



News for Immediate Release  
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DWR Director Snow Testifies Before  
Congressional Subcommittee

**Announces Corps of Engineers Will Fix 10 Critical Levee Sites**

Washington, D.C. – In support of Governor Schwarzenegger’s plan to restore California’s failing levees, Department of Water Resources (DWR) Director Lester Snow today told Congress that funds will be advanced to the federal government for levee repairs. In testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Water and Power, Snow announced that California will provide approximately \$30 million in advance funds for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to repair 10 of the 24 most critical erosion sites on California’s ailing levee system.

“California cannot wait years to complete the repair of erosion sites the Corps has already designated as critical,” Snow said in his testimony. “Therefore, Governor Schwarzenegger has pledged funds from state reserves so that emergency repairs can be made this year without waiting for traditional cost-sharing.”

The state will also be seeking federal credit for the advance payments and is requesting expedited permitting processes by federal agencies to complete repairs for the other critical sites.

The federal government has traditionally been a partner to states and communities in providing funding for flood control repairs and improvements. Using conventional processes and funding mechanisms would have hindered the Corps’ ability to complete even five of the critical sites during this calendar year. By taking the lead on these 10 sites during this emergency, the federal government will help the state concentrate on completing repairs at the other 14 critical erosion sites throughout the year.

“The ‘business as usual’ approach will eventually result in a catastrophic flood that will destroy businesses and take lives,” Snow told the Subcommittee. “To avoid catastrophe, we must eliminate this backlog of repairs.”

Snow urged the Subcommittee to appropriate funding for traditional federal-state cost-shares and to authorize new funding for emergency preparedness and levee repair work by the Corps in the Delta.

On February 24, 2006, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger declared a state of emergency for California's levee system and signed an [Executive Order](#) instructing DWR to repair 24 critical levee erosion sites in the counties of Colusa, Sacramento, Solano, Yolo, and Yuba.

Since then, DWR has been conducting various field and environmental surveys of the affected areas and has begun designs to repair each of the sites. Repairs are scheduled to begin this summer and be completed by the end of this year.

The Subcommittee on Water and Power is chaired by Rep. George Radanovich (R-Mariposa). It is an adjunct of the Committee on Resources chaired by Rep. Richard Pombo (R-Tracy).

Director Lester Snow's full testimony and list of sites the Corps has agreed to repair is available on the Department of Water Resources Web site at [www.water.ca.gov](http://www.water.ca.gov).

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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.

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