

# FloodSAFE focus

A publication of the Department of Water Resources FloodSAFE California initiative

Volume 1 Issue 1

May 2010

## First Central Valley Flood Protection Plan Progress Update Released

Input from more than 150 Central Valley stakeholders on the problems, opportunities, goals and principles related to improving the flood management system in the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys has been compiled into the first of four anticipated progress summaries released by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR).

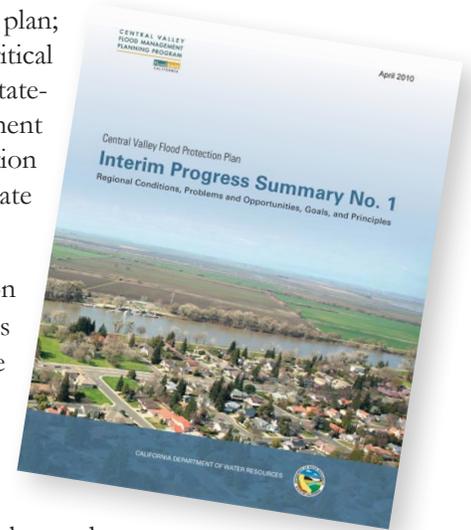
Available May 12, *Interim Progress Summary No. 1 (IPS1)* reports on more than six months worth of work with partner agencies and the public, and is a critical building block for development of the 2012 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP). It is a companion document to the draft *Regional Conditions Report – A Working Document (RCR)*, which includes a detailed review of the interim findings presented in *IPS1*. Both documents are available for download at <http://www.water.ca.gov/cvfmp/documents.cfm>.

*IPS1* is intended to be a resource for planners, partners, and the public to understand how the 2012 CVFPP will be produced and how it could affect Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley communities. It lays out the fundamental concepts and background information necessary for plan development, including the purpose and origin of efforts to produce the CVFPP; statutory or legislative requirements; the geographic scope and character of different planning areas that will be

addressed in the 2012 plan; definitions for critical components of the State-federal flood management system; and coordination with other ongoing State and federal efforts.

A considerable portion of *IPS1* summarizes findings from the extensive efforts DWR has conducted thus far to obtain input from State, federal, tribal, local, and regional interests, many of whom participated in specific work groups, to characterize flood management conditions, problems and opportunities, and draft planning goals and principles for use in developing the 2012 CVFPP.

Additionally, *IPS1* highlights future public engagement and participation activities for the remaining three phases of 2012 CVFPP development (*see related story on Page 3*), along with the various milestone documents the public and the Central Valley Flood Protection Board should expect to see between now and when the Board considers adoption of the CVFPP on July 1, 2012.



Lower Sacramento CVFPP work group members review draft content for the RCR at a November 2009 meeting

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### Vision:

A sustainable integrated flood management and emergency response system throughout California that improves public safety, protects and enhances environmental and cultural resources, and supports economic growth by reducing the probability of destructive floods, promoting beneficial floodplain processes, and lowering the damages caused by flooding.

## Agencies and the Public Examine Draft Inventory of State-Federal Flood Control Facilities

Twenty-five agencies, companies, organizations and individuals submitted more than 180 comments during the recent 30-day public review period held by DWR for the draft *State Plan of Flood Control Descriptive Document*, a key deliverable of FloodSAFE California and a major step toward completion of the 2012 CVFPP. The report describes the State Plan of Flood Control (SPFC), which is defined as the existing flood control works, lands, programs, conditions, and mode of operations and maintenance that, collectively, make up the State-federal flood protection system in the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys for which the State has provided assurances that it will operate and oversee in cooperation with the federal government. DWR is now addressing or responding to comments and anticipates releasing the next draft of the *SPFC Descriptive Document* in mid-2010. The January 2010 draft is still available for download at <http://www.water.ca.gov/cvfmp>.



*Tisdale Weir in Sutter County, shown here overflowing in February 2009, is part of the Sacramento River Flood Control System and is described in the State Plan of Flood Control Descriptive Document*

## Ongoing Outreach to California's Tribes and Native Americans

Building on the success of tribal outreach conducted for the California Water Plan Update, DWR has conducted extensive outreach to California Native American tribes and tribal organizations to raise awareness of FloodSAFE California and encourage participation in the development of the 2012 CVFPP. Existing efforts have included distribution of tribal-focused factsheets to more than 40 tribal entities within and near the Sacramento and San Joaquin river watersheds. Briefings have been held for the Inter-Tribal Council of California, Redding Rancheria, North Fork Mono Tribe, Cortina Indian Rancheria, California Indian Basket Weavers Association, Hinthil Environmental Resource Consortium, Northern California Indian Housing Authority, and California Rural Indian Health Board. Tribes or Native American groups interested in a briefing should contact [cvfmp@water.ca.gov](mailto:cvfmp@water.ca.gov).

## Sacramento City Council Receives FloodSAFE Briefing

As part of an ongoing series of presentations to local officials and their planning staff, DWR representatives will brief the Sacramento City Council on the FloodSAFE California initiative, and on the CVFPP and 2012 plan development process, during the Council's May 25 session. The presentation follows advance discussions and coordination with city and Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency staff.

Briefings to the City of Sacramento and other jurisdictions that receive protection from the State Plan of Flood Control provide opportunities to acquaint staff and elected officials with the land use and general plan amendment requirements that will be triggered upon adoption of the 2012 CVFPP by the Central Valley Flood Protection Board. Local officials or agency staff interested in a briefing should contact [cvfmp@water.ca.gov](mailto:cvfmp@water.ca.gov) or [floodsafe@water.ca.gov](mailto:floodsafe@water.ca.gov).

## Valleywide Forum on June 3

Members of the public, partner agencies, and stakeholders are invited to attend the Central Valley Flood Management Planning Program

Valleywide Forum, a half-day, convention-style public event in West Sacramento on June 3. The purpose of the valleywide forum is to gain a shared understanding of State-led flood improvement projects; the status and direction of efforts to produce the 2012 CVFPP; and perspectives on regional issues and concerns in the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys.

The forum's feature events are two panel discussions with representatives from regional and topic-specific CVFPP work groups, highlighting these groups' efforts throughout 2009 and 2010 to identify flood management challenges and produce content contained in the *Regional Conditions Report – A Working Document* (see Page 1). The event is from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Bridgeway Lakes Boathouse, 3650 Southport Parkway, West Sacramento.

**Flood risk** is a function of exposure to flooding, chance of flooding, and the consequences of flooding in any given year.

## Participants Needed for 2012 CVFPP Development Work Groups

Phase 1 of the four-phase process to produce the 2012 CVFPP recently concluded, and DWR is now soliciting partners and members of the public to participate in the next phase of plan development throughout the spring and summer. Applications for work group membership will be available for download the week of May 7 at <http://www.water.ca.gov/cvfmp>.

Phase 2 is focused on compiling and determining evaluation criteria for specific management actions to enhance public safety and reduce flood risk in the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys. Management actions are individual actions that could be integrated into systemwide solutions and implemented by DWR or its federal, regional, or local partners to address the flood management challenges identified in Phase 1. Plan development phases 3 and 4 will refine management actions into sets of regional and systemwide solutions (Figure 1).

Much like Phase 1, Phase 2 will use the work group structure to obtain input on potential content for the 2012 plan. Regional work groups for the upper and lower Sacramento basins, upper and lower San Joaquin basins, and Delta are anticipated to meet three times throughout the summer. Additionally, small topic work groups will provide expert-level technical guidance on specific subjects, such as finance and revenue, and reservoir reoperation.

For this phase DWR will also introduce a new engagement venue, public workshops, to reduce the number of work group meetings necessary to facilitate quick, effective feedback on potential plan content. Up to 14 workshops are planned for this summer to obtain feedback on the management actions identified to date.

During the first series of workshops, participants in each meeting will review management actions related to a particular category, such as water storage or floodplain management. The second round of workshops will examine how management actions might be applied in small communities, urban areas, and rural or agricultural areas.

DWR encourages continued participation by those already involved in the 2012 CVFPP development process.

## Calendar

**May 25, 6 p.m.** – FloodSAFE Briefing, Sacramento City Council

**May 28, 8:30 a.m.** – Central Valley Flood Protection Board Meeting, Sacramento

**June 3, 1:30 p.m.** – CVFMP Valleywide Forum, West Sacramento

**June 21-24** – CVFPP Regional Work Group Meetings

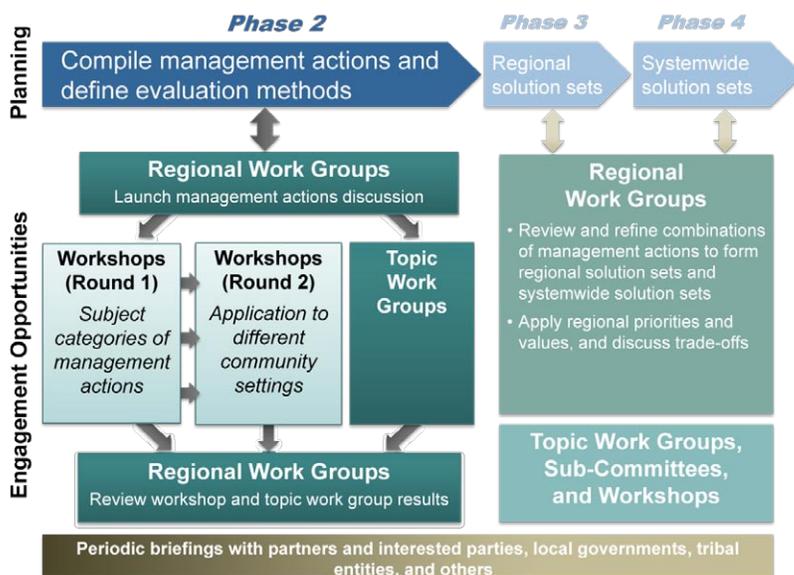
**June 28, 8:30 a.m.** – Central Valley Flood Protection Board Meeting, Sacramento

**June 28-July 1** – CVFPP Topic Work Group Meetings

**July 6-9 and July 12-14** – CVFPP Workshops

<http://water.ca.gov/calendar>

**Figure 1:** Continued opportunities to participate in 2012 CVFPP development



**Lend your expertise to the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan!**  
Submit Regional Work Group membership applications to [cvfmp@water.ca.gov](mailto:cvfmp@water.ca.gov) by June 10.

## FloodSAFE Programs in Brief:

### First Phase of Non-Urban Levee Evaluations Completed

A preliminary draft of initial geotechnical assessments of approximately 1,600 miles of levees within the State Plan of Flood Control is anticipated for release for local and State agency review in May. Provided through DWR's Non-Urban Levees Evaluation Program, the draft includes a compilation of existing data and reconnaissance-level field surveys used to characterize the structural integrity of project and pertinent non-project levees. The program seeks to receive technical feedback on the draft assessments from agencies responsible for levee maintenance. Additional information is available at <http://www.water.ca.gov/levees/evaluation>.

### Flood Risk Notification Program

By September 1, 2010 and annually thereafter, DWR will mail more than 350,000 notices to Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley property owners whose lands are located in Levee Flood Protection Zones (LFPZs). LFPZs are the areas that receive protection from the State Plan of Flood Control and are subject to flooding should State-federal project levees fail when operating with flows at the top of the levee. Owners will be informed of their current flood risk and encouraged to take preventative action. Each notice will identify potential sources of flooding specific to the parcel. DWR is also developing a website with additional flood risk-related information, which will be available when notification begins. To view the current LFPZ maps, which are different from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maps, visit [http://www.water.ca.gov/floodmgmt/lrafmo/fmb/fes/levee\\_protection\\_zones.cfm](http://www.water.ca.gov/floodmgmt/lrafmo/fmb/fes/levee_protection_zones.cfm).

### Local Land Use Planning Handbook Under Preparation

DWR is nearing completion on a guide titled "Implementing California Flood Legislation into Local Land Use Planning: A Handbook for Local Communities." The handbook describes how the 2007 flood risk management legislation affects city and county responsibilities related to local planning requirements, including general plans, development agreements, zoning ordinances, tentative maps, and other actions. A public review draft of the handbook is anticipated to be complete in Summer 2010. For information, please contact Allan Oto at [aoto@water.ca.gov](mailto:aoto@water.ca.gov).



*Although this dog escaped high waters during the 1997 floods, amended State building standards would ensure new homes include more appropriate rescue locations.*

### State Commission Approves Proposed Building Code Amendments Unanimously

In January 2010 the California Building Standards Commission adopted changes to the State's building standards code that will improve the safety of many Central Valley residents before or during a major flood event.

The updated code provides requirements that cities and counties may adopt voluntarily to compel all new single-family residential construction and major home improvements to include both a designated evacuation route and rescue location as well as the ability to balance hydrostatic pressure that builds up against structures during deep flooding conditions. The amendments represent DWR's important first steps to fulfill the legislated mandate of Health and Safety Code 50465, which directs DWR to propose code changes to increase public safety and reduce the risk of damages in areas currently receiving protection from State Plan of Flood Control. The code update will not take effect until 2012. For more information, visit <http://www.water.ca.gov/buildingcode>.

*A periodic newsletter highlighting the progress to produce the 2012 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan and the related FloodSAFE efforts within the Department of Water Resources*



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