

Draft Conservation Strategy Review Guidance

Thank you for your interest in the *Draft Central Valley Flood System Conservation Strategy*. This document provides guidance for reviewing and commenting on the document.

Overview

Historically, the Central Valley has experienced some of California's largest and most damaging floods. The devastating effects of floods on life and property in the Central Valley and on the state's economic prosperity inspired California's passage of the Central Valley Flood Protection Act (Act) of 2008. The Act requires the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to develop a sustainable, integrated flood management plan – the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP). The Act also identifies three environmental objectives:

- Promote natural dynamic hydrologic and geomorphic processes;
- Increase and improve the quantity, diversity, and connectivity of riparian, wetland, floodplain, and shaded riverine aquatic habitats, including the agricultural and ecological values of these lands; and
- Promote the recovery and stability of native species populations and overall biotic community diversity.

In order to achieve these environmental objectives, DWR has developed the *Central Valley Flood System Conservation Strategy* (Conservation Strategy), which is an integral component of the 2017 CVFPP. The Conservation Strategy is a planning document that provides the system-wide context and direction for DWR's environmental activities related to improving integrated flood management in the Central Valley flood management system.

Specifically, the purpose of the Conservation Strategy is to provide:

- A comprehensive, long-term approach for improving riverine and floodplain ecosystems, through multi-benefit projects that provide ecological benefits while protecting public safety;
- A regional programmatic framework for increasing the predictability and cost-effectiveness of permitting, while resulting in more effective and less costly conservation outcomes; and
- Contextual information and tools for use in planning and permitting processes.

Recent Presentations

DWR provided an overview, application examples, and a description of next steps for the Conservation Strategy at a Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPP) workshop in February.

- [February 13, 2015 presentation](#)

DWR staff also made several presentations to the CVFPB in 2014. These presentations provide context on the Conservation Strategy development process and the document itself, and can be viewed online at the following links:

- [December 19, 2014 CVFPB meeting \(2:23:49\)](#)
- [October 24, 2014 CVFPB meeting \(00:24:58\)](#)
- [August 22, 2014 CVFPB meeting \(01:43:46\)](#)

Public Review Process

The draft document, executive summary, and appendices are now available on DWR's website at: http://www.water.ca.gov/conservationstrategy/cs_new.cfm.

Comments may be submitted until September 14th, 2015.

DWR will consider comments received on the Draft Conservation Strategy when developing the Final Draft Conservation Strategy and integrating it into the 2017 CVFPP. DWR will not respond to individual comments.

Review Guidance

When providing comments, please consider the following:

- Comments should be concise and focus specifically on the content of the Conservation Strategy.
- Where applicable, comments should identify the specific part(s) of the Conservation Strategy at issue.
- DWR is also interested in receiving comments on the extent to which the Public Draft Conservation Strategy achieves its intended purpose.

How to Submit Comments

You may submit comments by email to Stacy Cepello at info-fessro@water.ca.gov, or by postal mail at the following address:

FESSRO
Floodway Ecosystem Sustainability Branch
P. O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA
94236-0001

Attention: Stacy Cepello