STATE OF CALIFORNIA -- THE RESOURCES AGENCY

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, *Governor*

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**
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TO: DELTA LOCAL AGENCIES
DISTRIBUTION LIST

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## Introduction

The Delta Levee Special Flood Control Projects (Special Projects) was established in 1988 (SB 34) and continues to operate under subsequent legislation that extended and provided funding for the program. Originally, the Special Projects was authorized to address flooding on the 8-Western Islands, Thornton, New Hope and Walnut Grove. In 1996, the program was expanded to the entire Delta and to portions of Suisun Marsh (approximately 12 miles of levees on islands bordering the Northern Suisun Bay from Van Sickle Island westerly to Montezuma Slough, Section 12311 of Water Code). The Special Projects has invested over $200 million dollars in flood control and habitat projects carried out by Local Agencies in the Delta.

Passage of Proposition 1E and Proposition 84 in November 2006 significantly increased the amount of money available for levee projects in the Delta. This increase in funding carries with it a commensurate increase in the responsibility to be more transparent about how Special Projects in the Delta are funded. Thus, the Department of Water Resources is developing policy and corresponding Guidelines for prudent long-term investments in the Delta. Those Guidelines (including guidance on SBX21), however, will not be completed and publicly vetted in time to fund critical flood control projects during the next construction season. Therefore, there is an urgent need to develop a FY 2008-09 plan to direct the funding of "No-Regret Actions" to design and complete construction before winter rains begin in late 2009.

## Interim Guidelines

Attached is the FY 2008-09 draft Interim Guidelines for your review and comments. The Interim Guidelines outlines the urgent need to proceed with specific "No-Regret Actions" projects in the Delta. It also discusses the eligible projects and associated costs, funding priorities, State cost share, application process, and selection criteria. The Interim Guidelines address the need for a Five Year Plan to be prepared by local agencies in order to participate in FY 2009-10 Special Projects. The draft Interim Guidelines is also available at:

http://www.water.ca.gov/floodmgmt/dsmo/docs/DeltaLeveeProgramInterimGuidelines.pdf

This letter initiates the 30-day public review process of the draft Interim Guidelines. I would appreciate your comments to DWR no later than Monday December 29, 2008. Please send your comments to;

**Mike Mirmazaheri, Program Manager**
**Delta Levees Program**
**Department of Water Resources**
**1416 Ninth Street**
**Sacramento, California 95814**

The Department of Water Resources is planning to hold a public workshop at the Jean Harvie Community Center in Walnut Grove to solicit public comments. We would like to discuss, brain storm, and solicit comments on the draft Interim Guidelines. You are invited to attend or send a representative to this as your input is very valuable to us.

**Location:** **Jean Harvie Community Center**
**14273 River Road**
**Walnut Grove, California**

**Date:** **Tuesday December 9, 2008**
**Time:** **5 pm to 7 pm**

If you have any questions please call me at (916) 651-7016.

Sincerely,

Mike Mirmazaheri, Program Manager
Delta Levees Program
Delta-Suisun Marsh Office