

- The State-federal flood control system includes nearly 1600 miles of levees that protect the Central Valley from devastating floods. These levees have been “authorized” by the State and federal governments and are known as “project levees.”
- The Board has the responsibility of regulating encroachments that may affect the federal flood control system built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and is maintained by local maintaining agencies.
- The Board has adopted about 1300 miles of “designated floodways” to control the type of construction allowed in these flood-prone areas.
- During the 1997 floods, the federal flood control system prevented billions of dollars in damages to the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys. However, there were several levee failures which re-emphasized the ongoing need to protect and improve the existing levees and flood control projects in the Central Valley.
- A 100-year flood has a 1% chance of occurring in any given year. This is roughly equivalent to a 26% chance that a 100-year flood will occur during a typical homeowner’s 30-year mortgage.



Central Valley Flood Protection Board
Phone: (916) 574-0609
Fax: (916) 574-0682
cvfpbquestions@water.ca.gov
3310 El Camino Avenue, Room 151
Sacramento, California 95821
<http://www.cvfpb.ca.gov>
For emergencies call (916) 574-2619

THE CENTRAL VALLEY
FLOOD PROTECTION BOARD

NEED FOR AN ENCROACHMENT PERMIT



As a landowner living near a State-federal flood control project levee in the Sacramento or San Joaquin Central Valley or Delta, you probably have questions about the restrictions the project places on your property and what kinds of projects are allowable by law. In this pamphlet **you'll find the answers** to many of your questions, along with some information on how to keep your property from flooding.

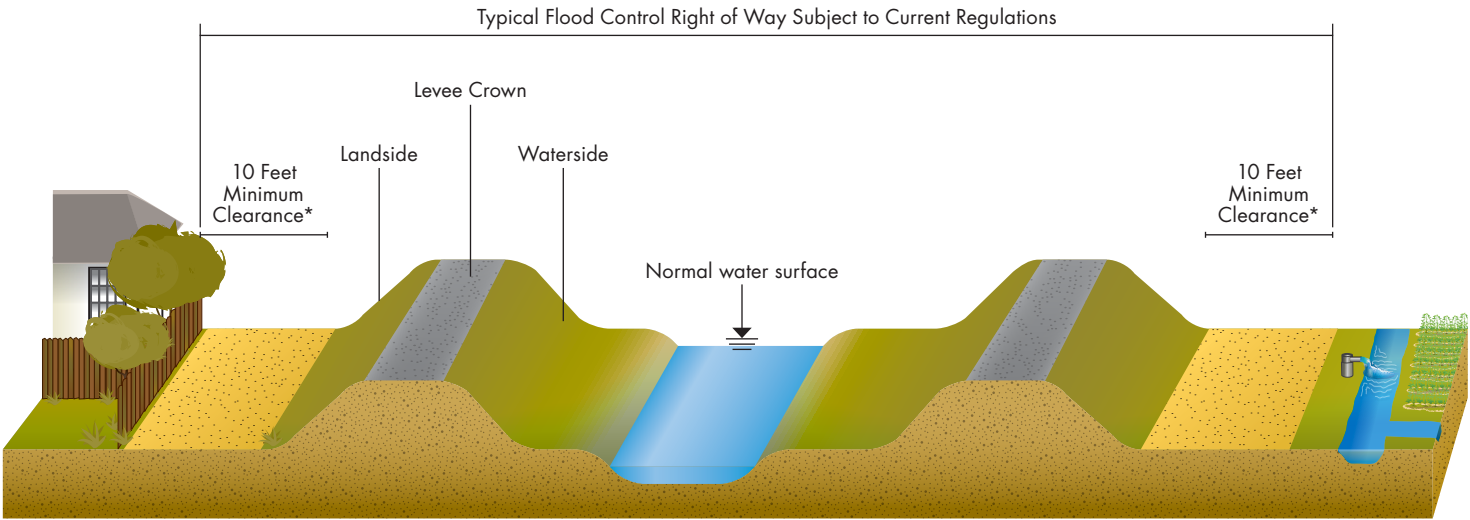
**The Central Valley Flood Protection Board's (Board)
Area of Jurisdiction:**

As stated in the California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Article 1, Section 2(b), "the area of the Board's jurisdiction includes the entire Central Valley, including all tributaries and distributaries of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers, and the Tulare and Buena Vista Basins."

**You are required to apply for a Central Valley
Flood Protection Board encroachment permit if
your proposed project or work plan:**

- Is within an Adopted Plan of Flood Control, as defined by the California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Section 4, which can be viewed on-line at: <http://www.cvfpb.ca.gov> (under the Do I Need a Permit tab).
- Is within the flood control right of way for levees shown on the diagram below.
- Is near or on a regulated Central Valley stream as listed in Table 8.1 in Title 23
- May impact the current or future State Plan of Flood Control (please contact the Board Office at (916) 574-0609 if you have questions about the impact of your work plan or project).

Levee/Flood Channel cross-section showing the minimum 10-foot clearance



*Future regulations may increase the minimum 10-foot clearance requirement. Please review the CVFPB website for the latest standards.

In response to repeated flooding from the late 1800s to the mid 1960s, first farmers with local interests and then flood management agencies (reclamation districts, levee maintenance districts, drainage districts, flood control districts, the State and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) built a flood control system of levees, weirs, bypasses and other structures to direct floodwaters away from people and property. Since 1911 this system has been regulated by the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (known as the Reclamation Board prior to 2008).

The Board works in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and local maintaining agencies to establish, plan, construct, and maintain flood control works to help prevent flooding along the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and their tributaries and distributaries. The Board maintains the integrity of the existing flood control system and designated floodways through its regulatory authority by issuing encroachment permits.

The Central Valley Flood Protection Board is comprised of seven Board members appointed by the Governor, two non-voting, ex-officio members from both of the State’s legislative branches, and 20+ staff members, including engineers, environmental scientists, technicians and administrative staff.

PERMIT PROCESS

The protection offered by flood control systems should never be compromised. To ensure this the Board requires an encroachment permit for all projects or actions that affect the system (well over 18,000 have already been issued).

How do I obtain an encroachment permit application?
An electronic copy of the permit application (along with required DWR Forms 3615 and 3615a) can be downloaded from the Board’s website at www.cvfpb.ca.gov/forms.cfm. To get answers to questions, or to request a hardcopy of a permit application, contact the Board at (916) 574-0609.

How do I get my application approved?
An application must comply with the Board’s regulations in accordance with Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations and the California Environmental Quality Act, and should be endorsed by the responsible local or State maintaining agency. If you need assistance in identifying your maintaining agency, please contact the Board. If your application is incomplete, it will be returned to you. The Board will acknowledge receipt of your application in writing within 10 working days of receipt, and will notify you within 30 calendar days whether the application is complete or requires additional data.

When the application package is complete, the Board’s technical staff performs an extensive review of the proposed work to ensure it is compliant with current standards before a decision is made on approval and issuance of the permit. Most applications also require review and comment by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District (Corps).

What if my project doesn’t meet Board or Corps Standards?
If your proposed project does not meet current standards, it may be denied, or it may need to be revised to comply with Title 23 and/or Corps standards.

Always obtain a Board encroachment permit prior to commencing any project on or near a federal/State levee/ flood control structure or within the Board’s jurisdictional area.

Why are levees and their proper maintenance so important?

- Levees provide flood protection for the Central Valley, one of the largest and highest valued, yet flood-prone, areas within California.
- Major cities, many smaller towns, and agricultural lands in the Sacramento and San Joaquin River valleys, and the Delta, are protected by flood control projects.
- Proper maintenance of flood control levees is crucial to help preserve their structural integrity.
- Proper maintenance of levees allows the levee maintaining agencies to inspect the slopes, which is critical during high water events and flood fights.
- Keeping a well-maintained levee reduces the risk of failure and protects the public, the State’s resources, and the economy.

Who maintains these levees:

The State-federal flood control project levees were built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and, in part, by the State of California. The State (through the Board) accepted

responsibility for operations and maintenance of the levees, and then transferred most of these operation and maintenance responsibilities to the local maintaining agencies. Some levees are maintained by the State.

How you can help protect these flood control levees and the State’s flood control system:

- Make sure your proposed project is code compliant and permitted.
- Keep all levee slopes clear of obstructions and structures, including vegetation, to allow easy visual inspection and to support emergency flood fight activities
- Do not plant fruit or nut trees, which attract burrowing rodents, on or near levees and in the flood control system.
- Report suspected levee problems (i.e. sloughs, boils, seepage, horizontal or vertical shifts, cracks, erosion, etc.) to the Department of Water Resources’ State-Federal Flood Operation Center at (916) 574-2619 and to your local county Office of Emergency Services, or directly to the Board.



Typical steps constructed to the standards of the Board.



A 10-foot fencing setback conforms to the current standards of the Board.



Agricultural pumps must meet specific installation standards.