



## NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DWR Notifies Central Valley Property Owners: "You're at Risk of Flooding"**  
*275,000 behind levees told to prepare*

**SACRAMENTO** -- Today, seven years after Hurricane Katrina overwhelmed the flood defenses of New Orleans, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) announces it is notifying nearly 275,000 California property owners that they're at risk of flooding and should prepare.

DWR is mailing flood risk notifications to owners across 17 counties in the Central Valley whose property is located behind a State-Federal levee and within a Levee Flood Protection Zone (LFPZ). The zones include portions of Sacramento, San Joaquin, Yolo, Sutter, Yuba, Butte, Fresno, Merced, Tehama, Colusa, Glenn, Solano, Stanislaus, Lake, Placer, Plumas, and Madera counties.

An interactive website tool is available at <http://gis.lfpz.water.ca.gov/lfpz/> where an address may be entered to get detailed information about potential flood risk to the property, including the source and depth of the potential flooding.

In 2007, the Legislature recognized that California's Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley is at severe risk of flooding, second only to New Orleans nationally. The Legislature adopted AB156, requiring DWR to create LFPZ Maps. These maps were then used by DWR to determine the property owners who will receive the flood risk notices annually.

DWR's Flood Risk Notification Program, as part of the California FloodSAFE Initiative, is being used as a model for Louisiana's flood risk communication to residents of the New Orleans metro area.

“The Lake Borgne Basin Levee District, which covers St. Bernard’s Parish near New Orleans, will use DWR’s flood risk notifications as a guide on how to develop a similar flood risk notice for residents of their parish,” said Ricardo Pineda, Chief of DWR’s Floodplain Management Branch. "Louisiana also plans to develop similar flood risk notices for residents in the Orleans and Jefferson parishes that receive protection from their federal levee system.”

For more information on DWR’s Flood Risk Notification Program, visit [www.water.ca.gov/myfloodrisk](http://www.water.ca.gov/myfloodrisk).

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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.*