



**Informational Item:** Briefing on the Draft Central Valley Flood Protection Plan

The Department of Water Resources is required to prepare a comprehensive Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP). The CVFPP will describe a State Systemwide Investment Strategy for improving integrated flood management in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley. The document is being produced in coordination with federal, tribal, regional, and local entities, and other interested parties, and will guide many subsequent implementation activities.

DWR staff will brief the Commission on the key elements of the draft CVFPP, which will be submitted to the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Board - formerly the Reclamation Board) for adoption by July 1, 2012.

**Primary Goal:** Improve Flood Risk Management – Reduce the chance of flooding, and damages once flooding occurs, and improve public safety, preparedness, and emergency response

**Supporting Goals:** Improve Operations and Maintenance; Promote Ecosystem Functions; Improve Institutional Support; and Promote Multi-Benefit Projects

**Background**

A combination of events, including flooding related to Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, highlighted the vulnerability of the Central Valley to catastrophic flooding resulting loss of life and property and major impacts to the financial stability of the State. Following the passage of Proposition 1E in 2006 and enactment of major flood legislation in 2007, DWR embarked on a program to improve integrated flood management within the Central Valley. The CVFPP is intended as a sustainable, integrated flood management plan that describes existing flood risk and guides State, federal, and local actions for improving flood management. The first version of the plan is to be completed in 2012 and updated every five years thereafter.

The CVFPP will recommend actions to reduce current flood risks and describe a framework for implementing future improvements. The CVFPP is focusing on the identification of potential improvements to the State Plan of Flood Control. Some of these improvements will be considered for implementation following adoption of the CVFPP, while much of the plan will be further developed in the 2017 and future updates. The integrated, multi-benefit approach

includes developing environmental conservation strategies that can help improve long-term flood system sustainability while providing options for addressing long-term compliance with environmental regulations associated with operations and maintenance. The CVFPP is also to consider:

- State cost-sharing approach – The CVFPP will present system-wide benefits analysis approach, forming the basis for state financial participation in future flood management projects in the Central Valley.
- Sustainable financing – Successful implementation of the CVFPP will require sustainable funding for projects and operations and maintenance. A financing strategy will recognize the need to balance state, federal, and local funding mechanisms, including assessments, bonds, fees, federal appropriations, and public-private partnerships.
- Conservation Framework – A Central Valley Flood System Conservation Strategy is being developed by DWR for consideration in helping to meet the environmental objectives of the Central Valley Flood Protection Act of 2008 and provide system-wide environmental support.

The CVFPP is also addressing numerous challenges and concerns in the Central Valley including climate change, vegetation management, level of flood protection, and financing and revenue.

#### **Recommended Action**

Informational item. DWR intends to deliver the draft Plan to the Board in January 2012 for consideration and adoption. The Water Commission may choose to present its views and recommendations to the Board at that time.

#### **Contact**

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