



## Update on Delta Levees Special Projects Program

### Background

The Delta Levees Special Flood Control Projects provide 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).

At the Commission's January 2012 meeting, DWR Program Manager for the Delta Levees Program Mike Mirmazaheri provided a briefing on the program including DWR and Water Commission authority under the California Water Code, and current and future activities.

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.*

Approximately \$250 million has been expended or committed since the Delta Levees Program's inception. In January 2012, DWR released its most recent Project Solicitation Package (PSP) for the Program. This round of funding will provide \$50 million for levee repair and improvement projects that improve the stability of the Delta levee system to the Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) standard. (The HMP standard is a set of criteria that enables local agencies to be eligible for FEMA funding in a flood

emergency.) The proposals by local agencies will also include measures to restore the ecosystem of the Delta. Project proposals are due to DWR by February 27, 2012.

Applications will be evaluated and ranked based on a set of Near Term Guidelines that were adopted by DWR following a public process in 2010. These guidelines set forth the purpose, process, and requirements for the Special Projects selection and expenditure of funds. Project funding is based on appropriations by the Legislature and availability of cash flow released to DWR by the State Controller. DWR staff will evaluate and rank the proposals based on compliance with the PSP and the guidelines. The list will then be sent to the Director of DWR for approval and presented to the Water Commission, likely at the June 20, 2012 meeting.

#### **Attachments**

[Projects Solicitation Package for Hazard Mitigation Plan Levee Repair and Improvements Projects](#)

#### **Contact**

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