



INFORMATION ITEM

2022 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan Update

Summary: Staff from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Flood Board) will describe the upcoming process to prepare a 2022 update to the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (Flood Plan), including an overview of the plan's history, themes of the 2022 Flood Plan Update, and ongoing coordination among DWR, the Flood Board, and the Council to update and implement the Flood Plan.

Flood Plan Background

The Central Valley Flood Protection Act of 2008 directed DWR to prepare, and the Board to adopt, the Flood Plan - a plan focused on improving flood risk management in the Central Valley. The Flood Plan's objective is to develop and guide a systemwide investment approach for sustainable, integrated flood management in areas currently protected by facilities of the State Plan of Flood Control (SPFC). The SPFC identifies state and federal flood control works, lands, programs, plans, conditions, and mode of maintenance and operations of the Sacramento River Flood Control Project and of flood control projects in the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River watersheds for which the Flood Board or DWR has provided assurances of nonfederal cooperation to the United States. (Water Code section 9110(f), referencing Public Resources Code section 5096.805). Approximately one-third of the levees in the Delta are part of the SPFC.

The Flood Plan's primary goal is to improve flood risk management by reducing the chance of flooding, reducing the impact of flooding, and improving public safety, preparation, and response (see Attachment 1). Supporting goals of the Flood Plan also include:

- Improving operations and maintenance;
- Promoting ecosystem functions;
- Improving institutional support; and
- Promoting multi-benefit projects.

In addition to the primary planning document, the Flood Plan includes several other documents that support the plan, including:

- **State Plan of Flood Control Descriptive Document** – This report identifies and describes SPFC components (e.g., facilities, lands, programs, plans, conditions, modes of O&M) in accordance with the requirements of the Central Valley Flood Protection Act of 2008.
- **Flood System Status Report** – This report assists flood management planners and engineers in characterizing facilities within the SPFC and informs Flood Plan Updates. The FSSR provides a repository of the status of SPFC Facilities based on DWR evaluations and inspections, along with those of local and federal partners.

- **Conservation Strategy** – The Conservation Strategy supports the attainment of all Flood Plan goals, focusing on the improvement of ecosystem function by integrating ecological restoration within flood risk reduction projects where feasible.

The Flood Board adopted the first Flood Plan in 2012. The 2012 Flood Plan introduced the State Systemwide Investment Approach, which provided a road map for how flood risk management activities throughout the Central Valley could achieve the primary and supporting goals outlined above.

The first update to the Flood Plan was completed in 2017. In this update, the Board refined the State Systemwide Investment Approach and developed a plan to fund phased implementation of flood risk reduction projects that worked to achieve the plan's goals. The 2017 planning process also split the SPFC into six Regional Flood Management Plan (RFMP) Areas. Within each RFMP, a group of regional representatives developed plans that described local and regional flood management priorities and challenges. Two of these regions, *Lower Sacramento River/Delta North* and *Lower San Joaquin River and Delta South*, are located within the Delta.

2022 Flood Plan Update

DWR is currently developing the 2022 Flood Plan Update, focused on climate resilience, project implementation and tracking, and aligning with other State efforts, including implementation of Governor's Newsom's Water Resilience Portfolio and the California Water Plan Update 2023.

As part of the update, DWR is also updating the Strategy to 1) report on progress toward meeting measurable objectives for improved ecosystem processes, increased habitats, and decreased stressors as part of flood risk reduction projects; 2) describe how climate change may influence ecological conditions and the ability to meet these objectives; and 3) explain how integration with other State and regional efforts can help improve flood system resilience through more effective implementation of multi-benefit projects (see Attachment 2).

How the Flood Plan Intersects with the Council's Work

The Flood Plan and the Delta Plan both provide state-level planning objectives for flood facilities and operations in the Delta. The current version of the Delta Plan includes text on the 2012 Flood Plan. Management decisions made for SPFC facilities (both in the Delta and upstream of the Delta) have impacts on Delta levees and ecosystem functions. The Flood Plan relates to numerous ongoing Council initiatives to amend and/or implement the Delta Plan, and ongoing coordination between the Council, DWR, and the Flood Board is critical for the success of these efforts.

Delta Levees Investment Strategy

The Delta Reform Act (Reform Act) requires the Council to consult with the Flood Board to recommend priorities for State investments in levees, including those that are a part of the SPFC (project levees) as well as non-project levees. This effort resulted in the Delta Levees Investment Strategy (DLIS) and its associated decision support tool. The Council, DWR, and the Flood Board established a Memorandum of Understanding

(MOU) to identify each agency's roles under the DLIS, and to guide implementation. The MOU establishes a working group comprised of staff from each agency to achieve its objectives. The group meets regularly and has a standing agenda item to discuss planning efforts and identify ways that they can align and support the respective plans.

The Flood Plan and the DLIS share similar objectives to reduce flood risk, protect lives and property, and further objectives related to the coequal goals. Further, recognizing the limited funds available to maintain and improve Delta levees, the DLIS and the Flood Plan both seek to advance, where possible, investments that provide multiple benefits (e.g., flood protection, water supply, environmental enhancements). However, some important distinctions underscore the importance of both efforts fulfilling their statutorily mandated purposes.

- The scope of the Flood Plan includes project levees located in the Delta, which comprise about 1/3 of the Delta's 1,100 miles of levees. It does not address the Delta's nonproject levees (with the exception of 65 miles of levees in Stockton).
- The Flood Plan's main focus is on flood management activities outside of the Delta, while the DLIS pertains to Delta levees.
- The DLIS prioritizes state investments in individual islands and tracts in the Delta to reduce the likelihood and consequences of levee failures, and to protect people, property, and state interests, while the Flood Plan is a strategic blueprint to improve flood risk management throughout the Sacramento-San Joaquin River basins.
- The DLIS establishes a multiagency, coordinated, long-term strategy for levee investments in both urban and rural Delta communities, while the Flood Plan is comprised of recommendations that guide both near and long-term state investments for project levees and the areas they protect.
- While the DLIS identifies priority islands for investment to reduce flood risk, the Flood Plan identifies specific projects to further its identified objectives.

Ecosystem Amendment

Similarly, the Flood Plan's Conservation Strategy supports the Council's proposed ecosystem amendment. While the ecosystem amendment sets forth a strategy to accomplish ecosystem-based restoration throughout the Delta and Suisun Marsh, the Conservation Strategy helps DWR and others plan, design, and implement multi-benefit flood improvement actions. The Conservation Strategy also expands funding for flood projects, improves project delivery, and reduces long-term costs.

Delta Adapts

Council staff has been meeting regularly with DWR and Flood Board staff regarding Delta Adapts, the Council's climate change vulnerability assessment and adaptation strategy. Coordination efforts include aligning modeling efforts between Delta Adapts and the 2022 Flood Plan Update, sharing technical data, and coordinating each agency's approach for evaluating, understanding, and adapting to climate change.

Timeline

DWR staff is working to prepare a draft of the 2022 CVFPP Update and other supporting documents by the summer of 2021. At that time, DWR intends to initiate the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review process for the 2022 Flood Plan Update.

Once DWR has certified the final CEQA documentation and the Board has adopted the 2022 Flood Plan Update, DWR intends to submit a certification of consistency with the Delta Plan for the 2022 Flood Plan Update to the Council. Council staff will be initiating early consultation for this project with DWR in the coming weeks. In that capacity, Council staff may advise DWR regarding ways to align the 2022 Flood Plan Update with applicable Delta Plan regulatory policies. Council staff will also seek opportunities to use the 2022 Flood Plan Update to support the implementation of Delta Plan flood risk reduction and ecosystem restoration recommendations, and to collect information supporting Delta Plan performance measures.

Fiscal Information

Not applicable.

List of Attachments

Attachment 1: 2022 CVFPP Update Fact Sheet

Attachment 2: Conservation Strategy Update Factsheet

Contact

Jeff Henderson, AICP
jeff.henderson@deltacouncil.ca.gov
Deputy Executive Officer

Erin Mullin, P.E.
erin.mullin@deltacouncil.ca.gov
Senior Water Resources Engineer