

How Do You Spell F-L-O-O-D S-A-F-E-T-Y?

Decoding the “alphabet soup” of flood control agencies protecting California



DWR - Department of Water Resources

- Administers State funding programs for levee maintenance and repairs.
- Performs operations and maintenance (O&M) for State Plan of Flood Control (SPFC) bypass channels, structures, and certain levee segments.
- Coordinates flood forecasting, preparedness and floodfighting operations.
- Conducts bi-annual inspections of SPFC levees.
- Provides flood risk management planning, program level CEQA compliance, and hydraulic evaluation to guide flood system improvements.



CVFPB - Central Valley Flood Protection Board

- Responsible for maintaining integrity of all SPFC facilities, regulated streams, and designated floodways.
- Issues permits for actions encroaching upon SPFC flood control facilities.
- Provides lands, easements, relocations and funding for State's cost-share of Corps flood control projects.

LMA - Local Maintaining Agency

- Operates and maintains SPFC levees for CVFPB and locally owned non-project levees.
- Manages drainage of flood and stormwater.
- First responders in flood fighting efforts.

OES - Governor's Office of Emergency Services

- Coordinates emergency response in major disasters.
- Provides communication and equipment support to local agencies in emergencies.



FEMA - Federal Emergency Management Agency

- Issues flood risk maps designating areas requiring flood insurance.
- Administers federal flood insurance program.
- Provides emergency aid when federal disaster is declared.

USACE - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

- Inspects SPFC levees for compliance with Operation and Maintenance manual and to determine condition, risk, and eligibility for federal rehabilitation assistance.
- Partners with State and local agencies on flood system projects.
- Issues permits for SPFC alterations.
- Provides floodfighting assistance and levee repair funding for eligible agencies.
- Sets flood storage and release rules for reservoirs.



CALIFORNIA CENTRAL VALLEY
FLOOD CONTROL
ASSOCIATION

California Central Valley Flood Control Association

www.floodassociation.net

Major Milestones For Flood Control Agencies

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Early 1800s | - 1802: Corps of Engineers branch established in the U.S. Army to provide military construction and works of a “civil nature.” |
| Late 1800s | - 1850: Federal “Arkansas Act” allows the “reclamation” of swamp and overflow land. - 1861: State Flood Control Act and Reclamation District Act approved by Legislature, initiating active levee construction by locals to reclaim lands for farming. - 1883: State Engineer recommends flood control and navigation improvements on the Sacramento, Feather, Yuba, Bear Rivers, and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. |
| 1910s | - 1911: State Reclamation Board established by the Legislature. - 1917: Sacramento River Flood Control Project authorized by Congress. |
| 1920s | - 1929: The Army Corps of Engineers forms the Sacramento District. - 1929: State Emergency Council created by Legislature. |
| 1930s | - 1937: Congress approves Rivers and Harbors Act to build flood control projects. |
| 1940s | - 1944: Congress approves construction of Lower San Joaquin River Levees project, extending State Plan of Flood Control facilities south to Fresno. - 1945: California Disaster Council created by the Legislature. |
| 1950s | - 1953: State Reclamation Board assumes responsibility for ongoing maintenance and integrity of all State Plan of Flood Control facilities in MOU with U.S. Army Corps, agreeing to hold federal government harmless for future flood damages. - 1955: Congress approves the Flood Control and Coastal Emergency Act, a fund for emergency preparedness, repairs, and response to flood events (PL 84-99). - 1956: Gov. Goodwin Knight consolidates several state flood and water agencies, creating the Department of Water Resources (DWR). |
| 1960s | - 1968: Army Corps Sacramento District becomes second largest district office in the contiguous U.S. when a large portion of Los Angeles District territory is transferred. - 1968: Congress creates National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), offering homeowners insurance to protect against flood losses if city and county has adopted FEMA floodplain building regulations. |
| 1970s | - 1973: Delta Levees Subvention Program created by Legislature to provide state funding for improvement and maintenance of non-project levees in the Delta. |
| 1980s | - 1988: Legislature adopts Delta Flood Protection Act increasing state reimbursement to Delta LMAs for levee maintenance after serious flooding in 1986. |
| 1990s | - 1991: Legislature amends the Delta Levees Programs, increasing State’s cost-share, adding no net loss of habitat mandate, and \$3 million to mitigate past impacts. - 1997: State pays \$45 million settlement for SPFC levee failure in Yuba County. |
| 2000s | - 2004: State agrees to \$464 million settlement for flood damages (<i>Paterno</i>). - 2006: Voters approve Prop. 1E & 84 providing \$4.1 billion for flood risk reduction. - 2007: Legislature requires a Central Valley Flood Protection Plan, 200-year urban flood protection, and integration of land use decisions with flood risk reduction. - 2007: Legislature renames Reclamation Board to Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB), granting it independent floodplain and SPFC authority from DWR. |
| 2010 - present | - 2009: Legislature creates California Emergency Management Agency. - 2012: CVFPB adopts Central Valley Flood Protection Plan to guide management and improvements to the entire flood management system which includes the SPFC. - 2013: Legislature provides CVFPB greater enforcement authority to remove unpermitted SPFC encroachments. |