



Bulletin 69-95  
October 2003

State of California  
The Resources Agency  
Department of Water Resources

# California High Water

Gray Davis  
Governor  
State of California

Mary D. Nichols  
Secretary for Resources  
The Resources Agency

Michael J. Spear  
Interim Director  
Department of Water Resources



**COVER PHOTO:**  
Western Placer County's  
Dry Creek produced  
record flooding in  
portions of the City of  
Roseville.

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# Foreword

Bulletin 69-95 is the twentieth in a series documenting high water and flood events. The bulletin focuses on meteorological and hydrological accounts of the January and March 1995 floods and other flood-related events during the 1994/95 water year. It also includes a summary of the Department of Water Resources' coordinated flood emergency response as directed from the State-Federal Flood Operations Center and in the field.

Severe storms over Northern and Central California resulted in widespread flooding over many of Northern and Central California's hydrologic basins, while isolated incidents occurred in Southern California south of the Tehachapi Mountains.

Forecasters were able to predict the magnitude of many of the resulting flood flows during the January and March storms, providing lead time and accurate public warnings and information necessary to minimize loss of life, property damage, and environmental degradation.

These floods affected thousands of people. Damages totaled about \$120 million for the January 1995 event and about \$100 million for the March 1995 event. State and federal disaster areas were declared in 42 counties in January and 57 counties in March. The January flood claimed 11 lives, and the March flood claimed 17 lives.

The State's losses would have been significantly higher without the cooperation and contributions made by many public and private employees and private citizens during these significant weather and flood events. Employees of numerous State, federal, and local government agencies, including several hundred from the Department of Water Resources, were involved in the flood fight, evacuation, and rescue efforts. Workers from the Salvation Army, Red Cross, and other humanitarian aid organizations provided direct assistance to victims in both flood events.

Michael J. Spear, Interim Director  
Department of Water Resources  
The Resources Agency

If you need this publication in an alternate form, contact the Department's Division of Flood Management or the Office of Water Education at 1-800-272-8869.

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The California Water Commission serves as a policy advisory body to the Director of the Department of Water Resources on all California water resources issues. The citizen commission provides a water resources forum for the people of the State, acts as a liaison between the legislative and executive branches of State government, and coordinates federal, State, and local water resources efforts.

The Division of Flood Management would like to acknowledge the contributions of the 1995 California Water Commission during the floods of water year 1994/1995. The following people were members of the 1995 California Water Commission.

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