

## DWR begins extensive data collection to help inform citizens of potential flood risks and improve flood management systems in the Central Valley

California began a new process in January 2005 to improve public safety. State leaders began investing heavily to complete emergency repairs quickly near several high risk urban areas, providing better information to the public about flood risks, enacting significant new laws, and authorizing funds to lead a sustained effort to improve flood management statewide. In 2006, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) launched a multi-faceted program to improve public safety through integrated flood management. The **FloodSAFE** Program is a collaborative, statewide effort designed to accomplish five broad goals:

- Increase flood protection
- Improve preparedness and response
- Support a vibrant economy
- Enhance ecosystems
- Promote sustainability

Much of the **FloodSAFE** Program activities are funded by the approved *Disaster Preparedness and Flood Protection Bond Act* (Proposition 1E) and *California Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act* (Proposition 84).

Starting in February 2008, DWR launched the initial phase of the **Central Valley Floodplain Evaluation and Delineation Project**, a multi-year project to:

- gather current information about floodplains and our flood management system,
- evaluate potential flooding risks now and in the future, and
- identify potential improvements to our flood management system in the Central Valley.

The Central Valley Floodplain Evaluation and Delineation Project is an important part of developing a new **Central Valley Flood Protection Plan** by January 2012, as required in the recently passed SB 5. DWR will invite broad stakeholder participation to help identify needs and create a viable plan for improving flood management in the Central Valley.

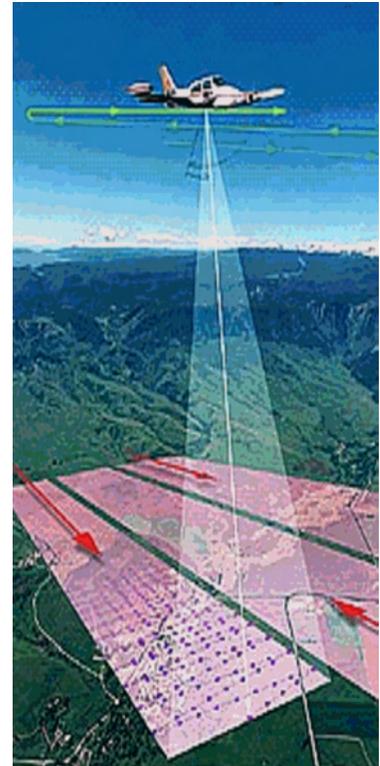
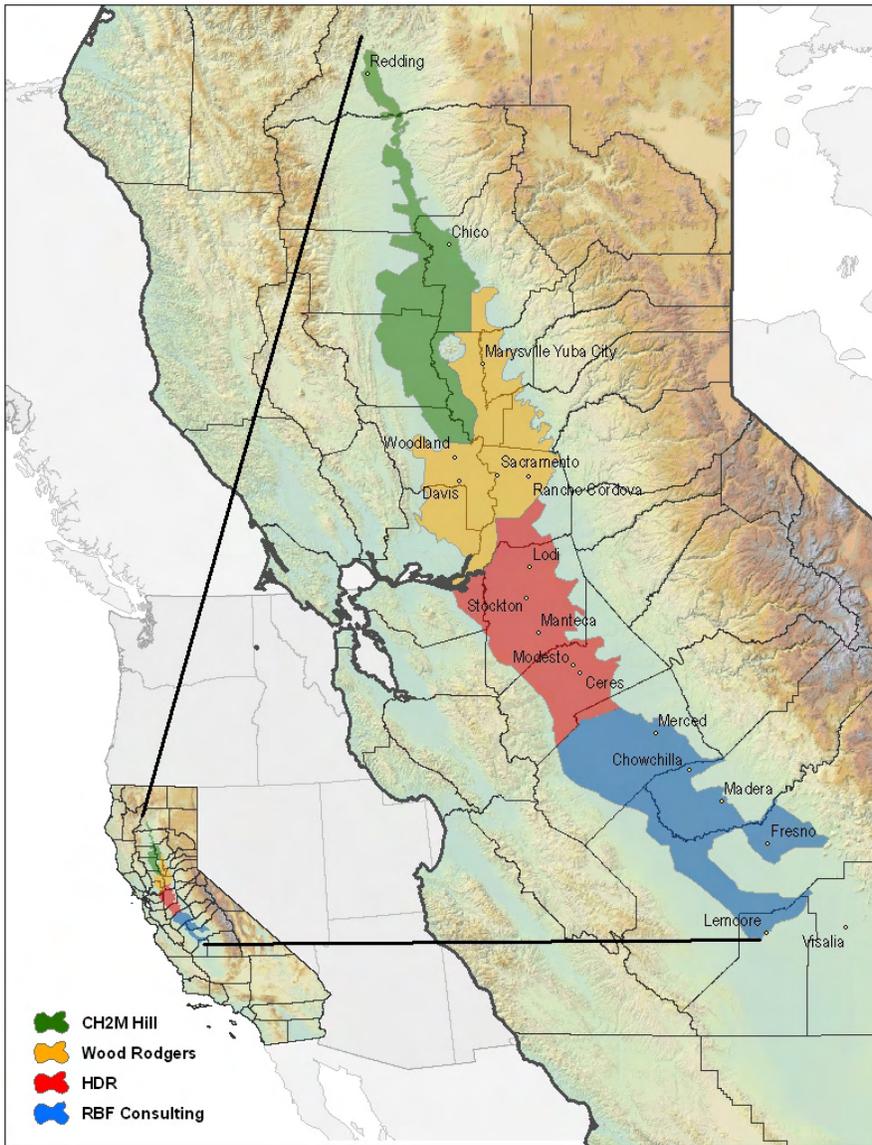


photo courtesy of: USDA NRCS

Beginning in March, a series of surveys will be performed to provide necessary ground topography and aerial photography for the floodplain evaluation project. Most of the required information will be collected by aircraft carrying light detection and ranging (LIDAR) and photo collection equipment. The flights will be performed during both day and night at safe altitude, and the technology used poses no ill effect on livestock or electronic equipment.



*Floodplain areas being surveyed in Spring 2008*

**You may recognize data collection activities in your area.** Ground surveys are required before the flights begin to establish a network of survey points and construct additional benchmarks needed to obtain accurate flight surveys. Following data collection flights, ground crews will return to verify flight survey accuracy, to perform surveys of streams and canals, and to survey structures such as levees, bridges, culverts, and pipelines.

DWR has hired five consultant teams to help with this extensive effort. The different colored areas shown on the map indicate the floodplain areas being surveyed this spring and the consulting team responsible for each area. PBS&J is providing overall project management support to DWR.

DWR is notifying its partners and interested stakeholders in areas where this crucial data is being gathered. Please help spread the word. Your continued participation is greatly appreciated to help improve flood management throughout the Central Valley.

*If you would like more information about FloodSAFE or have comments or questions about the Central Valley Floodplain Evaluation and Delineation Project, please visit [www.water.ca.gov/floodsafe](http://www.water.ca.gov/floodsafe)*