



Informational Briefing the California Water Commission's responsibilities related to Delta Special Flood Control Projects

Background

The Delta Levees Special Flood Control Projects provides engineering, environmental, and financial assistance to local levee maintaining agencies for repair and rehabilitation of levees in the Delta. The program was established by the California Legislature under SB 34 (1988) and subsequently amended by SB 1065 (1991) and AB 360 (1996).

Since the inception of the program in 1989, the state has provided more than \$250 million to local agencies in the Delta for flood control and related habitat projects. The Special Project program is authorized in the California Water Code, Sections 12300 through 12318. The intent of Legislature, as stated in the Water Code, is to preserve the Delta as it exists at the present time.

In the past, the program focused on flood control projects and related habitat projects for the eight western Delta Islands--Bethel, Bradford, Holland, Hotchkiss, Jersey, Sherman, Twitchell and Webb Islands--and for the towns of Thornton and Walnut Grove. The passage of Propositions 1E and 84 provided that all Delta local agencies meeting the definition of California Water Code 12980(c) may participate in the Special Projects program.

The Water Commission has a statutory responsibility to approve the list of areas where flood control work is needed to protect public facilities or provide public benefits. Specifically, Water Code §12313 states:

(a) The department shall develop a list of areas where flood control work is needed to protect public facilities or provide public benefits. In developing the list, the department shall consult with all appropriate federal, state, and local agencies. The list shall establish a priority for the areas based upon both of the following:

- (1) The importance or degree of public benefit needing protection.*
- (2) The need for flood protective work.*

(b) The list shall be submitted to the California Water Commission for approval, and shall be updated by the department, with the approval of the California Water Commission, as the department may deem appropriate.

Representatives from DWR's Delta Levees Special Flood Control Projects will provide an overview of the projects and brief the Commission on their responsibilities related to the projects.

Contact

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