



INFORMATION ITEM

2022 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan Update

Summary: The Council received presentations by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Flood Board) regarding the development of the 2022 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (Flood Plan) Update in August 2020 and March 2021. At today's meeting, DWR staff will brief the Council on continued progress in developing the Flood Plan Update. The presentation will include a high-level overview of the recently released working draft, upcoming engagements, 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 Flood Board to adopt, the Flood Plan - a plan focused on improving flood risk management in the Central Valley. The Flood Plan is the State's programmatic vision for flood management in the Central Valley, focused on areas protected by facilities of the State Plan of Flood Control (SPFC). The SPFC represents the portion of the Central Valley flood management system which the State is responsible for, as defined in California Water Code Section 9110 (f). *Approximately one-third of the levees in the Delta are a 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. Supporting goals of the Flood Plan also include:

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

The Flood Board adopted the first Flood Plan in 2012. The 2012 Flood Plan introduced the State Systemwide Investment Approach (SSIA), providing 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 Flood Board refined the SSIA and developed a plan to fund phased implementation of

flood risk reduction projects 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 area, 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/Delta South* are located within the Delta.

In addition to the primary planning document, the Flood Plan includes several other documents and efforts that support the plan; four of which are described below:

- **State Plan of Flood Control Descriptive Document Update (SPFC Descriptive Document)** – This report identifies and describes SPFC components (e.g., facilities, lands, programs, plans, conditions, modes of operations, and maintenance) in accordance with the requirements of the Central Valley Flood Protection Act of 2008. The 2017 document is being updated for 2022.
- **Flood System Status Report Update (FSSR)** – This report assists flood management planners and engineers characterize 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. The 2017 document is being updated for 2022.
- **Conservation Strategy Update** – The Conservation Strategy supports the attainment of all Flood Plan goals, focusing on improving ecosystem functions by integrating ecological restoration within flood risk reduction projects. The 2016 document is being updated for 2022.
- **Regional Flood Management Plans (RFMPs)** – The RFMPs are separate locally-prepared documents that inform Flood Plan development, investment strategy, and implementation. For the 2022 Flood Plan Update, the working groups are preparing white papers to update the RFMPs that were prepared to support the 2017 Flood Plan.

2022 FLOOD PLAN UPDATE

The 2022 Flood Plan Update focuses on themes of climate resilience, implementation accomplishments and performance tracking, and strengthening the alignment between the Flood Plan and other State efforts, including Governor Newsom's Water Resilience Portfolio, California Water Plan Update 2023, and the Delta Plan.

As part of the update, DWR is also updating the Conservation Strategy focused on the same themes to report on:

- Progress toward meeting measurable objectives for improved ecosystem processes, increased habitats, and decreased stressors as part of flood risk reduction projects;
- How climate change may influence ecological conditions and the ability to meet these objectives; and
- How integration with other State and regional efforts can help improve flood system resilience through more effective implementation of multi-benefit projects.

ALIGNMENT WITH THE DELTA PLAN

The Flood Plan and the Delta Plan both provide state-level planning objectives for flood facilities and operations in the Delta. Management decisions made for SPFC facilities (both in the Delta and upstream) impact Delta levees and ecosystem functions. Coordination is critical to the success of each of these efforts. Council, DWR, and Flood Board staff are communicating, coordinating, and tracking each agency's efforts. Examples of this include:

Delta Adapts – Council staff have been meeting regularly with DWR and Flood Board staff regarding Delta Adapts. Coordination efforts include discussing and aligning modeling efforts between Delta Adapts and the 2022 Flood Plan Update, sharing technical data, and aligning each agency's approach to evaluating, understanding, and adapting to climate change.

Flood Board Coordination Committee – The Coordination Committee is the Flood Board's monthly clearinghouse to discuss Flood Plan implementation issues. Council staff regularly attend and have presented on Council activities, including efforts to update the Delta Levees Investment Strategy (DLIS) and Delta Adapts.

DLIS Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Working Group – The DLIS MOU working group includes staff from the Council, DWR, and the Flood Board. The group meets regularly and has a standing agenda item to discuss planning efforts and identify ways to align and support each agency's respective plans.

Delta Ecosystem – The Conservation Strategy and the amendment to Chapter 4 (Protect, Restore, and Enhance the Delta Ecosystem) of the Delta Plan, currently under consideration, share common objectives, focusing on effective restoration that considers both impediments to large-scale multi-

benefit projects and wide-ranging stakeholder interests. Council staff has been participating in the Flood Board's Advisory Committee focused on updating the Conservation Strategy.

2022 Flood Plan Update and Consistency Certification Timeline

DWR released a working draft of the 2022 Flood Plan Update in September 2021 for early input from closely involved partners and stakeholders, including the Council. Council staff is reviewing the working draft and will share comments with DWR staff. DWR staff is working to prepare a public draft of the 2022 Flood Plan Update by early 2022. At that time, DWR will initiate the public review process for the 2022 Flood Plan Update. The Council will submit a comment letter on the public draft regarding the consistency of the Flood Plan Update with the Delta Plan.

DWR intends to submit a Delta Plan certification of consistency to the Council for the 2022 Flood Plan Update. Council staff and DWR staff have conducted early consultation meetings for this project since early 2020. Council staff has advised DWR regarding ways to align the 2022 Flood Plan Update with applicable Delta Plan regulatory policies. Council staff will also seek opportunities for the 2022 Flood Plan Update to support the implementation of Delta Plan flood risk reduction and ecosystem restoration recommendations and to collect information pertinent to Delta Plan performance measures.

FISCAL INFORMATION

Not applicable.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

None

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