



News for Immediate Release  
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**DWR Announces On-Time Completion of 29 Critical Levee Repairs**

Governor Schwarzenegger's Emergency Declaration to Enhance Public Safety Launched Ambitious Repair Project

**Sacramento** - The Department of Water Resources (DWR) today announced on-time completion of emergency repairs to 29 critical levee sites in the Central Valley flood control system.

"Under the direction of Governor Schwarzenegger, we were able to complete this life-saving work at record speed," said DWR Director Lester Snow. "Thanks to tremendous cooperation by state and federal agencies and hard work of the department's levee repair team, these sites are now ready for the upcoming flood season."

The 29 sites were identified last spring, after Governor Schwarzenegger declared a state of emergency for California's flood protection system. DWR was responsible for repairs at 19 of the sites and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers led the repair work at 10 sites. State and federal agencies pledged to finish construction by November 1.

Four more erosion sites were added to the project list in August. Work on these sites will be completed by November 30.

The state worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries to expedite the permitting necessary to comply with federal environmental protection laws and complete the repair work on an accelerated schedule.

Much of the erosion repair work consisted of placing soil and rock on the waterside of the levee. The repairs were designed to preserve plants and aquatic habitat. Additional vegetation was planted and woody material placed near the water line to preserve fish habitat and reduce erosion caused by currents, waves and boat wakes.

The completed work on these most critical areas is just one step in the effort to prevent a Katrina-like catastrophe in California. Following last winter's storms, the Army Corps of Engineers identified an additional 71 erosion sites in critical need of repair.

Further essential improvements and repair to the state's flood control facilities could be funded through the passage of Prop. 1E, the \$4.1 billion bond. "As important as it was to complete these repairs today, they're just bandages on the system," said Snow. "Some of these levees were built more than 100 years ago. Our flood system needs an extreme makeover."

A four minute informational video, showing some of the levee repair work, can be viewed at <http://www.publicaffairs.water.ca.gov>. More information on the levee repair project is posted at [www.levees.water.ca.gov](http://www.levees.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.

[Back to Top of Page](#)

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