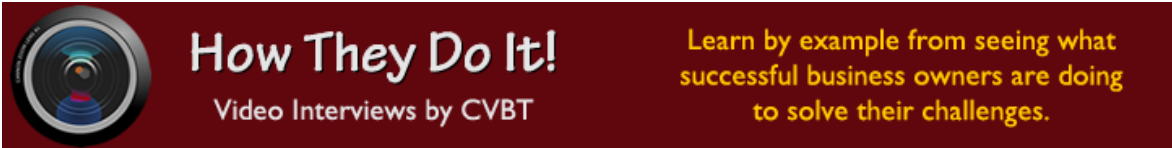


# Central Valley Business Times



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## Local Guides

\$246 Million for Central Valley urban flood protection projects

SACRAMENTO  
May 13, 2015 9:07pm



- \$112 Million is biggest single project OK'd 
- "Flood looms every winter in California" 

Funding recommendations are being made for projects that the state says will lower flood risk for thousands of Central Valley residents and also improve wildlife habitat. 

The projects would be funded through \$246 million in Proposition 1E funding that was appropriated as part of the \$1 billion drought-relief legislative package enacted in March 2015.

"We are in the midst of drought now," says California Department of Water Resources Director Mark Cowin, "but flood looms every winter in California, especially in the Central Valley, where our major rivers drain."

DWR says the projects will help provide a higher level of flood protection for urban areas behind federal-state levees.

There are between 13,000 and 14,000 miles of levees in California. In the 1950s, the state committed to maintain about 1,600 miles of federal levees in the Central Valley; these levees are called federal-state levees.

Local agencies originally built the levees, and today, local agencies are responsible for maintaining these levees in coordination with DWR and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. These levees protect not only local lives, property and infrastructure, they also are part of California's water delivery system.

The projects proposed for funding would protect development in communities including Stockton, Lathrop, Sacramento, Yuba City, Live Oak, Biggs, Linda, Olivehurst, Plumas Lake and Woodland.

The projects also collectively involve nearly 20 miles of levee repair and improvement.

Funding approved:

- \$40,828,931 to complete the remainder of improvements on the Feather River West Levee from Thermalito Afterbay to Star Bend; including the construction of the Oroville Wildlife Flood Stage Reduction and Ecosystem Enhancement Project.
- \$112,000,000 for three projects to address noted deficiencies along the Sacramento River East Levees (Pocket Area) and North Sacramento Streams with the aim of providing at least a 100-year level of flood protection to the Sacramento area; including a NEMDC Corridor Management project.
- \$22,309,666 to construct the Smith Canal Gate to reduce flood risk to the heavily urbanized area of the Central Stockton Basin to meet FEMA Standards and State Urban Levee Design Criteria.
- \$28,730,000 to construct the Southport setback levee tie-ins and improvement of existing levees adjacent to the South Port Setback Project (previously funded as an EIP Project).
- \$32,600,000 to construct a new levee south of the Goldfields (Yuba River) area to complete 200-year flood protection for the Yuba Basin east of the Feather River.
- \$5,000,000 in the city of Lathrop to provide limited funding for feasibility and preliminary design activities for levee improvements to correct remaining ULDC deficiencies to provide 200-year protection within the RD-17 levee Basin.
- \$5,000,000 in the city of Woodland to provide limited funding for feasibility and preliminary design activities focusing on the Local Preferred Plan or a bypass channel from Cache Creek around the south side of the settling basin (currently under study by the USACE). Other aspects of the projects may be considered as systemwide elements.

Nine proposals were received requesting \$566 million in funding, which exceeded available funds for the program. Seven projects are recommended to receive partial or full funding, and the remaining projects are recommended to be considered for funding through a more appropriate alternative funding source at a later date.

The funding recommendations are in accordance with the 2012 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan, which defined the state's investment priorities for flood management.

The public comment period ends at 5:00 p.m. on May 29.



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