

California Department of Water Resources NEWS

April 16, 1998

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Department of Water Resources Launches Floodplain Mapping

SACRAMENTO - Under the authority of legislation signed by Governor Wilson after last year's floods, the California Department of Water Resources has launched a statewide floodplain mapping program.

In the first year of the effort, flood hazards along 11 creeks and rivers in northern and central California are being mapped, including a stretch of the Feather River at Oroville, and the San Joaquin River upstream of Fresno.

"The program was recommended by Governor Wilson's Flood Emergency Action Team," says Department Deputy Director Raymond D. Hart, FEAT Program leader.

"The resulting maps showing the limits of the 100-year floodplain will support the State Reclamation Board's Designated Floodway Program and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Flood Insurance Program, and will assist local governments in administering their floodplain management programs."

Flood levels determined by DWR mapping will be used by communities to carry out floodplain management objectives of the National Flood Insurance Program. When cities, counties, and FEMA approve the studies, flood insurance maps will be issued by FEMA.

Andrew Lee, Chief of the Department's floodplain management office, and the State's coordinator for the National Flood Insurance Program, said all nine floodplain mapping projects are now underway. The Department is spending \$1.4 million on the program this year, and anticipates future allocations to continue the program.

The mapping projects being done this year are:

- Churn Creek near Redding
- Reeds Creek near Red Bluff
- Feather River at Oroville (Butte County) from the Fish Barrier Dam downstream to Highway 162
- San Joaquin River, from Friant Dam at Millerton Lake to Fresno
- Schindler Creek near Clear Lake Oaks (Lake County).
- Lyons Creek near Lakeport (Lake County)
- Kelsey Creek, near Kelseyville (Lake County)
- Anderson Creek and Putah Creek, near Anderson Springs (Lake County)
- Highland Creek and Adobe Creek, near Big Valley (Lake County)

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The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs. The State Water Project provides water to two-thirds of California's population.

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