

Central Valley Flood Protection Board Meeting
August 22, 2014

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING

**CENTRAL VALLEY FLOOD PROTECTION PLAN
CENTRAL VALLEY FLOOD SYSTEM CONSERVATION STRATEGY
ADMINISTRATIVE DRAFT**

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BRIEFING SUMMARY

Overview

The Central Valley Flood Protection Act of 2008 requires the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to develop a sustainable, integrated flood management plan that identifies three environmental objectives:

- Promote natural dynamic hydrologic and geomorphic processes.
- Increase and improve the quantity diversity, and connectivity of riparian, wetland, floodplain, and shaded riverine aquatic habitats, including the agricultural values of these lands.
- Promote the recovery and stability of native species populations and overall biotic community diversity.

In order to achieve these environmental objectives, DWR is developing the Central Valley Flood System Conservation Strategy, which is a key part of the 2017 CVFPP. Since the release of the 2012 CVFPP, DWR has convened a multi-agency advisory committee to help inform the content of the Conservation Strategy. The Conservation Strategy provides the system-wide context and direction for DWR's environmental activities related to improving integrated flood management in the Central Valley flood management system. For the 2017 CVFPP, it will provide measurable ecological objectives for ecosystem processes, habitats, and species, and for reduction of stressors. It also describes the approach to attaining these objectives that includes adaptive management of implementation.

Specifically, the Administrative Draft of the Conservation Strategy:

- Clarifies the importance of and need to incorporate environmental improvements into flood management activities and the extent of needed environmental improvements
- Focuses on providing physical environmental improvements that also benefit the flood management system
- Provides an approach to integrating ecological improvements into the design and implementation of flood improvement projects within the context of the goals of

the Central Valley Flood Protection Act of 2008 and the FloodSAFE California initiative

- Describes management actions for integrating conservation into multi-benefit projects to attain the goals and objectives
- Presents an adaptive management-based approach to implementation that uses monitoring and evaluation to guide implementation
- Provides a scientific and planning foundation upon which to develop more specific plans for programmatic and project environmental permits

Integration with 2017 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan

The 2017 CVFPP recognizes the interconnection of flood management actions and habitat conservation, and it will achieve both flood management and environmental goals. DWR intends to coordinate the activities of the Conservation Strategy, Basin-wide Feasibility Studies and Regional Flood Management Planning in a way that the planning processes inform each other and are properly integrated into the 2017 CVFPP.

Conservation Strategy Schedule

An administrative draft of the Conservation Strategy is currently under review by key stakeholders. DWR intends to release a public draft of the Conservation Strategy in fourth quarter 2014. The Conservation Strategy will inform and be integrated in the 2017 CVFPP.