CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

FloodSAFE California

FloodSAFE 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.

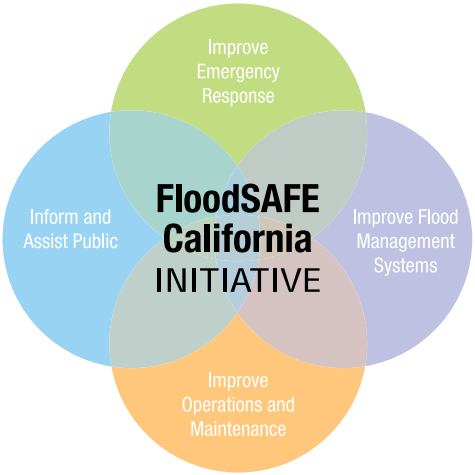
FloodSAFE CALIFORNIA

Many people in California currently face unacceptable risk of potential harm caused by floods. Large segments of our population rely on aging management systems (many of which do not meet modern construction standards) for their personal safety and economic stability. As more people live and work in flood prone areas, and climate changes make large flood flows more likely, the need to improve public safety through integrated flood management becomes more urgent.

In January 2005, Governor Schwarzenegger drew attention to the state's flood problem, calling for improved maintenance, system rehabilitation, effective emergency response, and sustainable funding. In a white paper entitled "Flood Warnings: Responding to California's Flood Crisis," the Department of Water Resources (DWR) outlined the flood problems that California faces and offered specific recommendations for administrative action and legislative changes.

Since that time, California has begun the long process to improve flood management systems – investing heavily to complete emergency repairs quickly near several high-risk urban areas, informing the public about flood risks, enacting significant new laws, and providing funds to lead a sustained effort to improve flood management statewide. In 2006, DWR launched a multi-faceted initiative to improve public safety through integrated flood management. The FloodSAFE program is a collaborative statewide effort designed to accomplish five broad goals:

- Reduce the Chance of Flooding
- Reduce the Consequences of Flooding
- Sustain Economic Growth
- Protect and Enhance Ecosystems
- Promote Sustainability

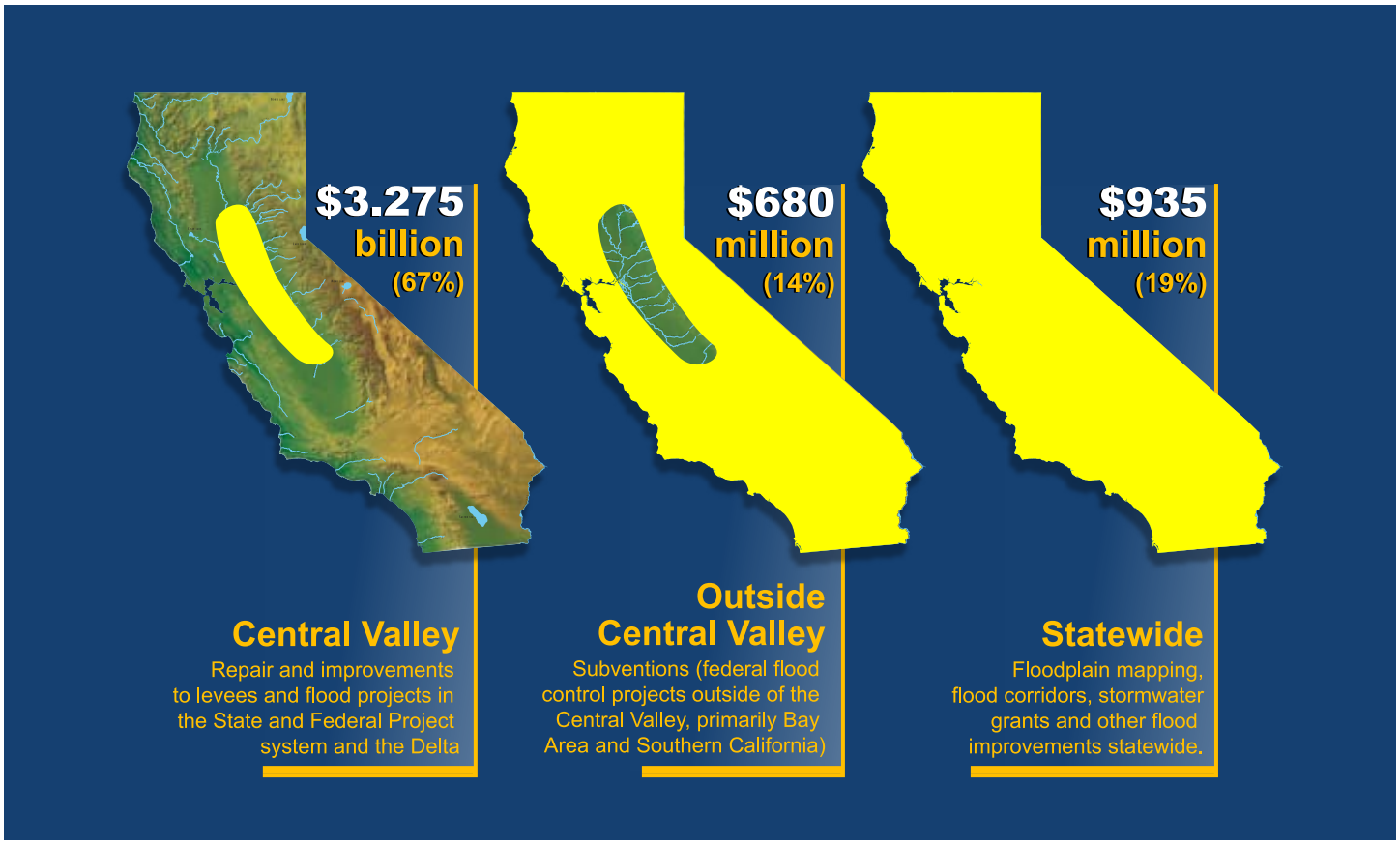


FloodSAFE includes four major categories of program actions as shown. All FloodSAFE program actions are designed to accomplish specific objectives that help satisfy the five goals. Examples include *"providing 200-year level of protection to all urban areas in the Sacramento – San Joaquin Valley by December 31, 2025"* and *"establishing an interagency mitigation banking program that provides lasting environmental benefits by January 1, 2012."*

While DWR is leading FloodSAFE, program success depends on active participation from many key partners, such as Governor's Office of Emergency Services, Central Valley Flood Protection Board, California Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, Tribal entities, and many local sponsors and other stakeholders. DWR will continue to work closely with key partners and stakeholders to accomplish the FloodSAFE Vision.

Achieving the FloodSAFE Vision will be very expensive, and DWR does not have sufficient funds to achieve FloodSAFE objectives without substantial Federal and local cost participation. Most of the State's funds currently available to help implement FloodSAFE are provided by Propositions 1E and 84. The legislature allocated the proposition funds for specific purposes and regions, placing a high priority on improving flood protection and preparedness in the Central Valley and Delta as soon as possible.

WHERE BOND FUNDING CAN BE SPENT



For additional information, please visit the FloodSAFE web site: *www.water.ca.gov/floodsafe*