

West Sacramento Residents will Soon be “8,000 Feet Closer” to 200-Year Flood Protection

On July 19, the West Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (WSAFCA) and the City of West Sacramento broke ground on the construction phase of two levee improvement projects. The projects will improve more than 8,000 feet of levee along the Sacramento Bypass (“CHP Academy” levee) and the Sacramento River North Levee (“The Rivers” levee). The improvements are part of the WSAFCA Early Implementation Project that also included repairs to the I-Street Bridge levee in 2008. Altogether, these three projects total about \$34 million in construction costs and are aimed at achieving a 200-year level of protection in the West Sacramento North Basin. The current phase of construction began in early August and is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2011.

Two funding sources made the projects possible. Local agencies raised 10 percent of the funds, and California voters provided for the remaining 90 percent through passage of the Disaster Preparedness and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 1E). The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) administered the funds through the Early Implementation Program (EIP),

which has awarded more than \$673 million for local flood management projects since 2007.

In addition to the two WSAFCA projects, six other active EIP projects are underway in the Sacramento and San Joaquin river basins, including:

- » Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency’s Natomas Cross Canal levee improvements and Sacramento River East levee improvements
- » Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority’s Feather River levee improvements and Upper Yuba River levee improvements
- » Levee District 1’s Star Bend setback levee
- » Reclamation District 17’s levee seepage repairs

DWR is currently assessing three additional projects totaling up to \$17 million that may be funded through the EIP for this year.

For more information on the projects or construction, please call the City of West Sacramento’s hotline: (916) 971-2737.



State, federal, and local officials celebrated the launch of construction on two projects that will improve levees near Bryte Park and near the California Highway Patrol Training Academy in West Sacramento.

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...and more!

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.

2010-2011 Flood Season: Many Threats, but No Disasters

Storms during the 2010-2011 flood season and the ensuing snow melt produced runoff that exceeded monitor and flood stages at several locations statewide. These high water events were tracked by river forecasters at the Flood Operations Center (FOC), a state-federal facility where DWR and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration forecast and monitor real-time changes in large rivers and estuaries in California and Nevada. Based out of DWR's Joint Operations Center in Sacramento, the FOC partner agencies collect and distribute river stage forecasts that assist in flood management, emergency response and flood mobilization.

The season kicked off dramatically in late December 2010, with a series of storms that moved through the southern half of California. The storms caused the Mojave River to overtop and erode its existing banks, realigning the river channel as a result. During the incident, the FOC deployed a flood-fight specialist to assess the damage and provide technical assistance to local responders. Along the San Joaquin River, rising water caused major river-bank erosion near Manteca. DWR and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers successfully coordinated with local officials to address the problem, and by early January, work was underway to place rocks over the site to prevent further erosion.

After a relatively normal January and February storm season, heavy rains in mid-March led water levels to rise again along both the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers, and the FOC responded to numerous flood-related incidents. When a boil erupted at a Lake County levee, the FOC sent technical specialists to respond on-site while civilian volunteers and crews provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) filled and placed 2,500 sandbags to shore up the levee. The FOC was also called in to assess the damage at a levee crack along the north bank of the Natomas Cross Canal in Sutter County. Three crews from the California Conservation Corps placed plastic sheeting over the crack to prevent any moisture from entering the levee structure and destabilizing it.

California's rivers aren't the only places where the FOC monitors potential flood threats. When the March 2011 magnitude 9.0 earthquake that struck Japan triggered a major tsunami across the Pacific Ocean, the FOC was activated to monitor weather and wave conditions along the entire California coast. FOC officials maintained close communication with the National Weather Service's West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Center and the California Emergency Management Agency until the tsunami threat passed. The coast's most impacted areas were the Crescent City Harbor in Del Norte County and the Santa Cruz Harbor in Santa Cruz County, which both suffered significant damage to boats and docks.



Crews directed by CAL FIRE helped build two sandbag sackrings around a Lake County levee boil.



Reclamation District 2064 in San Joaquin County placed rock along the slope of a levee to stabilize it and prevent further erosion during high-water events.

As a result of the March storms, the April snowpack in the Sierra Nevada was the third largest on record during the past 40 years — surpassed only by the Sierra snowpack in 1983 and 1995.

First DWR Geotechnical Evaluations Report to be Released to Stakeholders

This fall, DWR will provide the *West Sacramento Geotechnical Evaluation Report* to federal and local stakeholders in the Sacramento Valley. This is the first evaluation report of several to be released as the result of DWR's efforts to assess 470 miles of urban levees and 400 miles of non-urban levees located in the Central Valley. In these reports, project teams identify hidden defects in the levees and remedial measures that may be needed to address them. In addition, the reports identify critical levee repairs and describe associated costs required to meet defined

geotechnical criteria. These evaluations will be integrated into other FloodSAFE California work, such as the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan, and will support federal and local flood management programs by providing them with geotechnical data and analysis. All urban levee evaluation and non-urban levee evaluation geotechnical reports are targeted for completion by the end of 2013. For additional information on the levee evaluation program, visit <http://www.water.ca.gov/levees/evaluation>.

Flood Risk Notification Program Enters Second Year

This fall, more than 275,000 Californians will receive a mailed notice that their property is at risk of flooding. The notices inform residents that their property resides in a Levee Flood Protection Zone, and offers information on emergency planning, preparedness, and proactive actions such as purchasing flood insurance. This is the second year that DWR has distributed flood risk notices.

Additionally, in a joint venture with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DWR has developed a 3-minute video available on the Web. This video provides the public an easy-to-understand overview of flood risk and management in the Central Valley. To learn more about the Flood Risk Notification Program, please visit <http://www.water.ca.gov/myfloordrisk>.



Local Levee Assistance Program Grant Applications Due December 9

On September 7 the Local Levee Assistance Program released a Proposal Solicitation Package to local agencies, kicking off a 90-day period during which the program will be accepting applications for grants for local levee evaluations, feasibility studies, project design, and critical repairs. Program staff will hold three public workshops and one public Web presentation (see "2011 Calendar"). Applications must be postmarked by 5 p.m. on December 8, 2011.

A PDF of the Proposal Solicitation package is available at <http://tinyurl.com/LLAP-2011PSP>. A PDF of the grant guidelines is available at <http://tinyurl.com/LLAP-2011Guidelines>. Questions may be directed to David Wright at dwright@water.ca.gov.

2011 Calendar

Oct. 18 – Local Levee Assistance Program Grants Public Workshop, 12 p.m. - 3 p.m., Oakland

Oct. 20 – Local Levee Assistance Program Grants Public Workshop, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Cypress

Oct. 24 – Local Levee Assistance Program Grants Public Workshop, 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., Web Conference

Oct. 25 – California Water Commission Public Workshop, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Sacramento

Nov. 9 – Overcoming the Deluge Broadcast, 7 p.m., KVIE Public Television

Nov. 11 – Overcoming the Deluge Broadcast, 4 p.m., KVIE Public Television

Nov. 13 – Overcoming the Deluge Broadcast, 6 p.m., KVIE Public Television

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

Overcoming the Deluge: California's Plan for Managing Floods will be broadcast on Sacramento's local PBS station, KVIE, three times in November (see "2011 Calendar"). The Water Education Foundation produced this 27-minute documentary video describing the history of flood threats in the Central Valley and the state's efforts to address them.

DWR Makes Floodplain Maps Available to Public

As part of the Best Available Mapping project, DWR has compiled the best available floodplain maps for all counties in the state and made them digitally available to the public for the first time through a Web-based platform. The 100-, 200-, and 500-year floodplain maps are based on data and information from different engineering studies by DWR, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. By providing these maps in a user-friendly format, DWR is striving to facilitate better informed and more effective local and statewide land-use planning decisions. The current program builds on efforts that were initiated under Senate Bill 5 (2007). Senate Bill 5 directed DWR to develop maps for California's communities that depict 100- and 200-year floodplains for areas located within the watersheds of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley. The floodplain maps are displayed at <http://gis.bam.water.ca.gov>.

New Approach for Addressing Mitigation Required by Infrastructure Projects

DWR is engaging in a new, holistic approach for offsetting impacts to natural communities and ecosystems from the implementation of large infrastructure projects. This includes pursuing opportunities to create mitigation sites in the Central Valley in advance of future projects on State Plan of Flood Control facilities.

This Regional Advanced Mitigation Planning (RAMP) program helps state and federal agencies consider regional conservation priorities by evaluating the potential impacts of multiple infrastructure projects at once, rather than evaluating potential impacts on a narrower project-by-project basis. Another goal of RAMP is identifying opportunities to satisfy mitigation requirements in advance of any project construction, which can help agencies make the most of public funds used to purchase mitigation lands.

Statewide Flood Risk Management Report Being Prepared

DWR is collecting information from federal, state, tribal and local agencies to help DWR assess and characterize flood risks statewide. Once this effort is complete, DWR will explore projects and financing options to address the risks. Key findings will be summarized in a report titled *Flood Future: Recommendations for Managing California's Flood Risk*. The report will include recommendations for how state and federal government agencies can help local agencies implement integrated flood management improvements. It will also explore the financing, legislative and policy options available to help improve local and regional flood management systems. For more information, please contact the Statewide Flood Management Planning Program at sfmp@water.ca.gov or visit <http://www.water.ca.gov/sfmp>.

Final Sample Now Available to Help Local Agencies Write Flood Safety Plans

Under California law, state funding for levee improvement projects in certain types of Central Valley communities requires that the local levee maintaining agency and the local government adopt a "Flood Safety Plan" that includes specific elements of flood emergency response. DWR has finalized a Sample Flood Safety Plan to help local agencies meet this new requirement.

The Sample Flood Safety Plan is a generic template that agencies can customize to meet their local needs and individual circumstances while ensuring their plan contains the specific elements required by law. The draft Sample Flood Safety Plan was reviewed in three public workshops during a 30-day public comment period and the final plan is available as both a fill-in-the-blank Word document and a PDF at <http://tinyurl.com/Final-Sample-Flood-Safety-Plan>. Copies of completed flood safety plans should be submitted to DWR by e-mailing them to flood_center@water.ca.gov. Please direct questions and comments to Geoff Shaw, gshaw@water.ca.gov or (916) 574-2158.

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



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