



INFORMATION ITEM

California Department of Water Resources' Division of Multi-benefit Initiatives

Summary: The Department of Water Resources' Chief of the Division of Multi-Benefit Initiatives, Steve Rothert, will describe plans for the Division related to Delta levees, focusing on public safety and welfare, habitat restoration, and water supply reliability.

BACKGROUND

Over the past two years, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) has gone through significant restructuring, including forming the new Division of Multi-Benefit Initiatives (DMI). DWR formed the DMI to develop and implement multi-purpose projects that integrate flood risk reduction, ecosystem uplift, and water supply reliability throughout the Central Valley, including the Delta. DWR shares the Council's recognition that flood management actions are interconnected with other planning and management activities and a sustainable water resources system. DWR is an important partner in implementing several objectives identified in the Delta Plan, and some of the programs under the DMI that advance these goals are:

- Delta Levees Special Projects Program – A program that funds levee improvements in the Delta. *(Special Projects funding relates to Delta Plan Policy RR P1- Prioritization of State Investments in Delta Levees and Risk Reduction (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5012)*
- Delta Levee Subvention Program – A program that reimburses Delta Reclamation Districts for qualifying maintenance and rehabilitation activities for Delta levees. *(Subvention funding relates to Delta Plan Policy RR P1 - Prioritization of State Investments in Delta Levees and Risk Reduction (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5012)*
- Development of the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) – The CVFPP guides the State's flood management and improvement activities for flood control features that are part of the State Plan of Flood Control. One-third of the levees in the Delta are part of this system. *(The CVFPP is a potential covered action.)*
- Yolo Bypass Habitat Restoration Projects – The Yolo Bypass is a major flood management facility and habitat restoration site in the Delta. *(The Yolo*

Bypass relates to Delta Plan Recommendation ER R2 - Prioritize and Implement Projects that Restore Delta Habitat, Delta Plan Policy ER P3 – Protect Opportunities to Restore Habitat (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5007), and Delta Plan Policy RR P4 – Floodplain Protection (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5015)).

Council and DWR staff have been working together to collaborate and, where possible, align agency priorities and objectives. These efforts range from collaboration on the Council's Delta Adapts project to the ongoing multi-agency partnership developed through the Delta Levee Investment Strategy Memorandum of Understanding Workgroup to early consultation on DWR's Central Valley Flood Protection 2022 Update.

TODAY'S PRESENTATION

At today's meeting, Mr. Rothert will update the Council on DWR's vision to prioritize multi-benefit water management strategies through watershed-scale collaborations and system-scale water and flood planning, including Delta region public safety and welfare, habitat restoration, climate change, and water supply reliability. He will also address the importance of collaboration and partnership between the Department and the Council and how DWR plans to support that collaboration.

FISCAL INFORMATION

Not applicable.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

None

CONTACT

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