

Central Valley Flood Protection Board Meeting  
December 19, 2014

## INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING

### **Key themes, strategies and recommendations of California Water Plan Update 2013**

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## **BRIEFING SUMMARY**

### **Overview**

For almost 60 years, the California Water Plan (Water Plan) has served as the long-term strategic plan for informing and guiding the sound management and development of water resources in the state. With updates every five years, this plan reaffirms the State's commitment to integrated water management. It recognizes and reflects these five things every Californian should know:

- **Water is the Essence of Life for California** - Every living thing in the state, as well as our economy, depends on reliable, clean water to thrive. There are greater demands for water in our state than ever before.
- **California's Complex Water System is in Crisis** - Our interconnected system of water resources — natural and human made — is severely threatened on many fronts, with significant risks to our health, safety, economic well-being, and quality of life.
- **A Diverse Portfolio Approach is Required** - The complexity of our water resources systems and the associated risks demand a diverse set of actions and investment strategies. There is no silver bullet.
- **Solutions Require Integration, Alignment, and Investment** - Commitment to the integrated water management approach, alignment toward a common vision, and stable financing are essential to ensure future resiliency — the ability to adapt to change.
- **We All Have a Role to Play in Securing Our Future** - Decision-makers, resource agencies, water resource managers, interest groups, and water users at the State, federal, tribal, and local levels need to actively engage in the solutions.

### **Update 2013 Helps Implement the Governor's Water Action Plan**

Update 2013 is a key resource for implementing the Governor's Water Action Plan in a manner aligned with the State's long-term, strategic vision for water. The Water Action Plan describes 10 essential actions that represent the Brown Administration's priorities for the next five years. The Water Action Plan is informed by the more comprehensive suite of recommended strategies and actions in Update 2013. Update 2013 includes a matrix showing linkages between the 10 priorities in the five-year Governor's Water Action Plan and the 17 objectives and 30+ resource management strategies of the longer-term California Water Plan. The actions related to Update 2013's 17 objectives represent the alignment of nearly 40 companion State agency plans and are well supported by the State's diverse stakeholder groups and opinion leaders.

## **Integrated Water Management Delivers Multiple Benefits**

Integrated water management is a comprehensive and collaborative approach for managing water to concurrently achieve social, environmental, and economic objectives. In the California Water Plan, these objectives are focused toward improving public safety, fostering environmental stewardship, and supporting economic stability. This integrated approach delivers higher value for investments by considering all interests, providing multiple benefits, and working across jurisdictional boundaries at the appropriate geographic scale. Examples of multiple benefits include improved water quality, better flood management, restored and enhanced ecosystems, and more reliable water supplies.

## **Improve Flood Management Using an Integrated Water Management Approach**

One of the 17 objectives of Update 2013 is to improve flood management using an integrated water management approach, summarized as, “Promote and practice flood management that reduces flood risk to people and property and maintains and enhances natural floodplain functions using an IWM approach. An IWM approach utilizes a system-wide perspective and considers all aspects of water management, including public safety and emergency management, environmental sustainability, and economic stability (which includes water supply reliability, water quality, and system and community resiliency).” This objective includes 14 related actions with several sub-actions.

Flood management is complex and relatively new to the California Water Plan (included for the first time in Update 2009). One of 30+ resource management strategies (RMS) in Update 2013 focuses on flood management, and is unique to the other strategies in that it contains multiple approaches within a single RMS. For Update 2013, the flood management RMS provides local and regional water managers a broader perspective of available flood management tools and their interrelationships within one chapter. In future Water Plan updates as flood management becomes even more integrated, additional flood management RMSs may be developed.

## **Update 2013 Highlights Booklet and Volumes Online**

The final California Water Plan Update 2013 and its Highlights booklet are posted online at:

<http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/cwpu2013/final/index.cfm>

The Highlights provides an overview of Update 2013’s key themes, strategies, recommendations and supporting information.

