

Central Valley Flood Management Program: How to Get Involved

FloodSAFE VISION

A sustainable integrated flood management and emergency response system throughout California that improves public safety, protects and enhances environmental and cultural resources, and supports economic growth by reducing the probability of destructive floods, promoting beneficial floodplain processes, and lowering the damages caused by flooding.



In many parts of California, flooding poses significant risks to society, the environment, and the economy. In response to these risks, in 2006, voters approved Propositions 1E and 84, which provided much needed resources for the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to launch FloodSAFE, a multi-faceted initiative to improve integrated flood management throughout California.

Voter approval of Propositions 1E and 84, along with State legislation passed in 2007, acknowledges the extent and severity of flood risk in the Central Valley and emphasizes flood management improvement in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley. One important new requirement for DWR is to prepare the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) by 2012, which is being developed through the Central Valley Flood Management Planning (CVFMP) Program. The problems and potential solutions related to integrated flood management in the Central Valley are very complex, and DWR intends to engage interested people with a variety of perspectives and expertise to help craft a plan that promotes understanding and enjoys broad support to enable extensive and rapid implementation of solutions.

To support effective, efficient engagement of the many participants necessary for CVFPP development, DWR has designed a systematic and collaborative planning process that offers many options and venues for participation, as described in the CVFMP Communications and Engagement Framework. Planning and communication goals include:

- Promote broad public understanding of flood management challenges and threats to agricultural, rural, and urban areas in the Central Valley, with a special emphasis on areas receiving protection from the State-Federal flood protection system
- Create a variety of opportunities for efficient, collaborative planning
- Ensure the relevance of, and increase support for, the CVFPP through broad participation of partners and interested parties

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Collaborative Planning and Engagement Opportunities

The CVFMP Program provides collaborative planning and engagement opportunities in three major categories: review and coordinate development of the CVFPP; help develop content and recommendations for the CVFPP; and participate in briefings and coordination.

Review and Coordinate Development of the CVFPP

The primary strategy for engaging a wide array of interests in CVFPP development is through forums. Forums will be conference-style public meetings with presentations, workshops, panel discussions, and information booths. These events will provide a venue for reporting progress on the CVFPP development; discussing draft plan content and gauging agreement; and fostering information-sharing about regional and system-wide flood management challenges and potential solutions.

Other FloodSAFE programs and projects related to the Central Valley will be integrated into forums to best use the time made available by attendees.

Forums will be hosted at two levels of geographic coverage. Valley-wide forums will be held to address topics of system-wide importance, and regional forums will be organized in five Central Valley regions to provide periodic opportunities to discuss progress, findings, and challenges from regional perspectives.

Develop Content and Recommendations for the CVFPP

Work groups are a critical element for developing a CVFPP that includes and accurately captures the state, federal, tribal, local, regional, and subject-matter expertise necessary to achieve broad public support. Work groups will be place-based (e.g. regional) and subject-based (e.g. topic). To facilitate focused efforts by work group participants, each work group will be chartered to complete specific work products in three to six months. Interested parties are invited to participate in an application process customized for the specific mission of each work group.

Regional work groups will be formed to enable local, regional, tribal, federal, and other state agency officials, as well as other interested parties, to work together on CVFPP content and strategy recommendations for their own geographic region. A series of work groups will be chartered in each region to assist the CVFPP development team in producing various milestone reports, which will incrementally augment the content of the CVFPP.

The initial five regional work groups are planned to be organized as follows:

- Upper Sacramento River Region
- Upper San Joaquin River Region
- Delta Region
- Lower San Joaquin River Region
- Lower Sacramento River Region

Topic work groups will be formed to enable public agency partners and other interested parties to support DWR in addressing challenges or subjects that transcend any one region. These work groups will collaborate on specific topics of importance to the CVFPP, such as climate change, levee performance, economics, land use and local planning, cost sharing, environmental stewardship, and operations and maintenance.

DWR recognizes that major groups in the Central Valley are organized for certain interest(s) in the scope of integrated flood management. These interest-based groups could provide multiple levels of assistance to the development of the CVFPP, depending on the organizations' charters and participants. During the process of developing the CVFPP, DWR will engage these interest-based groups on an as-needed basis, according to their expressed engagement interests.

Participate in Briefings and Coordination

Briefings will be held on an as-needed basis to elicit input from key stakeholders, elected and appointed officials, and other interested parties on the CVFPP. The purpose of such meetings will be to share information, facilitate coordination, and build understanding about topics of concern.

In addition to existing FloodSAFE and Integrated Water Management programs and projects, numerous efforts are planned or underway in the Central Valley that can affect or influence CVFPP development. Active coordination with these programs and projects is critical to success in developing the CVFPP.

To learn more about the forums, work groups, and other opportunities to assist in creating the CVFPP, you may visit the program website www.water.ca.gov/cvfmp or email us at cvfmp@water.ca.gov.

