

Informational Briefing to the Central Valley Flood Protection Board on
Rural Levee Repair Guidelines by Dave Wheeldon
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Rural Levee Repair Guidelines Summary

The Rural Levee Repair Guidelines (RLRG) were developed in response to needs identified in the 2012 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) to develop a common, consistent set of rural levee repair guidelines to help local maintaining agencies plan, design, and construct these repairs efficiently and effectively. This effort contributes to the implementation of the State Systemwide Investment Approach as outlined in the 2012 CVFPP.

Per CVFPB Resolution 2012-25, which states: *The Board will create an advisory committee, or other appropriate group, working with DWR, local maintaining agencies, interested stakeholders, and the USACE to develop rural levee repair and improvement criteria, to be applied to planned or emergency work. The Board intends for the advisory committee or group to produce draft criteria to be available by July 1, 2013. (CVFPB Resolution No. 2012-25, Section 11(h)).* DWR, on behalf of the RLRG Work Group, is presenting the final draft of the Rural Levee Repair Guidelines through an informational briefing to the Central Valley Flood Protection Board.

The process to develop the guidelines involved a collaborative effort with input from a diverse work group of representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB), DWR, local maintaining agencies, subject matter experts, and interested parties. The work group was conducted through a formal consensus-seeking process. However, input from the work group about the guidelines and assistance in clarifying technical, institutional, and financial challenges were critical to development of these guidelines. These Rural Levee Repair Guidelines establish the basis for certain rural levee repairs to mitigate known hazards and improve flood protection in an affected region.

The RLRG contains levee repair templates that have been developed to address common levee distress mechanisms such as erosion, underseepage, through seepage, crown depression and slope instability. These repair components have been used to alleviate distress from past high water events and are expected to improve levee conditions for the applicable distress mechanisms.

The development process for these guidelines has included multiple briefings to the CVFPB, DWR Coordinating Committee, Interagency Flood Management Collaborative Program, and internal DWR management meetings. The document has been reviewed by DWR Division of Flood Management senior management, DWR Legal, Key external stakeholders such as the Central Valley Flood Control Association, State and local farm bureaus, state regulatory agencies.