

Central Valley Flood Protection Board Meeting

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING

Nutria Eradication Effort

(Valerie Cook-Fletcher, CDFW, and Gina Darin, DWR)

BRIEFING SUMMARY

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) will provide an informational briefing on the Nutria Eradication Effort and Department of Water Resources (DWR) staff will provide a brief update on DWR's contribution to the effort and coordination with the Central Valley Flood Protection Board.

Nutria (*Myocastor coypus*) are a large (20+ lbs.) semi-aquatic rodent native to South America that prefer wetland habitat. Nutria were discovered in California in March 2017 and an Incident Command System was initiated at CDFW in March 2018. Over 100 animals have been captured or sightings confirmed, mostly in the Merced area on the San Joaquin River, but as far north as Robert's Island in the south Delta. Nutria have the potential to destroy levees and tidal wetland restoration sites from their extensive burrowing and herbivory behavior.

CDFW, in coordination with stakeholders, is preparing an eradication plan, has applied for and secured funding, and has dedicated surveyors and trappers. DWR is currently assessing resources to commit to the eradication effort.