.

The 2017 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) update estimates up to \$21 billion needed over 30 years for upkeep of the State Plan of Flood Control system of levees and bypasses. A [joint analysis](#) by DWR and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) identified costs of more than \$50 billion in a 2013 report, "[California's Flood Future](#)."

To facilitate flood control funding discussions taking place in State legislative budget committees, the independent Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) released a new report this week providing basic information about flood risks, costs, programs, and responsible agencies, "[Managing Floods in California](#)." While the report acknowledges that the maintenance and improvement of the state's flood control system is [underfunded](#), it concludes that the overall performance of the levees under these destructive conditions was admirable and therefore confirms the benefits of investing billions of dollars over the last decade. Questions about the report can be directed to [Rachel Ehlers](#).

Another Federal Disaster Declaration Approved for California

President Trump issued a third [major disaster declaration](#) for California pursuant to request of Governor Brown. Federal financial assistance from the U.S. [Small Business Administration](#) has also been requested for damage to homes and businesses in Colusa, Lake, Lassen, Plumas, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz counties from localized flooding.

Farmers in northern California are now eligible to apply to U.S. Department of Agriculture ([USDA](#)) for [damages](#) associated with this year's flood events. Emergency low interest loans from the Farm Service Agency are available to growers who suffered at least a 30% loss of primary crop or income in counties approved in federal declaration.

Legislative Budget Committees Postpone Votes on Approving Prop. 1 Allocations

The Governor's proposal to [accelerate Prop. 1 appropriations](#) for flood control was on the [Senate](#) (pages 12-15) and [Assembly](#) (pages 2-6) agendas for the budget subcommittees for resources. [Chapter 11](#) of Prop. 1 authorizes \$295 for Delta levees and \$100 million for other flood control projects in the rest of the state. Both committees decided to "Hold Open" the budget item, which means the vote will be delayed until they receive more details regarding a plan from DWR for the expenditure of the bond funds. Both committee staff reports questioned whether projects could be initiated in the 2-year timeline sought by the Governor, and the Assembly document also questioned the rationale of the funding categories and expressed concerns with lack of budget control language that defines how and where funds would be expended.

CCVFCA Flood Forum Discusses Long Term Flood Protection Investment Strategies

At the CCVFCA annual Flood Forum on March 15, 2017, a panel of speakers provided state and local perspectives on potential federal, state, and local funding sources and [financing mechanisms](#) being considered in long-term investment strategies for the operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, and rehabilitation of the levee and bypass systems in the Delta and State Plan of Flood Control.

Mary Jimenez, DWR Flood Planning Branch Chief gave a presentation on the new fees and State Flood Insurance Program proposed in the investment strategy [2017 update](#) of the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) and recently released [Investment Strategy](#) Technical Memorandum. Delta Protection Commission (DPC) Executive Director Erik Vink talked about additional funding mechanisms for Delta levees being evaluated in a [feasibility study](#). Seth Wurzel with Larsen Wurzel & Associates gave a presentation on local fiscal considerations that led into urban and rural perspectives on state liability and responsibility provided by SAFCA Director of Planning Tim Washburn and ability to pay by RD 563 (Tyler Island) trustee Steve Mello.

Local representatives emphasized the importance of identifying what types of activities would be funded by the new fees and having local representation involved in governing distribution of those revenues. All speakers agreed that long term funding stability is necessary and that further development of any new funding mechanisms must involve the participation of local agencies and landowners.

CWC Announces Accepting Water Storage Project Applications

The CA Water Commission announced it is now accepting applications from proponents of new water storage projects for \$2.7 billion in bond funding authorized in [Chapter 8](#) of Prop. 1. The Commission is hosting a workshop about [application process](#) on [March 30th](#) in Sacramento. The application period will be open through August 14, 2017. f

General Manager Position Open

Reclamation District 1500/Sutter Mutual Water Company is seeking a General Manager (GM) to replace the retiring manager. Duties include management of a large public flood control and drainage district and private mutual water (irrigation) company in rural Sutter County and implementing policies as directed by the Board of Directors for the two separate organizations. The GM also serves as Secretary/Treasurer of the respective Boards of Trustees and Directors, so applicants must have experience with financial management and accounting systems. Interaction with state and federal agencies also requires proficiency in written and oral communication. Candidates must have 6-10 years of management experience with a flood control or water supply agency and a degree in business management or in engineering or related field is preferred. To apply, send resume to: RD 1500/SMWC: Personnel Committee; P.O. Box 96; Robbins, CA 95676. Personal contact: Max Sakato at (916) 765-0187.

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.)

- [Oroville Dam: A story of a catastrophe told through photos](#) - KSBW
- [Farmers and fishermen weigh in on Trump's Clean Water Act order](#) - ABC 10
- [ACWA and Others Request Federal Regulatory Flexibility for Oroville Dam Repairs](#) - ACWA
- [Guest View: Be wary of those politicizing Oroville Dam crisis](#) - Appeal-Democrat
- [San Joaquin County works to tally storm damages](#) - Lodi News-Sentinel
- [Oroville Dam Emergency: How Civil Engineering Failures Advance the Industry](#) - IT Business Net
- [Oroville Spillway: What you need to know for March 5](#) - KRCR TV
- [Jamie Johansson: Oroville shows need for flood-control projects](#) - Monterey Herald
- [Crews clear 20% of debris at base of Lake Oroville spillways](#) - KCRA
- [Why farmers and ranchers think the EPA Clean Water Rule goes too far](#) - KVIE
- [Clean Water Rule Repeal Cannot Come as a Pen Stroke](#) - Circle of Blue
- [OROVILLE DAM, Monday afternoon: Progress continues; crews prepare channel for larger flows \(with pictures and video\)](#) - Maven's Notebook
- [After Oroville, a flood policy for both deluge and drought](#) - Sacramento Bee
- [Water: One topic, different views shared at 25th NCWA annual meeting](#) - Oroville MR
- [Sinking ground near El Nido could impact flood fighting](#) - Merced Sun-Star
- [Oroville Dam: Farmers blame sudden spillway shut off for eroded riverbanks](#) - Sacramento Bee
- [Live Oak farmer's devastated property along Feather River](#) - Sacramento Bee
- [Water flowing through Oroville Dam powerhouse again](#) - Chico ER
- [Oroville's riverbend park repairs estimated to Cost \\$8 million](#) - Chico ER
- [Riverbanks collapse after Oroville Dam spillway shut off](#) - SF Chronicle
- [Sacramento River in Shasta County reopens to the public](#) - KRCR TV
- [Officials' Safety Assurances on Oroville Dam Won't Hold](#) - Water - News Max
- [Heavy outflows create damage along the Feather River](#) - KRCR TV
- [Southern Sierra snow is at 200 percent](#) - Kaweah Commonwealth
- [Governor declares state of emergency for storm-wracked reservoir](#) - SF Gate
- [Key Oroville drain plugged as heavy storms pounded the reservoir](#) - News Deeply
- [Farmer volunteer to monitor levees](#) - Ag Alert
- [Flood control benefits from new storage projects debated](#) - Capital Press
- [OROVILLE DAM, Wednesday evening: DWR to continue work on debris pile in diversion pool \(with pictures and video\)](#) - Maven's Notebook
- [Overhaul California's water system with 21st century flood solutions](#) - Sacramento Bee
- [Lake Oroville At Highest Level In Nearly 3 Weeks, Spillway Work Continues](#) - Capital Radio
- [Oroville Dam: DWR says repair cost estimated at \\$4.7 million per day](#) - Mercury News
- [Lake Oroville outflows match inflows as cleanup continues](#) - KCRA
- [Engineers give Americas infrastructure a near failing grade](#) - CNBC
- [California transitions from severe drought to flooding—The CRC Connection](#)
- [California Storms: Wettest water year so far in 122 years of Record](#) - Mercury News
- [After near-record Northern California may storms, signs of El Niño rise](#) - SF Gate
- [Damaged Oroville Dam spillway may not be used by next week, state officials say](#) - LA Times
- [Local floods are having a lasting effect on agriculture industry](#) - Lodi News
- [Snowpack's Water Content Far Above Average](#) - Placer Sentinel
- [Association Calls for Flood Control through Temperance Flat](#) - California Ag Today
- [Capital Journal: Will California spend more on water projects? 'It all depends on how thirsty the governor is,' De León says](#) - LA Times
- [Is there too much water behind Oroville Dam? Critics say Army Corps standards unsafe](#) - Sacramento Bee
- [Feather River saw increased outflow Saturday-public warned to stay away](#) - Sacramento Bee
- [Photos taken weeks before Oroville Dam Spillway broke show something wrong](#) - The Reporter
- [San Joaquin River Likely To Stay Swollen Until Mid-Summer](#) - CBS Local
- [Wary Tranquility residents watch weakened levee as flood threat recedes-for now](#) - Fresno Bee
- [Fearing flood, Corcoran raises levee](#) - Hanford Sentinel
- [Another Yolo Bypass fish underway. Will it be the last?](#) - Sacramento Bee
- [With snow melting, Oroville managers plan to use mangled spillway](#) - SF Gate
- [Editorial: Taxpayers deserve transparency on Oroville expenses](#) - Eastbay Times
- [Is there too much water behind Oroville dam?](#) - Emergency Management
- [Evading Dam-Nation to Build a Working Floodplain on the Cosumnes River-](#) California water Blog
- [The Changing Conversation in the Sacramento Valley](#) - NCWA
- [Breathing Room-but not enough](#) - esanjoaquin.com
- [Nevada dam in race against Sierra snowmelt](#) - Reno Gazette-Journal
- [Water releases to increase at Oroville Dam Friday](#) - KRCR TV
- [California's Delta Pumping Station Closed for Repair, Officials Say No Supply Shortage Expected](#) - andhowuknow
- [THIS JUST IN ... Oroville Dam, Friday noon: Water to flow down spillway today; Spill event to last five to six days](#) - Maven's Notebook
- [Photo Gallery this weekend at Oroville Dam](#) - Maven's Notebook
- [Oroville Dam operators forced to send more water](#) - SF Gate
- [Repair cost for troubled Oroville Dam will run 'much higher' than \\$200 million, officials say](#) - La Times
- [State expects variety of large, small projects to seek Prop. 1 funds](#) - Capital Ag Press
- [Governor Brown Requests Presidential Declaration For Oroville Dam Spillway](#) - CBS Local
- [River running high as DWR opens space in lake Oroville](#) - Chico ER
- [California May Leave Federal Flood Insurance Program And Go It Alone](#) - Capital Radio
- [LA mayor declares emergency on potential aqueduct flooding due to 'historic' winter storms](#) - LA Daily News
- [PHOTOS: Oroville Spillway Damage Reveals Challenges of Aging Water Infrastructure](#) - BreitBart
- [California drought's biggest lesson? Build more water storage](#) - Record Searchlight
- [Official: Calif. Faces \\$50B Price Tag for Flood Control](#) - constructionequipmentguide.com
- [Los Angeles Moves to Prevent Flooding in Area Near Aqueduct](#) - US News
- [Trump's cut to flood map program could trigger insurance rate hikes: group](#) - Reuters
- [Saving Water for the Future: California Needs Storage Reservoir](#) - NCWA
- [What this week's storms mean for California's flood control system](#) - Sacramento Bee
- [Were fish cause of Oroville Dam Disaster](#) - California Ag Today
- [Scientists Are Asking if Rapidly Filling the Reservoir Can Produce a Damaging Earthquake](#) - News Blaze
- [Oroville Dam power plant back on line, water level being dropped in reservoir](#) - HydroWorld
- [A review of pending Delta Plan Amendments](#) - Maven's Notebook
- [Lake Oroville inflows double in 24 hours, near 45cfs outflow](#) - Chico ER
- [San Joaquin River Flowing Fast After Heavy Rain This Winter and Melting Snow](#) - ABC 30
- [Editorial: DWR's handling of Oroville Dam crisis keeps getting worse](#) - East Bay Times
- [Redding rainfall hits milestone](#) - Record Searchlight
- [Higher And Higher: New Floodplain Construction Rules For California](#) - Capital Radio
- [Advocates Push for Big Federal Investment in Water Infrastructure](#) - Public News Service