**Walnut and Grayson Creeks Levee Rehabilitation**
**At CCCSD Treatment Plant Project**
**Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District**
**Program Preferences**

The proposed Walnut and Grayson Creeks Levee Rehabilitation at CCCSD Treatment Plant Project is responsive to three of the eight preferences promulgated under PRC §75026. (b) and CWC §10544. Specifically, this proposed project:

1. Effectively integrates water management (wastewater and flood protection) programs and projects with a hydrologic region identified in the Bay Area Integrated Water Management Plan (BAIRWMP).
2. Provides multiple benefits, including water quality improvements, improving infrastructure survivability, pursuant to PRC §5096.824 or §7503.
3. Addresses the following statewide priorities:
    - Use and reuse of water more efficiently
    - Expansion of environmental stewardship
    - Practice integrated flood management
    - Protect surfacewater quality

The following sections address each of these preferences in greater detail.

## 1. Integrate Water Management Programs

Does the project "effectively integrate water management programs and projects within a hydrologic region identified in the California Water Plan; the RWQCB region or subdivision or other region or sub-region specifically identified by DWR"?

Yes. This project integrates wastewater treatment and flood protection between the District and CCCSD in the subregion covered by the Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. Both agencies are long-time participants in the BAIRWM planning process. CCCSD typically only works in the Wastewater & Recycled Water functional area, and the Contra Costa Flood Control & Water Conservation District typically only works in the Flood Protection & Stormwater Management functional area. The Walnut and Grayson Creeks Levee Rehabilitation at CCCSD Treatment Plant Project is a direct result of "thinking across functional area boundaries" by different and diverse partners, and is a specific, measurable outcome of the IRWM planning process.

## 2. Provide Multiple Benefits

Does the project "provide multiple benefits, including but not limited to water quality improvements, ecosystem benefits, reduction of instream erosion and sedimentation and groundwater recharge"?

Yes. This project provides multiple benefits as follows:

- Improved water quality. This project will significantly reduce the risk of a release of raw, untreated wastewater to adjacent Walnut Creek and the San Francisco Bay.
- Improved flood protection. This project will provide the CCCSD treatment plant with a 500-year level of flood protection with freeboard.
- Reduces the risk of a catastrophic wastewater treatment plant shut down. The CCCSD treatment plant is vulnerable to flooding and would require an expensive and time

consuming overhaul in the event that it occurred. Raising the levee that provides flood protection will significantly reduce the risk of a shutdown from a low-frequency flood event.

- Improved operational reliability/certainty for wastewater treatment operations and recycled water processing. Implementing this project will create a more robust sewage infrastructure for central Contra Costa County.
- Reduces the risk of water related hazards (disease and chemical contamination). This project will significantly reduce the risk of a sewage discharge caused by a low-frequency flood event.
- Long-term and cost-effective solution to potential plant inundation. Levees are long lasting and relatively inexpensive compared the protection benefits they yield to the treatment plant.
- Prevents the discharge of raw and untreated sewage into the San Francisco Bay. The CCCSD treatment plant will be able to sustain operations during low-frequency flood events.

**3. Address Statewide Priorities**

Does the project address the statewide priorities established for the IRWM Grant Program?

Yes. This project addresses the following statewide priorities:

- Use and reuse water more efficiently. This project provides improved recycled water processing reliability. Without this project CCCSD's ability to reliably provide recycled water is at risk, and in case of plant failure, current recycled water customers would be forced to use potable water instead of recycled water supplies.
- Expand environment stewardship. This project will help avoid catastrophic sewage discharges to the sensitive riparian and marsh habitat downstream of the treatment plant. The downstream instream and connected marshlands are home to a number of rare and listed species such as Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse, Black Rail and Clapper Rail. The risk of contamination of these high environmental value areas is greatly reduced with the implementation of this project.
- Practice integrated flood management. This project is a cooperative, collaborative partnership between the District and CCCSD with benefits for both flood protection and wastewater treatment. This project is a direct outcome of the planning efforts from both parties in conjunction with the Bay Area IRWMP. This project will lead to a more sustainable flood and water management systems for central Contra Costa County.
- Protect surface water quality. Implementation of this project will protect the water quality of adjacent Walnut Creek and downstream San Pablo Bay and San Francisco Bay, while safeguarding public and environmental health. It will significantly reduce the risk of a sewage discharge in the event of low-frequency flood events.
- Ensure equitable distribution of benefits. While the project is located adjacent to, but not in a DAC, the project does accept wastewater from DACs and, in the event of a flooding event and resulting plant shutdown, would prevent a long duration raw sewage release. Such a release would negatively affect many surrounding stakeholders including the adjacent DAC (Three Mobile Home Parks immediately to the south-east of the plant. This project will ensure that both the DAC and other stakeholders would not be negatively affected by a low-frequency flood event.