



News for Immediate Release
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**JAY PUNIA NAMED GENERAL MANAGER OF
CALIFORNIA RECLAMATION BOARD**

Sacramento - Jay Punia, the Department of Water Resources' point man in fighting California floods, today was named General Manager of The Reclamation Board, the state agency overseeing Central Valley flood control projects.

Punia, Chief of DWR's Flood Operations Branch since 1998, was named General Manager on a 5-0 vote of The Reclamation Board, whose members are appointed by the Governor. His appointment is effective September 1.

"I am extremely pleased," Punia said. "With the increased focus on flood protection by the Schwarzenegger administration, we have a once in a lifetime chance for improving flood protection for residents of the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys."

"The Reclamation Board is extremely fortunate to have Jay join our team," said Board President Ben Carter. "He is well qualified with his 25 years of experience at DWR and particularly his last eight years at the Flood Operations Center. Jay has the unanimous support of board members and we look forward to working with him."

A civil engineer, Punia has coordinated flood operations among state, federal, and local agencies, including working closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, The Reclamation Board's federal partner in constructing, operating and maintaining flood control works.

Substantial improvements to The Reclamation Board's levee inspection and encroachment control programs have been made under Punia's leadership in coordinating DWR and Board efforts. Punia also initiated a memorandum of understanding with the Corps of Engineers that clarifies state and federal policies and expedites coordinated response to floods.

Punia, 51, has both bachelor and master's degrees in civil engineering, and is a licensed Professional Civil Engineer. He resides in Sacramento County.

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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