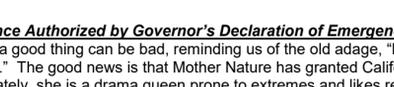


CALENDAR ALERTS

- **Feb. 9th** - Marysville hearing, draft 2017 CVFPP, 915-8th St, 6:00-8:00 pm
- **Feb. 16th** - DPC [Subcomm. mtg](#), Levee Funding [Feasibility Study](#), 1416-9th St., 10:30 am
- **Feb. 16th** - Merced hearing, draft 2017 CVFPP, 678 W. 18th St., 6:00-8:00 pm
- **Feb. 24th** - Sacramento hearing, draft 2017 CVFPP, 915 I St., 10:00 am - Noon
- **Mar. 1st** - Deadline to comment on DPC Levee Funding Feasibility Study and [Appendices](#)
- **March 3rd** - [Deadline](#) to comment on [O&M EIR](#) for SRFCP
- **March 9th** - Woodland hearing, draft 2017 CVFPP, 2001 East St., 6:00-8:00 pm
- Mar. 15th** - CCVFCA Annual [Flood Forum](#), 1:00 am - 1:30pm @ Holiday Inn Sacramento Downtown, 300 J Street, Sacramento.
- **Mar. 9th** - Stockton hearing, draft 2017 CVFPP, 2101 E. Earhart Ave., 10:00 am - Noon
- Mar. 31st** - [Comments due](#) for Draft Central Valley Protection Plan Update and EIR.
- ** = [New Calendar Alert](#)**

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KEEPING UP

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

Flood Damage Assistance Authorized by Governor's Declaration of Emergency
Sometimes, too much of a good thing can be bad, reminding us of the old adage, "Be careful what you wish for, lest it come true." The good news is that Mother Nature has granted California's wish for an end to the drought. Unfortunately, she is a drama queen prone to extremes and likes reminding us of her power.

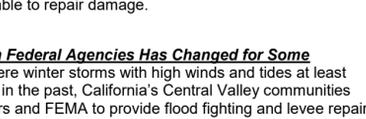
In response to severe winter storms moving across the state, on Monday, January 23, 2017, Governor Jerry Brown issued a [proclamation](#) declaring a state of emergency in 50 counties experiencing flash flooding, erosion, and substantial mud and debris flows.

The Governor ordered the Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) to provide assistance to counties, CalTrans to formally require immediate assistance from the Federal Highway Administration's Emergency Relief Program, and all state agencies to provide CalOES the use of their personnel, funding, equipment, and facilities. The process for counties to initiate the process of obtaining state and federal assistance as well as a Presidential Disaster Declaration is outlined in a CalOES report: [Emergency Proclamations](#).

With a few exceptions, the Central Valley's levees are performing well after abundant precipitation, high winds, and high tides. High flows on the Mokelumne River caused [overtopping of a levee](#) just north of Thornton. After three days of king tides and heavy rains in the Delta, levees on [Van Sickle and Grizzly Islands](#) have also been breached. Due to the extreme saturation of the levees, RDs are also reporting many locations where slipage or sink holes from burrowing animal dens are occurring. DWR has produced a [video](#) of recent flood conditions from Folsom Lake through the greater Sacramento region and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

While we currently have a reprieve from the rain, it is only temporary and conditions could become much worse if there is a convergence of three events. Now that [reservoirs have filled](#), operators are required to make flood releases pursuant to U.S. Army Corp of Engineers ([USACE](#)) [regulations](#). When Mother Nature turns on her faucet, the rain and runoff is added to the volumes released by the reservoirs. If warm temperatures or rain from a Pineapple Express start melting the 10-20 foot snowpack in the Sierras, then this volume of water will be added to the mix, creating a trifecta of dangerous flood flows.

State and local officials are still evaluating the full scope of the damage incurred so far, but estimate that the costs will run in the tens of millions of dollars. In the meantime, Reclamation Districts will be monitoring surface water levels and weather patterns provided on [CDEC](#) website hosted by DWR, staying in contact with State-Federal [Flood Operations Center](#) regarding new alerts and emergency response [coordination](#), and coordinating with state and federal agencies to access funding available to repair damage.



DWR photo, Oroville releases into Feather River.

Status of Federal Levee Repair Assistance from Federal Agencies Has Changed for Some
Mother Nature is fairly consistent on delivering severe winter storms with high winds and tides at least once a decade. When flood conditions got serious in the past, California's Central Valley communities could rely on both the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and FEMA to provide flood fighting and levee repair assistance. But things have changed since Hurricane Katrina, resulting in less certainty of federal funding to repair and rehabilitate damaged levees.

Which federal agency is responsible for providing funding for repair of damaged levees depends on whether a levee is "project" (SPFC) or "non-project" (private). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) only has jurisdiction over state-federal project levees which comprise the State Plan of Flood Control system. FEMA's program is only available for non-project levees. They each have different eligibility requirements.

[USACE's PL 84-99 program](#) only funds the repair of project levees that are damaged during a storm event, but does not cover damage from any other natural or man-made disasters, so earthquakes and sunny day failures like Upper Jones Tract are not eligible. The USACE will pay for 100% of the costs to rehabilitate/repair the levee to its pre-storm condition. To receive USACE financial assistance after a storm, the levees must be "Active" status by complying with the [125 inspection criteria](#) in PL 84-99. Currently, more than 70% of project levees in the State Plan of Flood Control system are not eligible because the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) have removed them from Active status in the levee repair program (PL 84-99). In addition, levees protecting primarily agricultural lands are unlikely to qualify for financial assistance from the program even if they are "Active" status because the reclamation district cannot pass the cost-benefit ratio required to receive funding.

Under FEMA's disaster assistance program, an area is only eligible for FEMA assistance after the President has issued [Declaration of Disaster](#), which must be preceded by State and County declarations. However, FEMA only funds the immediate repair of non-project levee breach and drainage until the threat to life and property is abated, but does not pay for the full rehabilitation (repair) of the levee once the emergency threat is mitigated.

For the legal Delta, FEMA specifically requires non-project levees to meet a geometry and stability standard established specifically for the Delta, [Bulletin 192-82](#). This condition for obtaining funding from [FEMA's Public Assistance Program](#) for [levees and other flood control works](#) was memorialized in a [MOU with FEMA](#). In exchange, FEMA will pay for damage associated with storms or other events, including earthquakes and sunny day failures, as long as Presidential declaration is issued. However, FEMA subsequently terminated the MOU, effective December 8, 2012, so there is uncertainty on whether financial aid will still be provided for flood fighting and repair of any non- project levees.

DWR Opens Gates on Sacramento Weir
Designed to only be operated when the Sacramento River reaches [29.87 feet at I Street Bridge](#) in downtown Sacramento, it's a rare occurrence – once a decade – when the gates on the Sacramento Weir are opened. In early January, DWR removed wood planks for the first time since 2006 to relieve pressure on the swollen Sacramento River by allowing water to flow into the Yolo Bypass. Thanks to drone technology, DWR released a [video](#) of their staff manually opening several of the gates.

Now that flood flows in the river have subsided, the [gates will be closed](#) by replacing boards in 10-12 gates each day until water stops flowing through the structure. The department estimates that about 800,000 acre feet of water passed through the weir while it was open. That's almost enough water to fill a completely dry Folsom Lake which has a holding capacity of 977,000 acre feet of water.

Draft Plan Released
A [2017 Draft](#) Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) and Supplemental Program [EIR](#) developed by DWR have been [released for public review](#) by the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Board). A technical memo will also be released soon describing in more detail the new fees and State Flood Insurance Program being proposed as potential mechanisms to fund the \$21 billion in long-term levee maintenance and system-wide improvements of the State Plan of Flood Control flood protection facilities over the next 30 years.

CCVFCA already submitted preliminary comments on the Administrative Draft of the plan and is working on additional comments for the new Draft, but also encourages Association members to attend one of five public outreach hearings scheduled for the Board to receive input before the deadline to [submit written comments](#) closes on March 31, 2017:

- February 9, 2017, **Marysville**, 6:00-8:00 pm
Yuba County Government Center, Board Chambers, 915-8th Street
- February 16, 2017, **Merced**, 6:00-8:00 pm
Merced Civic Center, 678 W. 18th Street
- February 24, 2017, **Sacramento**, 10:00 am – Noon
Sacramento City Hall, Council Chambers, 915 I Street
- March 9, 2017, **Woodland**, 6:00-8:00 pm
2001 East Street
- March 17, 2017, **Stockton**, 10:00 am – Noon
Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center, 2101 E. Earhart Ave., Suite 100

New Property and User Fees Proposed to Fund Long-Term Levee Maintenance
Because both DWR and the Delta Protection Commission (DPC) are proposing new fees on locals to fund the long term maintenance and improvement of the State Plan of Flood Control system, CCVFCA prepared a graph summarizing the [proposed fees](#).

DPC is having a Subcommittee meeting on [February 16th](#) from 10:30 am to noon at 1416-9th St., Room 1404-17 to discuss the levee funding mechanisms proposed in draft feasibility study and consider potential revisions to the report.

The deadline to submit written comments on the DPC fees is [March 1st](#) and comments are due [March 31st](#) on fees proposed in DWR's draft of 2017 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP).

DWR Evaluating Long-Term Environmental Impacts of O&M on SRFCP
As part of their [responsibility for conducting](#) the operation and maintenance (O&M) of State Plan of Flood Control (SPFC) facilities, in May 2015 DWR issued a [Notice of Preparation](#) to analyze how O&M of the Sacramento River Flood Control Project (SRFCP) facilities impacts the environment. To support the issuance of State permits and other discretionary regulatory decisions for the ongoing O&M of SRFCP facilities, DWR prepared an Environmental Impact Report ([EIR](#)) with [Appendices](#), which was released for 45-day public comment on January 18, 2017. The deadline to submit written comments is March 3, 2017 and should be sent to:

Mr. Scott Kranhold, Senior Environmental Scientist
Maintenance Environmental Support Branch
Division of Flood Management, Flood Maintenance Office
Department of Water Resources
3310 El Camino Ave., Room 140
Sacramento, CA 95821

Fax: (916) 574-0364 OR

Email: EPOM.DWRFM@water.ca.gov . Please include the project title in the subject line if emailed, with comments attached in Microsoft Word format, and include commenter's postal mailing address.

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.)

- [10+ Feet of Snow Bury California's Sierra Nevada as Heavy Rain Knocks Down Drought](#) - The Weather Channel
- ['Atmospheric Rivers' Bring Snow, Flood Threat to California](#) - NBC Los Angeles
- [Ahead Of Super Soaker, Officials Upping Water Releases Below Nimbus Dam](#) - CBS Local
- [California's Huge Storm Could Cause Disastrous Melting in the Mountains](#) - Wired
- [California braces for flooding, avalanches as Sierra gets slammed with rain, snow](#) - Washington Post
- [Mudslides, Flooding Reported in Southern California as New Levee Failure Fears Arise in Sacramento County](#) - Wunderground
- [Atmospheric river slams Northern California with rain, flooding](#) - abc 7
- [Sacramento Weir floodgates open for first time in 11 years](#) - The Weather Network
- [How the Sacramento weir works](#) - Sacramento Bee
- [Flood worries not over yet](#) - Recordnet.com
- [Sacramento avoids major flooding but risks remain](#) - Sacramento Bee
- [An Atmospheric River, Or A Pineapple Express, Explained](#) - Capitol Radio
- [Weekend Storm Prompts Flood Releases From Friant Dam](#) - KVPR
- [Story of the Year: Water \(Part Two\): Of levees and conservation](#) - Appeal-democrat
- [California Floods Its Fields to Keep Its Cities From Flooding](#) - Wired
- [Storm forces some from their homes in Rio Linda, Wilton](#) - KCRA
- [California Rainstorms Raise Reservoirs and Snowpack](#) - Rocklin Today
- [Feather River Rises While Yuba River Set To Flood Again](#) - Capitol Radio
- [From Drought to Deluge](#) - PPIIC
- [Rural hamlet of Wilton is epicenter of Sacramento flooding fears as Consumnes River swells](#) - Sacramento Bee
- [Southern California pounded by intense storm and flooding](#) - The Union Democrat
- [What is the state doing to help with flooding along Cosumnes River?](#) - abc 10
- [What is an Atmospheric River?](#) - Mother Nature Network
- [How massive was the California storm? Download the iRain app to find out](#) - University of California
- [Back-to-Back Storms Pound Northern California](#) - NBC News
- [California rainfall ebbs but flooding continues](#) - Reuters
- [Bay Area Storm: East Bay hammered by flooding, Niles Canyon Road reopened](#) - East Bay Times
- [Alan Stahler: Atmospheric rivers flow over county](#) - The Union
- [California's Stormwater regulations are a themselves a toxic mess](#) - News Deeply
- [NASA Says Pineapple Express Isn't Just A Stoner Comedy](#) - Inverse
- [Interior Secretary Sets Deadlines for Feds' Role in Delta Water Fix](#) - Independent News
- [California Conservation Corps Lays Sandbags to Help Protect Delta](#) - Fox 40
- [California is Due for a Megaflood](#) - Los Angeles Magazine
- [Swollen California Reservoirs Release Water](#) - Yahoo News
- [Latest: Chopper touring flood area spots woman in distress](#) - St. Louis Post-Dispatch
- [Storm surge: Levees under patrol as water problems in Delta grow](#) - recordnet.com
- [Northern California storms taper – but impact lingers](#) - Sacramento Bee
- [Emergency Levee Repairs Underway](#) - Register-Pajaronian
- [Before-and-after photos show California storm's insane impact on water levels](#) - SF Gate
- [Lawmakers Tour Sites Reservoir Project Area](#) - Fox 40
- [Editorial: Raging streams give argument for Sites](#) - Record Searchlight
- [MAP: Widespread flooding reported on the east side of Fresno and Clovis](#) - abc 30
- [Bay Area flooding: multiple Delta Levee breaches reported](#) - East Bay Times
- [Crews Continue to Monitor Lost Slough Levee](#) - Fox 40
- [Big river moves water every which way during flood control](#) - Daily Democrat
- [Water released from Shasta Spillway for first time in 6 years](#) - KRCR
- [Lost Slough levee breaks, but gets patched up for now](#) - Sacramento Bee
- [Delta levees laboring hard in storms aftermath](#) - Recordnet.com
- [DWR 'war room' keeping close eye on waterways](#) - KCRA
- [Rain, water release from Shasta Dam expected this week](#) - Record Searchlight
- [Group Looks For Weak Spots In Levee System](#) - Capital Radio
- [Supervisors will discuss intentional non-ag Delta flooding](#) - Recordnet.com
- [Napa's flood control bypass does its job](#) - Napa Valley Register
- [Sacramento County supervisors declare state of emergency](#) - Sacramento Bee
- [Levee breaks a sign of wetter times](#) - Recordnet.com
- [Officials tour levee repairs](#) - Register-Pajaronian
- [Heavy rains flood Glenn County roads](#) - KRCR
- [Flood Devastates Northern California in 1861-62](#) - JPR
- [Major winter storm blasts region; more on the way](#) - Daily Democrat
- [\\$122 million in CA storm damage](#) - Golden State Newspaper
- [Multi-benefit flood management exemplified by Yolo Bypass](#) - American Rivers
- [Winter storm howls through Davis](#) - The Davis Enterprise
- [First of 3 more storms hits California as drought retreats](#) - Savannah now
- [Southern California Pounded by Intense Storm and Flooding](#) - abc News
- [Widespread flooding, mudslides, evacuations as biggest storm in years batters California](#) - LA Times
- [Month's rains swamp most years' January figures](#) - SF Gate
- [After year's of drought, Sacramento confronts and old foe: Flood risk](#) - Sacramento Bee
- [Troubled waters: Storm breaks levees, floods roads in Lodi area and beyond](#) - Lodi News
- [Water levels for San Joaquin River are highest in years due to downpours and runoff](#) - abc 30
- [Study finds flood risk growing in the North, declining in the South](#) - Science Daily
- [Dramatic rescue video: Family of 4 trapped by deluge in Murrieta](#) - Murrieta Patch
- [Emergency crews work to recover two bodies submerged after weekend California storms](#) - LA Times
- [At Least 4 Reported Dead in California Storms](#) - abc News
- [Winter Storm Leo Kills at Least 5 in Snowy, Rainy Trek Across West, Plains, Midwest](#) - Weather.com
- [Officials begin closing gates of Sacramento Weir](#) - KRCA
- [Water district to search for new general manager after Helliiker accepts new job](#) - Times Standard
- [California's January Storms Lead to Big Snowpack Increases](#) - And now u know
- [South Sacramento Dries Out And Prepares For Next Round Of Storms](#) - Capital Radio
- [Levees breach along Mokelumne River, but pose little threat](#) - Lodi news
- [NASA 'pineapple express' animation gives satellite view of Calif. Deluge](#) - SF Gate
- [Delta Islanders repair after floods, look towards next forecast](#) - East Bay Times
- [Brian Hamilton: So much snow](#) - The Union
- [LA picks up pieces after storms trigger flooding, power outages](#) - Times-Herald
- [California Levees Most In Need Of Repair Lacking Funding](#) - CBS Sacramento
- [Commentary: January storms underline the need for new storage](#) - Ag Alert
- [Storms boost California Snowpack to nearly double average level](#) - Times of San Diego
- [Death toll climbs to at least 5 from California's stormiest winter in years](#) - LA Times
- [NEWS WORTH NOTING: Placer County water agencies join proposed Sites Reservoir project; Draft enviro docs for proposed reuse of oil field water in Kern-Tulare Area](#) - Maven's Notebook
- [Roseville, Placer to join Sites Reservoir effort. What it means for water storage plan.](#) - Sacramento Bee
- [Wasted Opportunity? Farmers Frustrated As Water From Recent Rains Released](#) - CBS Sacramento
- [Rescue raccoons from flooded bypass? No need, experts say.](#) - Sacramento Bee
- [San Joaquin River 6 feet below flood stage thru Lathrop](#) - Manteca Bulletin
- [Gov. Brown declares state of emergency following storm series](#) - 89.3 KPCC
- [NOAA's GOES-16 satellite sends first images of Earth](#) - NOAA
- [Flood Control Weir'd](#) - Northern California Water Blog
- [Yuba County Water Agency storm damage estimated at \\$3 million](#) - appeal-democrat.com
- [Reservoir and Water Conditions for January 23, 2017](#) - Maven's Notebook