



News for Immediate Release

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DWR Releases Handbook for Communities Implementing Flood Legislation

SACRAMENTO -- The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has released a guidance document entitled *Implementing California Flood Legislation into Local Land Use Planning: A Handbook for Local Communities* (Handbook). The Handbook describes the new legislative requirements that affect city and county responsibilities related to flood risk management and local land use planning. These new legislative requirements were part of the comprehensive flood package passed by the California Legislature in 2007.

Six bills were enacted in October 2007—Assembly Bills 162, 70, 5, and 156 and Senate Bills 5 and 17—to address statewide flood problems, including assessing the capabilities of the Central Valley levee system, developing plans to better manage the flood protection system, and mandating that local planning efforts recognize the risks of flooding. These bills became effective January 2008 and collectively added or amended sections in the California Code, Health and Safety Code, Public Resource Code, and Water Code. Together, these bills outlined a comprehensive approach to improving flood management at the State, regional, and local levels.

This Handbook is intended to assist cities and counties comply with the new legislation by identifying and interpreting the provisions of the applicable government code sections, noting additional factors and actions for local jurisdictions to consider, highlighting pertinent triggers and schedules for compliance, and directing where to go for more information.

The applicability of the new flood risk management legislation varies depending upon where a city or county is located within California. Some provisions apply to all jurisdictions in the State, while other provisions apply only to communities located within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley or the Sacramento-San Joaquin Drainage District. By using the Handbook, local communities will be able to navigate through the geographic structure of the new legislation and more efficiently consult with DWR and local flood management agencies. Also, the Handbook includes legislative requirements that are continuing to be developed such as the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan and the 200-year level of flood protection criteria. Information on updates or amendments to the Handbook will be announced via the FloodSAFE Focus newsletter <http://www.water.ca.gov/floodsafe/>, the DWR Web site www.water.ca.gov, and other referenced state agency links.

The document can be downloaded at <http://www.water.ca.gov/localfloodriskplanning/>. Also, a printed copy or a CD of the report may be requested by providing your mailing address at localfloodriskhandbook@water.ca.gov. For additional information, please contact Ricardo Pineda, Chief Floodplain Management Branch, rpineda@water.ca.gov, (916) 574-1475.

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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.

Contact the [DWR Public Affairs Office](#) for more information about DWR's water activities.