

## CALENDAR ALERTS

### **September 23**

Comment Deadline for the Delta Independent Science Board draft, Adaptive Management in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta HOW IT CAN BE USED AND HOW IT CAN BE IMPROVED? - [Click Here](#) to review the draft report. To comment please [Click Here](#)

### **September 23**

Infrastructure "Funding Fair," Sacramento County Sanitation, 10060 Goethe Rd, 8:30 am – Noon. Registration Required: <https://www.events.rcac.org/assnfe/ev.asp?MODE=&ID=497>

### **September 25**

CVFPB will hold their regular business meeting at 9:00 am at the Sacramento City Hall Council Chambers, 915 I Street, Sacramento, CA. Please [Click Here](#) for agenda.

### **September 29**

Delta Science Program [seminar](#) on species impacts from historical Delta reclamation and water supply export system, 12:00-1:00 pm, 980-9<sup>th</sup> St, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Sacramento.

### **October 13**

San Joaquin Co. Preseason Flood Coordination meeting, 9:00-11:00 am, Cabral Center (SJC EOC), 2101 E. Earhart Ave, Assembly Room 3, Stockton. Click [here for meeting flyer](#)

### **October 9**

[Deadline to submit comments](#) on [CA WaterFix 404 permit](#) application submitted by DWR to USACE for construction of new conveyance facilities in the Delta.

### **October 15**

Sutter Region Preseason Flood Coordination Meeting, 9:00-11:30 am, Whiteaker Hall, 44 Second St, Yuba City.

### **October 22**

Sacramento Region Preseason Flood Coordination Meeting, 9:00-11:30 am, CVRWB, 11020 Sun Center Dr, Rancho Cordova

### **October 29**

Public Workshop on Folsom Dam Water Control Manual Update, 9:00am-Noon, Sterling Hotel, 1300 H St., Sacramento.

### **October 30**

Deadline has been extended 60 days to comment on BDCP's new Preferred Project and EIR/EIS recirculation for public review. Documents and information about the new alternatives and where to submit written comments will be available on BDCP's website: <http://baydeltaconservationplan.com/2015PublicReview/PublicReviewRDEIRSDEIS/>

## FEATURED ASSOCIATE MEMBER



[www.mbkengineers.com](http://www.mbkengineers.com)

## KEEPING UP

### **Public Workshop Will Review Alternatives for Folsom Dam Manual Update**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, California Department of Water Resources, and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency invite interested stakeholders and the general public to attend a workshop on the Folsom Dam Water Control Manual Update (Manual Update) on October 29, 2015.

The purpose of this workshop is to:

- Present and discuss the results of the forecast and basin wetness alternatives;
- Present and discuss the environmental effects of the forecast and basin wetness alternatives; and
- Engage in a comparison of the two alternatives.

The workshop is scheduled for:

Date: Thursday, October 29, 2015  
Time: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
Location: Sterling Hotel, 1300 H Street, Sacramento, CA  
Parking: Public parking two blocks away at J and 13<sup>th</sup> Streets

There will be one more public workshop sometime in February or March of 2016 prior to the release of the Draft NEPA/CEQA documents on the Manual Update in June 2016. The feedback provided at the October and spring 2016 meetings will assist in the development of the preferred alternative.

**RSVP: Please RSVP by sending email to [ssherry@ccp.csus.edu](mailto:ssherry@ccp.csus.edu) with a simple "YES," "NO" or "MAYBE."**

Direct any questions regarding the workshop to: Cynthia Brooks, Senior Project Manager, Joint Federal Project, Sacramento District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, (916) 557-6745 or

[Cynthia.Brooks@usace.army.mil](mailto:Cynthia.Brooks@usace.army.mil). To review information previously provided on the Manual Update, [click here](#).

### **Levee Failure Affects on SWP/CVP Operations Not Analyzed in WaterFix DEIR/DEIS**

**Recent Delta Independent Science Board (ISB) comments on CA WaterFix 2015 Draft EIR/EIS**, declare the Current Draft falls short "as a basis for weighty decisions about natural resources." Despite recommendations made by the ISB after their prior reviews of previous drafts in 2012, 2013, and 2014, their most recent comments point out that the DEIR/DEIS documents neglect to address a number of problems inherited from the previous draft BDCP documents and still heavily rely on deferring analytical content to the Final EIR/EIS, resulting in the underlying science and true nature and severity of the environmental impacts unclear.

The primary concern with the 2015 WaterFix DEIR/DEIS is missing content; the Current Draft is "marred by key gaps in information, analyses, and summaries" and these various gaps "impede evaluation of the science that underpins the proposed project." Concise and clear summaries that compare the alternatives and their expected major impacts are not provided either. In addition, it also neglects to analyze how levee failures would affect SWP/CVP water operations or how the new water conveyance facilities would affect the costs of levee maintenance in the Delta.

Another significant area of deficiency mentioned is how CA WaterFix deals with adaptive management as the way to address uncertainties in the proposed project. The independent scientists raise concern that the Current Draft considers managing the context of regulations and permits (such as biological opinions) as adaptive management, rather than applied to assess and find ways to reduce the environmental impacts of the project construction and operations. They express further concern that adaptive management in the Current Draft continues to be considered largely in terms of how it is to be organized rather than how it is to actually be done; and recommend that the details of how monitoring and adaptive management will be done and resourced "should be developed at the outset (now) so they can be better reviewed, improved, and integrated into related Delta activities."

Conclusions reached in the ISB report on the 2015 DEIR/DEIS regarding concerns over inadequacy of the scientific foundation include among other items:

- Far-reaching decisions about CA WaterFix should not hinge on environmental documents that scientists, let alone the general public or impacted parties, can grasp.
- An environmental document this complex, important, and expensive needs concise but meaty summaries; that facilitate comparisons of alternatives and express major uncertainties and assumptions.
- It is imperative that responsible agencies provide useful and readable reports, to support public and policy discussions and the reputations of the agencies themselves.
- Found few revisions in response to points previously raised about linkages among species, ecosystem components, or landscapes; or about the potential effects of changes in water availability on agricultural practices and the consequences in the Delta.
- Modeling was not used effectively enough in bracketing uncertainties or exploring how they may propagate, which is particularly concerning because no details on monitoring and adaptive management are provided; so there is no way to assess how, or whether, uncertainties will be dealt with effectively.
- The Final EIR/EIS needs to be far more specific on commitments and funding to make adaptive management and restoration science-based and likely to occur and be effective.
- Need to analyze long-term effects of the proposed project such as how the ending of more than a million acre-feet of overdraft in the southern Central Valley under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act is likely to increase demand for water exports from the Delta in coming decades.

### **CA WaterFix Releases Animations of Sacramento River Intakes, Flows and Forebay**

In connection with recent submissions by DWR and USBR for 404 permit under USACE and petition to SWRCB for change in diversion point for SWP/CVP water rights necessary to construct [CA WaterFix](#), [animated videos](#) showing the new intakes, expanded Clifton Court Forebay, and system flows have been posted. For those of us who are not engineers, these visual representations of the CA WaterFix facilities are very helpful to picturing the project.

## IN THE NEWS

(Clicking the links will take you to news organization websites, where you can read the full stories. CCVFCFA is not responsible for content on these external sites.)

[Study Claims Sierra Snowpack is Lowest in 500 Years](#)

[Bipartisan Group of State Legislators Request Special Session on Drought](#)

[NASA Provides More Details on Technology Used in Recent Radar Analysis of Delta Levees](#)

[Science Panel Criticizes Complexity and Quality of CA WaterFix Environmental Documents](#)

### **El Nino stories continue . . .**

- [El Nino increasing likelihood of wet California winter, though it won't end the drought - phys.org](#)
- [El Nino May not Help California Drought - INQUISITR](#)
- [Too early to hang our hopes on El Niño - Visalia Times-Delta](#)
- [El Nino almost certain; could mean drier, warmer winter for Northern Rockies - Independent Record](#)
- [Fire, flood and drought: In Calif., 'El Niño is a cruel system' - The Washington Post](#)
- [California Fears El Niño's Dark Side Will Bring More Trouble - Bloomberg Business](#)
- [Newport and Costa Mesa officials are bracing for El Niño - Daily Pilot](#)
- [North Coast may see later rains as El Niño conditions grow - Willits News](#)
- [Hopes high for a 'Super' El Niño - High Country News](#)
- [Chances of historic El Niño growing for California - SFGATE](#)
- [El Nino will cause MORE damage to parched California: Experts say weather system may bring another year of drought to the region - Daily Mail](#)
- [El Niño Brings Endless Summer—The Indy](#)

### **Second Wettest Day in L.A. History for September as Storm Moves Through SoCal**

- [El Niño DNA seen in Southern California storm, while northern part of state continues to burn - Mercury News](#)
- [Rain in Southern California leads to crashes, swift-water rescues - The Sun](#)
- [Record rain in Southern California could be sign of what's to come - The Sun](#)
- [Emergency Crews Called on for Multiple Swift-Water Rescues During SoCal Storm - KTLA 5](#)