

# Department of Water Resources

## Flood Emergency Response Grants



DWR's Flood Emergency Response Grants support improved local flood emergency preparedness and response in California through two separately-funded project geographic areas: Delta and Statewide. Eligible applicants must be California public agencies with primary responsibility for flood emergency response and coordination. Grants support and reinforce the State's Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) by requiring local agencies to work through a SEMS-like structure which facilitates stronger working relationships among local responders and improves coordination, communication, mutual aid, and overall speed and effectiveness of emergency response.

With improved local and regional emergency preparedness, the state is ultimately better prepared to respond to emergencies. Additionally, as each local agency delivers its emergency plan, the State's library and understanding of local emergency operations grows.

### Eligible Work

- Preparing or updating local flood emergency operations plans
- Coordinating flood emergency planning and preparedness, including training and exercises
- Developing systems or purchasing equipment to effectively communicate and coordinate response to flood emergencies
- Purchasing flood fight stockpiling materials

### Funding Awards

#### Delta region:

- \$5M of Proposition 84 awarded to six local agencies in 2012
- \$5M of Proposition 1E awarded to six lead agencies, representing 126 local agencies, in 2014
- \$5M of Proposition 1E for new projects is scheduled to be awarded in 2016

#### Statewide (excluding Delta):

- \$5M of Proposition 84 awarded in 2013 to 14 lead agencies representing 67 local agencies
- \$5M of Proposition 84 awarded in 2015 to 23 lead agencies representing 113 local agencies

### Projects Spotlight

Ventura County is in the process of updating the Automated Local Evaluation in Real Time (ALERT) 2 System maintained and operated by various flood management agencies in southern California. The Alert 2 System consists of gages and radio towers and receivers which monitor river and stream water levels, rainfall and other meteorological parameters – e.g., wind speed/direction, humidity – in real time. Updates will improve data quality and eliminate data loss due to



Solano County's new Communications on Wheels (COW), a mobile communications center dedicated to emergency response (Photo: DWR, October 2015)



Ventura County project will have ALERT 2 rain gauges similar to the one installed in the San Francisquito Creek watershed as part of a different DWR Emergency Response Grants-funded project (Photo: City of Palo Alto, 2014)

# Department of Water Resources

## Flood Emergency Response Grants



overlapping transmissions. The project will improve collection and coordination of this data for communities such as San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, as well as San Bernardino, Orange, Riverside, and San Diego Counties, an area of approximately 50,000 square miles where more than 21 million live and work.

Local flood management agencies also use the system as an emergency communications tool to exchange weather and storm related data, and the data assists locals in coordinated storm planning, preparedness, and response management. In addition to the NWS, the Alert 2 System data can also be used to warn residents, increasing evacuation time.

Sacramento County installed the Twitchell Island Communications Tower. This radio tower works in tandem with mobile communications vehicles and other radio equipment owned by Contra Costa, Solano, Yolo, Sacramento, and San Joaquin counties and provides interoperable communications for emergency responders throughout the Delta. Prior to installation of this tower, a reliable communications system for emergency responders in the Delta region did not exist. The tower and associated system support better coordinated, aligned, and more effective local overall emergency response in the Delta. Additionally, State responders can now quickly “tie into” emergency response, reliably contact local emergency responders, and more effectively provide support where it is needed.

Reclamation District 108, which maintains the levees along the Sacramento River and Colusa Basin Drain just south of the City of Grimes, is leading a regional effort to:

- Update County-level Flood Specific Emergency Operation Plans for Colusa, Glenn, Sutter, and Butte counties
- Develop Emergency Operation plans for 6 active local levee maintenance areas within those counties
- Create a Unified Flood Fight Command System Operations Manual
- Develop flood contingency maps for the Upper and Middle Sacramento River Region
- Develop a training plan that will bring the agencies into compliance to receive FEMA reimbursement following an emergency declaration

The above efforts will provide levee patrol plans, evacuation plans, contingency options, delivery points and staging areas, communications plans, dewatering plans, and flood fight histories. These efforts provide increased emergency coordination, preparedness, and response levels for the region.



The 300-foot tall Twitchell Island radio communications tower provides interoperable communications for five Delta counties (Photo: DWR, October 2015)

# Department of Water Resources

## Flood Emergency Response Grants



The following regional flood exercises will be funded by the Flood ER Grants Program (Statewide and Delta). These exercises will include DWR and other participating agencies to test local flood emergency plans, reinforce SEMS roles and responsibilities, and practice communication protocols.

Initiated Contracts (Exercises Scheduled between 2014- 2017)		
<b>Delta</b>	San Joaquin County OES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training (SEMS/NIMS - 6 County and 52 LMA courses)</li> </ul>
	Yolo County OES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training</li> <li>• Exercise</li> </ul>
	Sacramento County OES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training (SEMS/NIMS - RD's)</li> <li>• Tabletop (RD's)</li> <li>• Functional (Twitchell Island)</li> </ul>
	Solano County OES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training (SEMS/NIMS - LMAs)</li> </ul>
Initiated Contracts (Exercises Scheduled between 2014- 2017)		
<b>Statewide</b>	Yuba County OES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Slow Rise Exercise (completed Oct 2014)</i></li> </ul>
	Sacramento County OES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tabletop</li> <li>• Functional</li> </ul>
	Contracts To Be Initiated in 2016 (Exercises Scheduled between 2016- 2019)	
	Reclamation District 108	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Exercise</li> </ul>
	West Sacramento	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tabletop</li> <li>• Functional</li> <li>• Full Scale</li> </ul>
	Yuba County OES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slow Rise Exercise</li> </ul>
	Sonoma County Fire and ESD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tabletop</li> <li>• Functional</li> </ul>
	Stanislaus County OES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tabletop</li> <li>• Field</li> </ul>
	Lompoc Fire Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tabletop</li> <li>• Functional</li> </ul>
	Pico Rivera	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tabletop</li> <li>• Functional</li> </ul>
	Arcata Fire Protection District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field training</li> </ul>
	Corona	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training drills</li> </ul>
	Angels Camp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training drill</li> </ul>