

MAY 2026

Delta Levees Investment Strategy (DLIS)

Risk Reduction Analysis

Erin Mullin – Lead Engineer (DSC)
Ashok Bathula – Senior Engineer (DSC)
Kelly Soule – Principal Engineer (DWR)



**Delta
Stewardship
Council**

A CALIFORNIA STATE AGENCY

Introduction

- DLIS Background
- DWR Presentation
- What did we learn?



01. DLIS Background

The coequal goals are built on levees

- The Delta Reform Act created the Council and charged it with providing direction for the long-term future and management of the Delta and achieving the coequal goals:
 - **A reliable water supply**
 - **A healthy ecosystem**



The Council was directed to:

Recommend in the Delta Plan priorities for **state investment in levee operation, maintenance, and improvement in the Delta** (Wat. Code, § 85306)

Ensure the Delta Plan reduces risks to **people, property, and state interests** by promoting emergency preparedness, appropriate land uses, and **strategic levee investments** (Wat. Code, § 85305, subd. (a))



So, what is DLIS?

A risk-based prioritization that guides Delta levee investments based on collaboration, coordination, and the best available science

- Identification of state interests
 - **Life**
 - **Property and infrastructure**
 - **Water supply reliability**
 - **The Delta ecosystem**
 - **Unique attributes of the Delta as a place**
- The methodology
- The Decision Support Tool
- The prioritization



A transparent & public process

Development of DLIS featured:

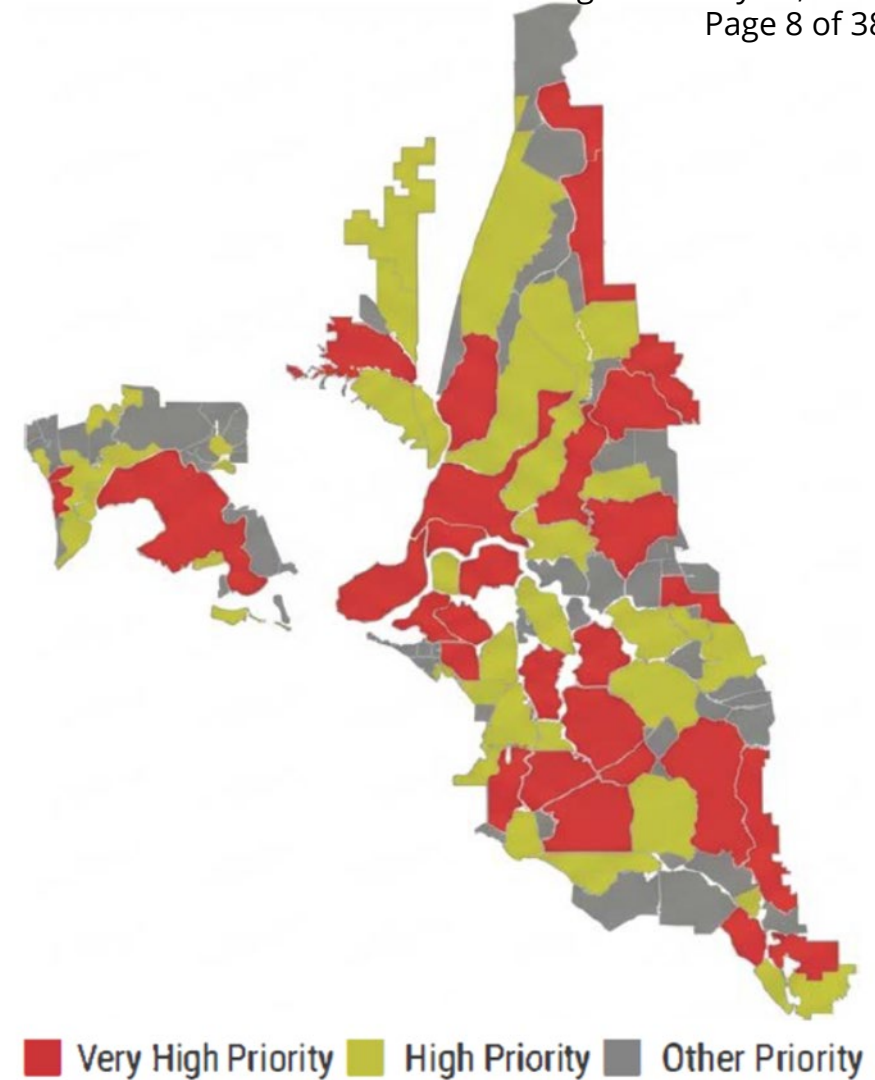
- Significant interagency coordination
- Meetings with technical experts
- Public workshops, outreach, and opportunities for public feedback

2014 — The Council, staff, and consultants discussed DLIS at...
2018 *40 meetings with technical experts | 27 Council meetings | 4 public workshops*



Funding where risk is highest, first

- Considers risk to state interests
- Targets investment where risk is highest, first
- A flexible tool – as risk and information change, the priorities change
- Progress tracked by the Council
 - **Performance Measure 7.3**



A tale of two cities



Very High Priority — North Stockton

- Urban, populated community
- Levees do not yet meet higher flood protection standards
- Classified as “High Priority” because additional levee investment is still needed to reduce risk



Other Priority — West Sacramento

- Urban and populated community
- Levees meet a 200-year level of flood protection
- Classified as “Other” because major levee investments have already achieved compliance

This reflects achieved protection, not low importance.

02.

DWR ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Report for DWR Investments on Delta Levees Fiscal Year 2024-2025



Purpose of Report

To inform the Delta Stewardship Council (DSC) of Department of Water Resources' (DWR) investment decisions regarding Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) levees in Fiscal Year (FY) 24-25, pursuant to California Code of Regulations Title 23 § 5012, Prioritization of State Investments in Delta Levees and Risk Reduction.



Levee Programs Supporting the Delta

Delta Levees Program (*General Fund and Bond Fund*)

- Delta Levees Ecosystem Enhancement
- Delta Levees Maintenance Subventions Program
- Delta Levees Special Flood Control Projects
- West Delta Projects
- North Delta Projects

Systemwide Flood Risk Reduction Program (*General Fund and Bond Fund*)



Levee Programs Supporting the Delta

Flood Management Programs (*General Fund and Bond Fund*)

- Urban Flood Risk Reduction
- Small Communities Flood Risk Reduction Program (SCFRRP)
- State Plan of Flood Control System Improvements
- Flood System Repair Project (FSRP)
- Emergency Response
- Sacramento River Bank Protection Project
- Levee Repairs cost shared under Public Law 84-99
- Flood Maintenance Assistance Program (FMAP)
- Storm Damage DWR Emergency Rehabilitation
- DWR Flood System Maintenance
- Floodplain Management, Protection, and Risk Awareness (FMPRA)



FY 24-25 Summary of Awards

Program	Number of Projects	Awards FY 24-25
Delta Levees	0	\$0
Systemwide	1	\$1.5 million
Flood Management	0	\$0



DWR Annual Reporting Requirements

- A. Description of FY 24-25 DWR awards for delta levees
- B. List of all levee improvement project proposals submitted for funding
- C. List of awarded levee improvement and maintenance projects, funding level, cost shares, priority, and location
- D. Description of each awarded project in FY 24-25, priority, level of flood protection changes or achieved
- E. List of funded projects that are inconsistent with Delta Levees Investment Strategy (DLIS) priorities
- F. A summary of the California Department of Water Resources' rationale for levee improvement project proposals submitted, but not awarded funding during the reporting year
- G. Summary and location of all funded levee improvement projects which were completed in FY 24-25



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FY 24-25 Projects Awarded Funding

Program	District No.	Location	Project Title	FY 24-25 Awards	DLIS Priority
Systemwide	RD 536	Egbert Tract	RD 536 Lindsey Slough Levee Remediation	\$1,500,000	High
			Total	\$1,500,000	



DWR Annual Reporting Requirements

No DWR programs issued solicitations or accepted new proposals for work during FY24-25

- A. Description of FY 24-25 DWR expenditures for delta levees
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FY 24-25 Projects Awarded Funding

Reclamation District	Location	Project Title	Total Project Cost	State Cost Share	Federal or Local Cost Share	FY 24-25 Awards
RD536 Egbert Tract	Egbert Tract	RD 536 Lindsey Slough Levee Remediation	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$1,500,000
					Total	\$1,500,000



DWR Annual Reporting Requirements

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FY 24-25 - Projects Awarded Funding

Reclamation District	Project Title	Project Description	Protection Objective	DLIS Priority
<p>RD536 Egbert Tract</p>	<p>RD536 Lindsey Slough Levee Remediation</p>	<p>Rehabilitation of seepage and stability issues on the Lindsey Slough Levee.</p>	<p>Restore current design level of protection</p>	<p>High</p>



DWR Annual Reporting Requirements

No DWR programs issued solicitations or accepted new proposals for work during FY24-25;

No DWR program completed a levee improvement project in FY24-25

- B. List of all levee improvement project proposals submitted for funding
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Current/Future Funding

Program	Prop 4 Delta Grant Total	Prop 4 FY 25-26	Prop 4 FY 26-27
Delta Levees	\$150M	\$0	\$60M
Systemwide	\$75M	\$15M	\$25K
Flood Management	\$50M	\$0	\$50M



Delta Levees Maintenance Subventions Program

FY 23-24

- CVFPB Approved Funding: \$15.5 million
- Final Claims Reimbursed: 71
- Reimbursement: \$14.8 million

FY 24-25

- CVFPB Approved Funding: \$16.0 million
- Final Claims Received: 71
- Reimbursement: TBD

Program Deductible

- Urban Islands: 8 @ \$2500 per levee mile
- Rural Islands: 63 @ \$1000 per levee mile
- Cost Share: 25%



03.

WHAT DID WE
LEARN?

Delta Levees Investment Strategy: A Multi-Year Retrospective

Baseline for the DLIS era and 2050 Rural Levee Target
State investments in the Legal Delta
FY 2018-19 through FY 2024-25

Establishing a Baseline for DLIS and the 2050 Rural Levee Target

This retrospective reviews DWR annual reports covering Fiscal Years 2018-19 through 2024-25.

It provides a starting snapshot of recent investments, completed work, active projects, and remaining gaps.

Why this baseline matters

DLIS became legally binding in January 2024.

The Delta Plan also looks toward rural Delta islands meeting the levee standard by 2050.

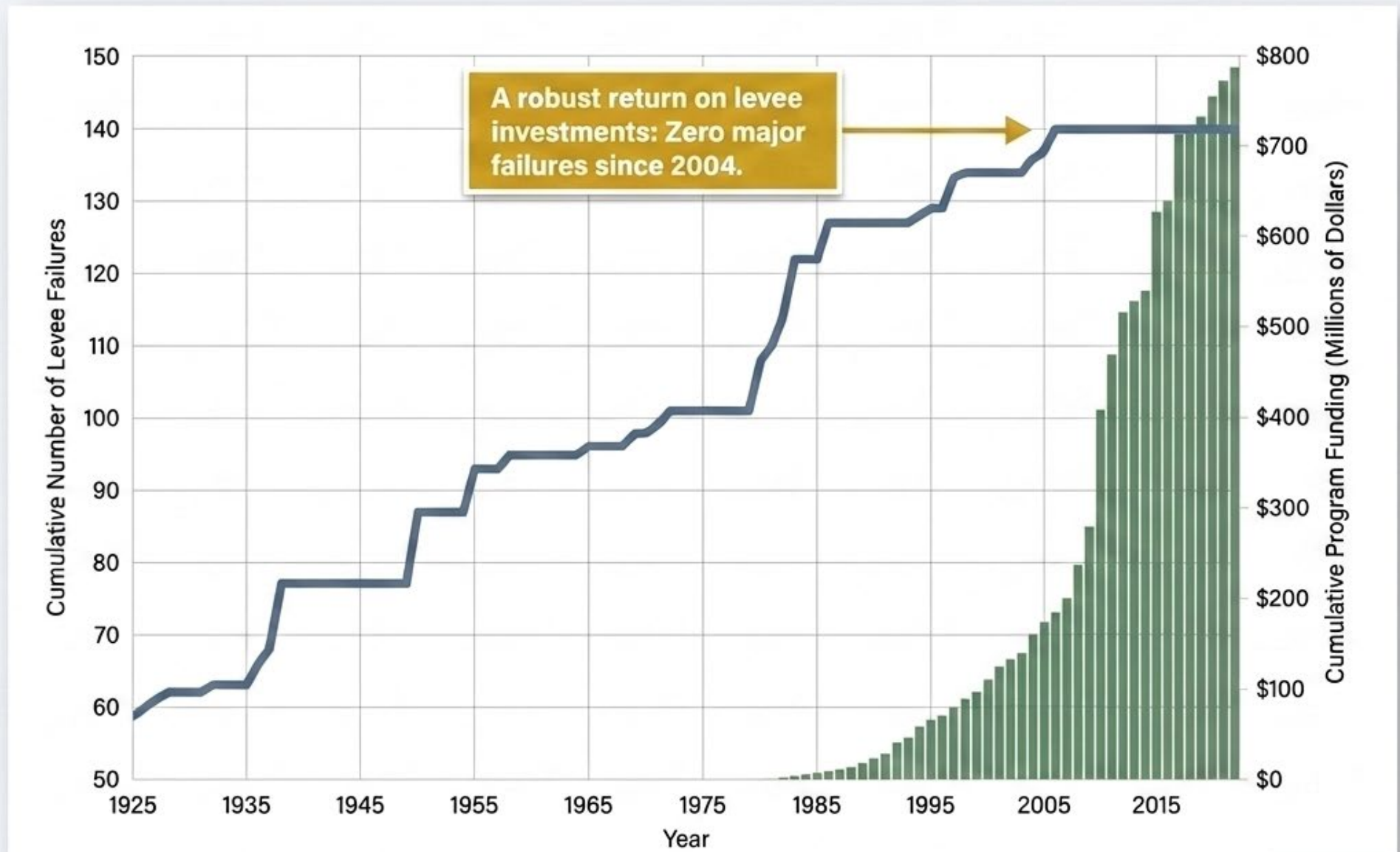
This baseline helps frame whether future investments are closing the gap fast enough.

State Investment Has Meaningfully Reduced System-Wide Risk

Long-term investment has improved system reliability.

DWR's historical record shows fewer levee failures after sustained State investment began.

The Delta has not experienced a major levee failure since 2004.



Reported Activity Includes Different Types of Work

Not all reported activity produces the same kind of flood-risk reduction outcome. DWR annual reports include several types of work that support Delta flood management, but they should not be interpreted the same way.



Direct Levee Improvements

Physically improve levee geometry, stability, seepage control, erosion protection, or crest elevation.
These are most directly tied to completed flood-risk reduction.



Access, Operations, and Maintenance

Support inspections, emergency access, patrol roads, routine repairs, or ongoing levee system condition.
These activities are important, but they are not always the same as levee upgrades.



Ecosystem Restoration / Multi-Benefit Projects

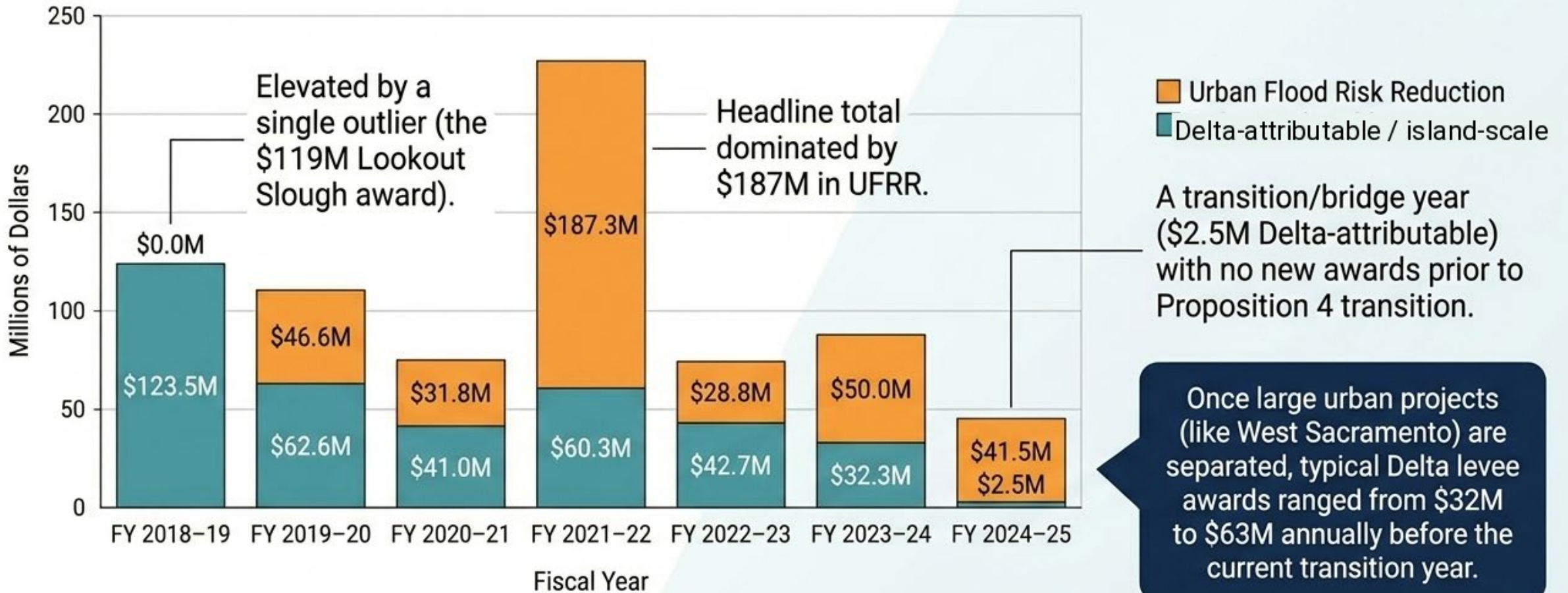
Provide habitat, restoration, or other ecosystem benefits and may also support flood resilience.
These projects are valuable, but their flood-risk reduction benefit depends on the specific project.

Key Message: Each category matters, but direct levee improvements are most clearly tied to completed flood-risk reduction.

Large Urban Projects Can Dominate the Funding Story

Delta-attributable investments are smaller and more variable when large UFRR projects are isolated.

Funding by Source and Fiscal Year (Millions of Dollars)



Completed Work on the Ground

Agenda Item 9, Presentation
Meeting Date: May 28, 2026
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The completed record shows highly meaningful work, but overall completed outcomes during this window are limited relative to the scale of need.

Direct Levee Improvements (3)

Bethel Island, Sherman Island, and Terminous Tract. (These represent actual physical levee rehabilitation).

Operational / Access (1)

Lindsey Slough All-Weather Roadway.

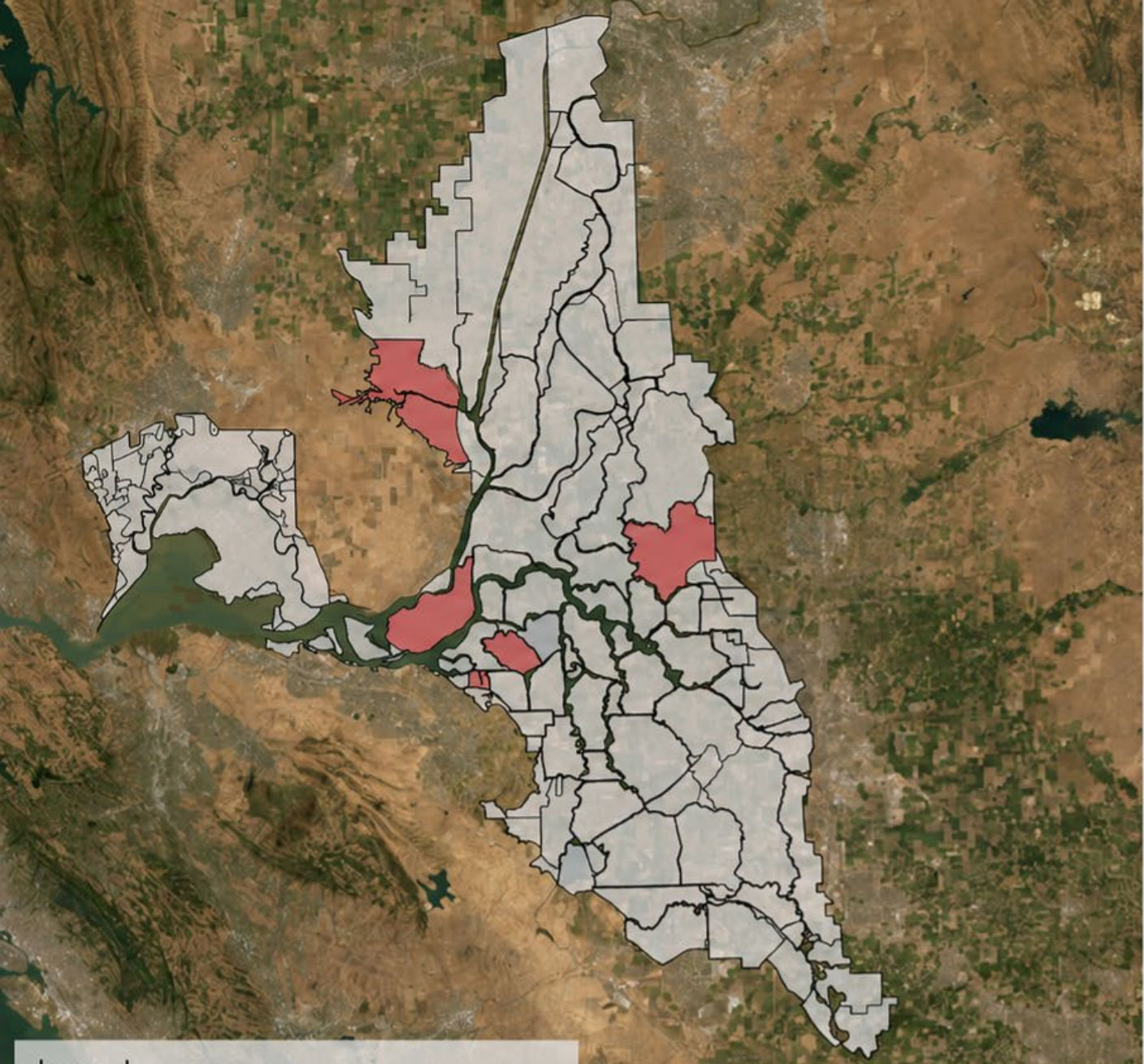
Multi-Benefit Restoration (1)

Dutch Slough Phase I.

Maintenance

FY 24–25 patrol road gravel repairs.

Takeaway: Only a specific subset of completed projects represents direct levee-improvement outcomes.



Legend
■ Islands/tracts with completed projects
□ All other islands/tracts

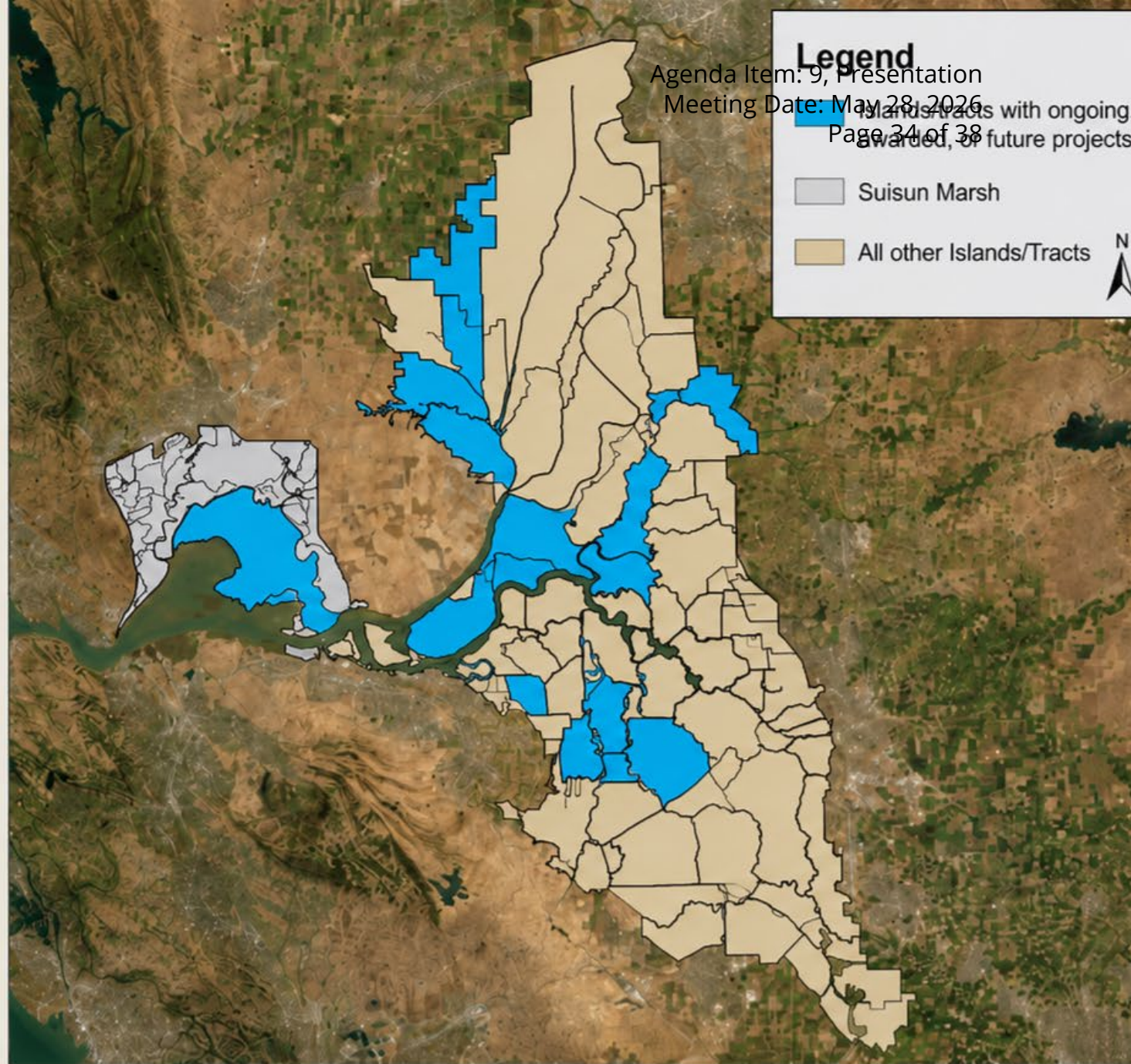
Project locations are shown at the island/tract level based on DWR annual reports covering Fiscal Years 2018–19 through 2024–25. Project footprints may not cover the entire island or tract.

Ongoing and Future Work Is Still Moving Through the System

This map shows places where Delta levee work is active, awarded, or planned for future construction. Some projects are underway, some have received funding, and others are still in planning or design.

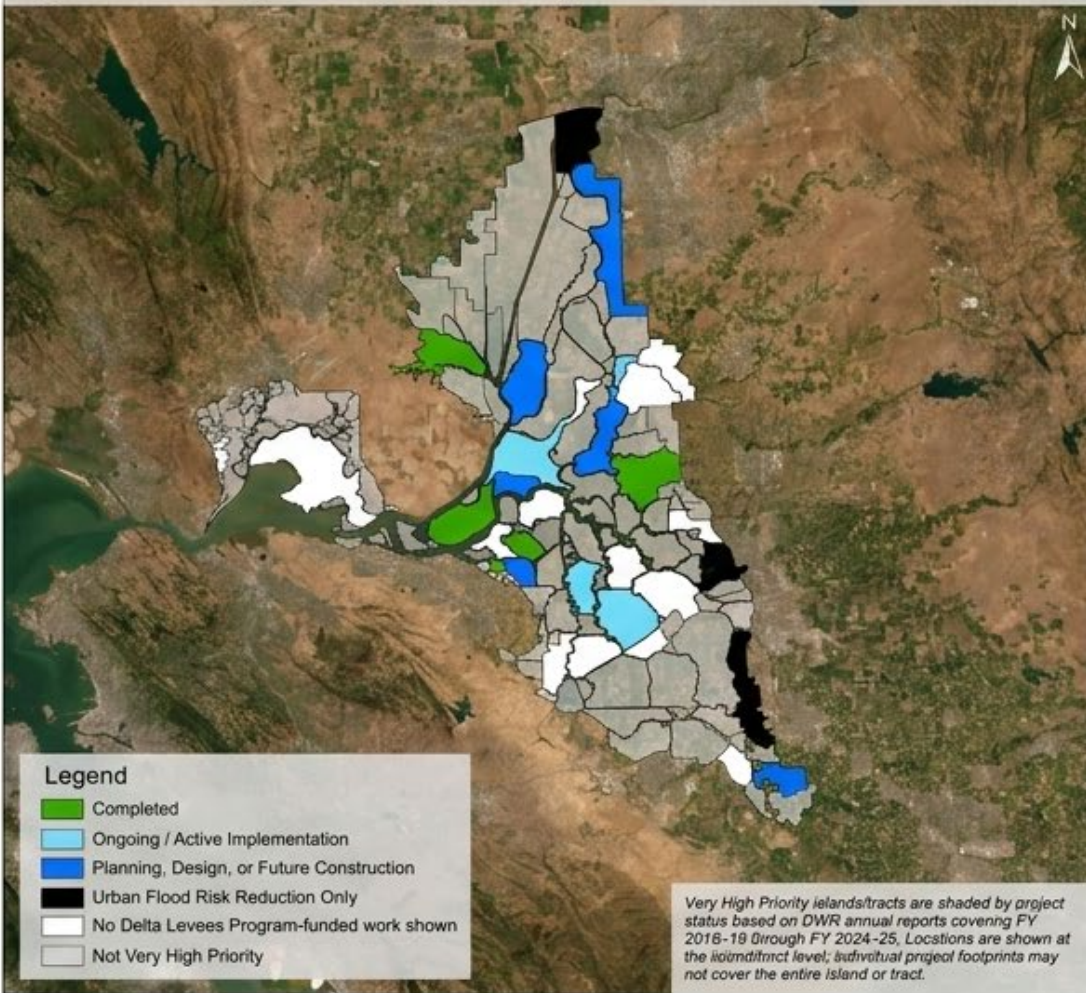
- Many selections from the FY 2023–24 Project Solicitation Package (PSP) are only in Phase 1 design.
- “Active” status should not automatically mean a project is advancing on schedule.

Key point: This map shows ongoing activity and future potential — not completed risk reduction.



Very High Priority Islands: Meaningful Alignment, but Gaps Remain

Figure 3. Coverage of Very High Priority Islands/Tracts



Alignment vs. Coverage

16 of 33

Very High priority islands show Delta Levees Program-funded work.

17 of 33

Very High priority islands show no Delta Levees Program-funded work identified in the reviewed reports.

There is meaningful alignment where funding has flowed, but coverage remains incomplete. The Fiscal Year 2023–24 Project Solicitation Package received about \$135 million in proposals for about \$37 million in available funds, indicating substantial unmet demand among high-need areas.

Progress Toward the 2050 Rural Levee Target

30%

Diagnosis: A seven-year review shows meaningful State investment in Delta levees, yet completed direct levee improvements remain limited relative to the scale of need. Future funding decisions, including Proposition 4, will determine if the pace accelerates enough to close this gap.

100%

Current Compliance

Approximately 30% of rural Delta islands currently meet the levee standard.

2050 Target

The long-term mandate for all rural Delta islands to meet the levee standard.

The direction is right, but the pace needs to increase if the Delta is going to close the rural levee standard gap by 2050.

What does it all mean?

Progress is evident

- We are making progress towards meeting levee targets, but we have a long way to go

The Delta is dynamic, and so is DLIS

- DLIS is designed to changing conditions, and adaptive to evolving risk

Strength in Partnerships

- DLIS shows the power of a collaborative and publicly-informed process



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