

Central Valley Flood Protection Board Meeting

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING

Legislative Update

BRIEFING SUMMARY

Background

The CA Legislature requires each house to pass bills introduced in that house by June 4th and must pass the State budget by June 15th. The release of the full President's budget is anticipated on May 27th.

Current Status as of May 17, 2021

A status of California legislative bills of interest is attached. Of note, the State Yolo Bypass Cache Slough partnership bill, SB 369 (Pan) is currently in the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee. Also, AB 921 (McCarty) that adopts and approves the West Sacramento Project, redefines the boundary of RD 900 to include MA4, and extends the adequate progress deadline for 200-year level of protection to 2030 is currently in the Appropriations suspense file.

Federal news as of May 17, 2021

Bipartisan conversations continue around an infrastructure package. The House and Senate have reinstituted ear marks otherwise known as "Community Project Funding" and "Congressionally Directed Spending Items", respectively.

On May 7th, the Board staff and DWR staff submitted a joint letter commenting on implementation guidance (IG) for Section 209 (Yolo Bypass Comp Study) of WRDA 2020 as part of the USACE 60-day comment period. Board staff also contributed to WRDA 2020 comment letters submitted by the National Waterways Conference (NWC) and National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agency (NAFSMA) organizations. With Michael Connor, the new Assistant Secretary to the Army candidate yet to be confirmed, the timing and direction for developing IG remains uncertain.

A draft of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) reauthorization was recently released. A few highlight sections of the bill pertain to insurance rates for non-certified levee protected areas, appropriations for the National Flood Mapping Program, and providing variance for certain agriculture structures consistent with earlier legislation proposed by Reps. Garamendi and LaMalfa.

The Board Executive Officer and Policy Advisor participated in a NAFSMA "Virtual Mentoring Session for Flood Risk Management and Public Works Agencies to Share Best Practices and Discuss Solutions to Risks Posed by Encampments of Persons

Experiencing Homelessness". Another participant, Helene Schneider (Helene.Schneider@usich.gov), the Regional Coordinator for U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (<https://www.usich.gov>) will provide an overview of their services to the Board.