



Action Item: Consideration of Priority List for Delta Levees Special Projects Funding

Background

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

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.

In January 2012, DWR released its most recent Project Solicitation Package (PSP) for the Program, and accepted project proposals through February 27. This round of funding will provide approximately \$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 also include measures to restore the Delta ecosystem. A set of Near Term Guidelines, setting forth the purpose, process, and requirements for the Special Projects selection and expenditure of funds, were adopted by DWR following a public process in 2010.

DWR staff has evaluated and ranked 26 proposals submitted by the local agencies based on compliance with the PSP and the guidelines. At the Commission's June 20 meeting, DWR staff briefed the Commission on the projects, evaluation process, and their funding recommendations to the Director. At this meeting, the Commission will vote on the Priority List for Delta Levees Special Projects Funding.

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Attachments

Draft Funding Priority List

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