2007 California Flood Legislation

SUMMARY

ISSUED BY THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
INTRODUCTION

In January 2005 the Department of Water Resources (DWR) published a white paper on the critical condition of California’s flood management system entitled “Flood Warnings: Responding to California’s Flood Crisis.” This paper described the many challenges facing California with respect to flood risks and the neglected and deteriorating flood protection system. The paper also recommended several strategies that could reduce future flood risks.

Since that time, and in light of the catastrophic flooding of New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina, there has been increased focus on flood risk management in California. In November 2006, the voters of California passed two bond measures, Propositions 1E and 84, which provide approximately $4.9 billion specifically for flood risk reduction measures.

Through the 2007 Legislative Session, a cooperative effort involving the State, members of the Legislature, local governments and planning agencies, landowners and developers was undertaken to implement recommendations of the 2005 white paper. In October 2007, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a package of bills that take steps to do just that.

DWR presents this booklet as a summary of that legislation to provide the public with a better understanding of the roles of government agencies in its implementation, and the responsibilities placed on those agencies. Even as we move forward to implement these provisions of law the State and local governments, upon whom many of these requirements are placed, should not limit our efforts to protect the lives and property of Californians to these actions. Our levee systems will continue to age, climate change will continue to stretch their capacities, and the numbers of people and the value of the property protected by them are likely to increase as well. We cannot rest on these efforts, but must build off this legislation to ensure California’s communities, industries, and infrastructures are protected from flooding.
BACKGROUND

Major flooding has occurred throughout the Central Valley (see Figure 1) on a number of occasions since the early 1800s. This flooding has resulted in the construction of a large system of flood management features along the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers and tributaries. Much of this system comprises the State Plan of Flood Control. Despite these actions to date, damages from flooding in February 1986, January 1997, and January 1999 were the highest on record, shedding light on the susceptibility of the growing communities and related continuing development within the Central Valley to major flood events. The devastation and loss of life resulting from Hurricane Katrina in 2005 further raised public awareness of catastrophic storm events throughout the nation. In response, California voters passed the Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act (Proposition 1E) and the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act (Proposition 84) in November 2006, authorizing the sale of nearly $5 billion in State bonds for flood management improvements throughout the state with $4.275 billion of this amount specifically earmarked for the repair and improvements to State and Federal flood projects within the Central Valley.

In the latter part of 2007, the California Legislature passed and the Governor signed five interrelated bills (flood legislation) aimed at addressing the problems of flood protection and liability and helping direct use of the bond funds. These included Senate Bills (SB) 5 and 17, and Assembly Bills (AB) 5, 70, and 156. A sixth bill passed in 2007, AB 162, require additional consideration of flood risk in local land use planning throughout California. These bills, effective January 1, 2008, collectively added or amended sections in the California Government Code, Health and Safety Code, Public Resources Code, and Water Code. Together, these bills outline a comprehensive approach to improving flood management at the State and local levels, with elements to address both the chance of flooding (e.g., improvements to reduce the probability that floods will occur) and the consequences when flooding does occur.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to highlight the intent of these six pieces of flood legislation and to summarize the associated new local agency and State requirements. As described herein, portions of the flood legislation apply specifically to the Central Valley, while others apply to the entire State. For a complete listing of referenced code sections, including amendments and deletions, refer to the 2007 Flood Legislation Companion Reference.

1 The Central Valley refers to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley, which is defined by the flood legislation to be any lands in the bed or along or near the banks of the Sacramento River or San Joaquin River, or any of their tributaries or connected therewith.

2 The State Plan of Flood Control means the State and federal flood control works, lands, programs, plans, policies, conditions, and mode of maintenance and operations of the Sacramento River Flood Control Project described in Water Code Section 8350, and of flood control projects in the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River watersheds for which the Central Valley Flood Protection Board or the Department of Water Resources has provided the assurances of nonfederal cooperation to the United States, and those facilities identified in Water Code Section 8361. A map of State Plan of Flood Control facilities can be found at http://www.water.ca.gov/floodsafe/.
FIGURE 1: CALIFORNIA WITH LEGAL BOUNDARY OF CENTRAL VALLEY

Sacramento-San Joaquin Watershed

Central Valley
INTENT OF LEGISLATION

The flood legislation is intended to address a number of problems, and the underlying causes of those problems, associated with flood management in the State. These include flood control system deficiencies, the availability of flood risk information, and links between land use planning and flood management. The actions associated with these topics are described below.

Develop Plans to Address Flood Control System Deficiencies in the Central Valley

Much of the existing flood management system in the Central Valley is made up of a complex, integrated system of levees, channel improvements, bypasses, and related facilities. Rapid development and land use changes in the Central Valley have exposed deficiencies in this flood management system. Over time, historically agricultural lands and rural communities have been, and continue to be, converted to densely populated residential and urban centers. Facilities originally constructed to reclaim and reduce flooding on agricultural lands may provide inadequate protection for these urban and urbanizing areas, even if improvements are made to meet minimum federal standards. Further, while levees and other facilities may decrease the frequency of flooding, they do not offer complete protection from flooding.

The Central Valley Flood Protection Act of 2008, enacted by SB 5, seeks to address these problems by directing the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Board) to prepare and adopt a Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) by mid-2012. The CVFPP is to establish a systemwide approach to improving flood management in the areas currently receiving some amount of flood protection from the existing facilities of the State Plan of Flood Control. In addition, the CVFPP is to include a recommended list of both structural and nonstructural means for improving performance and eliminating the deficiencies of flood management facilities, while also addressing ecosystem and other water-related issues. DWR shall develop a recommended schedule and funding plan to implement the recommendations of the CVFPP. The flood legislation establishes the 200-year flood event (flood with a 1-in-200 chance of occurring in any year) as the minimum level of flood protection to be provided in urban and urbanizing areas. The flood legislation also limits the State’s liability for developing and adopting the CVFPP beyond the scope of the existing State Plan of Flood Control.

Provide Updated Information on Flood Risk

Cities and counties throughout the State rely upon federal flood plain information when approving developments, but the information available is often out of date and may not provide sufficient information to characterize the potential flood risk. Further, the primary purpose of federal flood standards provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is to establish a limit for requiring flood insurance for participating communities. These standards are not meant to establish an acceptable level of flood protection for urban and urbanizing areas.

The flood legislation requires DWR and the Board to adopt a schedule for mapping flood risk areas in the Central Valley. It also requires that DWR prepare and the Board approve levee flood protection zone maps. Beginning September 1, 2010, DWR is to provide yearly notices to owners of property in a levee flood protection zone.
**Require Land Use Planning and Management to Consider Flood Risk**

Linking land use decisions to flood risk estimates comprises another element of protecting lives and property in the Central Valley. Federal, State, and local agencies may construct and operate flood protection facilities to reduce flood risks, but some amount of flood risk will nevertheless remain for those who choose to reside in flood plains. Improving flood risk awareness will help ensure that Californians make careful choices when deciding whether to live in Central Valley flood plains, and if so, whether to prepare for flooding and/or maintain flood insurance.

The flood legislation sets deadlines for cities and counties in the Central Valley to amend their general plans and zoning ordinances to conform to the CVFPP within 24 months and 36 months, respectively, of its adoption by the Board. Once the general plan and zoning ordinance amendments are enacted, the approval of development agreements and subdivision maps is subject to restrictions in flood hazard zones. Central Valley counties are obligated to develop flood emergency plans within 24 months of CVFPP adoption.

The flood legislation also links flood liability with local planning decisions. As of January 1, 2008, cities and counties now share flood liability with the State in the case of litigation over unreasonably approved new development on previously undeveloped areas. This does not apply when the city or county has amended its general plan and zoning, and otherwise makes land use decisions consistent with the CVFPP.

**SUMMARY OF NEW REQUIREMENTS**

The following summarizes the new requirements associated with the flood legislation, as they relate to local planning, State planning, risk characterization and notification, and status reporting activities.

**Local Planning**

The flood legislation includes various new requirements for local agencies with land use authority and/or flood management responsibilities in the State, as follows:

- Cities and counties in the Central Valley must incorporate the CVFPP’s data, policies, and implementation measures into their general plans. (Added to Government Code Section 65302.9)

- Cities and counties in the Central Valley must amend their zoning ordinances to be consistent with the CVFPP. (Added to Government Code Section 65860.1)

- Central Valley counties must work with cities to develop an emergency response plan within 24 months of CVFPP adoption. (Added to Water Code Section 9621)

- Counties, cities, State, and local flood agencies must collaborate to provide relocation assistance or other cost-effective strategies for reducing flood risk to existing economically disadvantaged communities located in non-urbanized areas. (Added to Water Code Section 9622)

---

3 “Unreasonably approved” is defined as approval without appropriate consideration of known significant risks of flooding.
• Cities and counties must collaborate to develop funding mechanisms that finance local flood protection responsibilities by 2010. (Added to Water Code Section 9625)

• Cities and counties must add 200-year flood plain maps and maps of levee protection zones to the list of information regarding flood hazards to be identified in a revised safety element of a general plan. (Added to Government Code Section 65302)

• Refer the adopted or amended general plan to the Board when the proposed action is within the boundaries of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Drainage District. (Amended Government Code Section 65302)

• The Board and any relevant local agency must review the draft of an existing or amended safety element of each city and county located within the boundaries of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Drainage District. (Amended Government Code Section 65302.7)

• A council of governments must exclude land determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or DWR as having inadequate flood protection from its lands identified as suitable for urban development. (Amended Government Code Section 65584.04)

• Cities and counties in the Central Valley are prohibited from entering into development agreements, approving permits, entitlements, or subdivision maps for construction within a flood hazard zone unless it is protected by an urban level of flood protection or complies with FEMA standards. (Added to Government Code Section 65865.5)

• A city or county may be liable for its fair and reasonable share of property damage caused by a flood if the city or county has increased the State’s exposure to liability by unreasonably approving new development protected by the State Plan of Flood Control. (Added to Water Code Section 8307)

• The allocation or expenditure of funds by the state for the upgrade of a project levee, that protects an area in which more than 1,000 people reside will be subject to a requirement that the local agency responsible for the operation and maintenance of the project levee and any city or county protected by the project levee, including a charter city or charter county, is to enter into an agreement to adopt a safety plan within two-years. (Added to Water Code Section 9650)

These requirements are described in greater detail below, and summarized in Table 1.

**General Plan Revisions Prior to Adoption of the CVFPP**

California planning law requires that city and county general plans identify flood-prone areas and limit development in those areas. The flood legislation revised the requirements for the Land Use, Conservation, and Safety elements of city and county general plans, and these requirements apply statewide. Jurisdictions in the Central Valley are subject to additional requirements to ensure that their general plans conform to the CVFPP (as added in Government Code Section 65302.9). The amendments to the Land Use, Conservation, and Safety elements are required to be made by the next scheduled revision of the Housing element after January 1, 2009.
• **Land Use Element** - As of January 1, 2008, the Land Use element must be reviewed annually and updated to identify areas subject to flooding, as defined by FEMA and/or DWR. DWR is responsible for preparing preliminary maps for 100- and 200-year flood plains to support local agencies in implementing this requirement.

• **Conservation Element** - On or after January 1, 2009, the next revision to the Conservation element must identify rivers, creeks, streams, flood corridors, riparian habitats, and land that may accommodate floodwater for purposes of groundwater recharge and stormwater management.

• **Safety Element** - In addition to addressing flood hazards and flood plain management, the Safety element will now be required to identify information regarding flood hazards; establish comprehensive goals, policies, and objectives for the protection of the community from the unreasonable risks of flooding; and establish a set of feasible implementation measures to achieve the goals, policies, and objectives. Cities and counties with flood plain management ordinances that have been approved by FEMA, or have equivalent provisions in their general plan, may use that information in the Safety element.

**General Plan Revisions After Adoption of the CVFPP**

Cities and counties within the Central Valley will be required to update their general plans within 24 months of the Board’s adoption of the CVFPP. The update must contain all of the following:

1. The data and analysis contained in the CVFPP, including, but not limited to, the locations of the facilities of the State Plan of Flood Control and other flood management facilities, the locations of the real property protected by those facilities, and the locations of flood hazard zones.

2. Goals, policies, and objectives to protect lives and property and reduce the risk of flood damage.

3. Feasible measures to implement the goals, policies, and objectives.

When a city or county in the Central Valley is amending or adopting a new Safety element, it is required to consult with the Board for information and guidance, and submit the draft Safety element to the Board and every local agency that provides flood protection within the city or county for review before adoption. The Board is required to respond with its written recommendations. If the city or county does not accept the recommendations of the Board, it must provide a written notification to the Board and the local flood management agency of its reasons for rejecting the recommendations.
Other Local Planning Requirements

Additional local planning requirements identified by the flood legislation concern flood emergency plans, zoning and development, and disadvantaged communities, and are described below.

Flood Emergency Plans

Counties and cities are required to collaborate to develop flood emergency plans within 24 months of the adoption of the CVFPP (as added in Water Code Section 9621). The content is expected to be defined before adoption of the CVFPP.

Zoning and Development

Within 36 months of CVFPP adoption, but not more than 12 months after the amendment to its general plan, each city and county is to amend its zoning ordinance so that it is consistent with the amended general plan.

The legislative body of a city or county in the Central Valley is not to enter into a development agreement for any property located within a flood hazard zone, or approve any permit that would result in the construction of a new residence within a flood hazard zone, unless it finds one of the following:

- The property is protected by facilities that provide either an urban level of protection for urban areas, or to the FEMA standard of protection for rural areas.
- The city has placed conditions on the development that will ensure that the development is protected to either an urban level of protection for urban areas, or to the FEMA standard of protection for rural areas.
- The flood management agency has made annual, adequate progress toward providing either an urban level of protection for urban areas, or to the FEMA standard of protection for rural areas.

Cities and counties will share liability with the State in the case of litigation over unreasonably approved new development. This would not apply where the city or county has amended its general plan and zoning, and otherwise makes land use decisions consistent with the CVFPP.

Disadvantaged Communities

Each city and county must collaborate with State and local flood management agencies to provide relocation assistance or other cost-effective strategies for reducing flood risk to existing economically disadvantaged communities located in nonurbanized areas.

Local Flood Management Agency Requirements

By September 30 of each year, local agencies responsible for the operation and maintenance of project levees are to prepare and submit to DWR a report on the status and condition of those levees, including a summary of maintenance performed and an estimate of maintenance costs.

4 Urban area means any contiguous area in which more than 10,000 residents are protected by project levees (Public Resources Code 5096.805), so a nonurbanized area presumably consists of lands outside urban areas.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expected Date of Completion</th>
<th>Anticipated Actions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 2008</td>
<td>Any new development approved by local entities after this date may be subject to liability provisions, if the agency’s action to approve was unreasonable. The Land Use element of a local entity’s general plan must annually identify and include areas subject to flooding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 30, 2008</td>
<td>Local agencies responsible for the operation and maintenance of a project levee are required to prepare and submit to DWR a report relating to maintenance and condition of the levee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 2009</td>
<td>The next revision of the Conservation element of a general plan must identify waterways and lands that may accommodate floodwater for the purpose of groundwater recharge and stormwater management. The next revision of the Safety element of a general plan must identify information about flood hazards and flood risk. Before adoption of a general plan, each city/county in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Drainage District must submit a draft of its proposed Safety element to the Board for review.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 2010</td>
<td>Cities/Counties to collaborate with State and local flood management agencies to develop funding mechanisms to finance local flood protection responsibilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 2014</td>
<td>On this date or within 24 months of adoption of CVFPP by the Board: • Counties and cities shall collaborate to develop flood emergency plans • Cities and counties shall collaborate with State and local flood management agencies to provide relocation assistance to protect nonurbanized disadvantaged communities • General plans shall be amended to include information contained in the CVFPP.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 2015</td>
<td>On this date or within 12 months of updating general plans, each city and county within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley shall amend its zoning ordinances to be consistent with its general plan. On this date or upon amendment of general plan and zoning ordinance, a city or county within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley shall not enter into a development agreement, or issue a permit for construction of a residence, or approve a tentative map for property located in a flood hazard zone unless it finds that one of the following apply: • The property is protected by facilities that provide either an urban level of protection for urban areas, or the FEMA standard for rural areas • The city has placed conditions on the development that will ensure that the development is protected either to an urban level of protection for urban areas, or the FEMA standard for rural areas • The flood management agency has made annual, adequate progress toward providing the required level of protection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2025</td>
<td>All urban areas protected by project levees shall have an urban level of flood protection.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STATE PLANNING

The Board and DWR are the primary State entities whose planning functions and activities are affected by the flood legislation. Board and DWR requirements are described below, and summarized in Table 2.

Central Valley Flood Protection Board

Effective January 1, 2008, the State Reclamation Board was renamed the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Board) (as amended in Water Code Section 8550). The Board retains regulatory oversight of project levees and floodways, but it is now permitted to act independently of DWR and is subject to specific requirements relating to evidentiary hearings, conflicts of interest, and ex parte communications. The Board consists of nine members with seven appointed by the Governor, one by the Assembly, and one by the Senate (as amended in Water Code Section 8551). Although DWR is responsible for drafting the CVFPP, the Board is responsible for adopting the plan.

New responsibilities of the Board consist of the following:

• Adopt a schedule for mapping areas at risk of flooding in the drainage areas of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers by December 31, 2008. (Added to Water Code Section 8612)

• Advise the Legislature of the schedule for preparation of a status report on the State Plan of Flood Control by December 31, 2008. (Added to Water Code Section 9120)

• Adopt the CVFPP by July 1, 2012, and update every 5 years subsequently. (Added to Water Code Section 9612)

• Investigate and evaluate the feasibility of potential bypasses or floodways to reduce flood stage in the San Joaquin River watershed. (Added to Water Code Section 9613)

• Comment on the safety element of a new or updated general plan for each city and county located within the Sacramento and San Joaquin Drainage District. The Board is required to provide a written response within 60 days. (Amended Government Code Section 65302 and Added Government Code Section 65302.7)

• Develop policies that assist the implementation of general plan guidelines. (Amended Government Code Section 65303.4)

• Ecosystem restoration can be incorporated into Board flood projects. The Board has authority to collaborate with state and federal agencies regarding multiobjective flood management strategies. (Added to Water Code 8590)

• The Board can establish a system of mitigation banking by which credits may be acquired in advance for flood control work to be performed by the Board, the DWR, or a local agency authorized to operate and maintain facilities of the State Plan of Flood Control. (Added to Water Code 8613)
Department of Water Resources

DWR is responsible for developing the CVFPP, in cooperation with the Board, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, local flood project maintaining agencies, and advisory committees, as appropriate (as added in Water Code Sections 9600-9625). The CVFPP is intended to be a systemwide approach to protecting the lands currently protected from flooding by existing facilities of the State Plan of Flood Control. Among other requirements, the plan is to provide at minimum 200-year flood protection to urban and urbanizing areas in the Central Valley. The CVFPP is to be a descriptive document that does not expand the liability of the State for the operation or maintenance of any flood management facility beyond the scope of the State Plan of Flood Control, except as specifically determined by the Board. Neither the development, nor adoption, of the CVFPP is to be construed to constitute any commitment by the State to provide, to continue to provide, to maintain at, or to increase flood protection to any particular level. The CVFPP is to describe both an implementation schedule and funding mechanisms for structural and non-structural recommendations. Following completion by January 1, 2012, the plan is to be updated every 5 years subsequently. Specific requirements for the contents of the CVFPP are included in Water Code Sections 9614 and 9616.

New responsibilities of DWR required by the flood legislation include:

• Prepare by July 1, 2008, preliminary maps for 100-year and 200-year flood plains protected by project levees and provide such maps or notice information to Central Valley cities and counties.

• Propose updated flood protection requirements in the California Building Standards Code by 2009 for flood plains with flood depths exceeding three-feet.

• Notify, by September 1, 2010, landowners with property determined to be in levee flood protection zones.

• Collaborate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and owners/operators of flood management facilities during development of the CVFPP.

• Prepare and release, by 2011, a status report on its CVFPP progress.

• Prepare and transmit to the Board, by January 1, 2012, the CVFPP.

• Investigate and evaluate the feasibility of potential bypasses or floodways.

• DWR or the Board, as appropriate, along with the California Department of Fish and Game, may develop site design and planning policies to assist local agencies that request help in implementing the general plan requirements relative to flood control and other land management needs.

• When a local flood maintaining agency is not able to operate or maintain project levees permitted by the Board to acceptable standards, DWR or the Board is authorized to form a maintenance area and take responsibility for the levee when in the best interest of the state (as amended in Water Code Section 12878.1).

5 These requirements are described further in the Risk Characterization and Notification section.
**TABLE 2: TIMELINE FOR STATE REQUIREMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expected Date of Completion</th>
<th>Anticipated Actions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 2008</td>
<td>Reclamation Board renamed the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Board), and given specific additional responsibilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DWR, the Board, or the Department of Fish and Game may develop policies to help local agencies meet the flood control objectives of the general plan guidelines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 2008</td>
<td>DWR to develop preliminary maps for 100- &amp; 200-year flood plains protected by project levees, and make them available to local entities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DWR to provide notice to cities, within the Central Valley but not protected by project levees, of available maps and information relating to flood risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>State funding for the upgrade of a project levee maintained by a local agency becomes conditional upon that agency adopting a safety plan within 2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 31, 2008</td>
<td>DWR to prepare maps indicating areas at risk of flooding 3 feet or deeper in a levee flood protection zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DWR to report to the Board on the state of project levees maintained by local agencies (annually thereafter)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DWR to prepare and the Board to adopt a schedule for mapping areas at risk of flooding in the Sacramento and San Joaquin River drainage (annually thereafter)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Board to advise the legislature of its intended schedule for preparation of a status report on the State Plan of Flood Control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 2009</td>
<td>DWR to propose to the California Building Standards Commission requirements for construction in areas protected by facilities of the CVFPP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 2010</td>
<td>DWR to develop cost-sharing formulas for State flood protection bonds used to repair or improve facilities included in the CVFPP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 1, 2010</td>
<td>DWR to notify, in writing, every landowner whose property is partly or wholly within a levee flood protection zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 31, 2010</td>
<td>DWR to prepare a progress report on the development of the CVFPP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 2012</td>
<td>DWR to prepare and transmit the CVFPP to the Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 2012</td>
<td>The Board to adopt the CVFPP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DWR to prepare a funding and implementation plan for the CVFPP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*“Maintenance area” means described or delineated lands that are found by the Board or DWR to be benefited by the maintenance and operation of a particular unit of a project.*
Risk Characterization and Notification

The flood legislation also identified a number of new requirements that the State must undertake to properly characterize potential flood risks and to notify those potentially impacted by those risks. The following is a summary of the new risk characterization and notification requirements (also included in Table 2).

- DWR is to prepare flood hazard maps for areas protected by project levees. The preliminary maps will identify the 100-year and 200-year flood plains within the levee flood protection zones (as added in Water Code Section 9610). DWR will also inform cities and counties in the Central Valley located outside of the areas that are protected by project levees of available sources of flood hazard information. The mapping is intended to provide information for city and county planning activities. DWR is to distribute maps of levee protection zones, including areas where water levels would be three-feet deep or more in the event of a project levee failure (as added to Water Code Section 9130).

- DWR and the Board are to adopt a schedule for mapping flood risk areas in the Central Valley (as added in Water Code Section 8612). The schedule is to describe the requirements for reports on the flood control system to be prepared by DWR and the Board, including levee flood zone protection maps to be prepared by DWR by December 31, 2008.

- Beginning in September 2010, and every September afterwards, DWR is required to send notices to the owners of property that is completely or partially in levee flood protection zones (as added in Water Code Section 9121). Notices will include the level of potential risk of flooding, recommend that they obtain flood insurance, and provide information about flooding and flood insurance. DWR will depend upon county assessors’ records to build and maintain the property owners list.

Status Reporting Activities

Status reporting activities related to flood management planning, implementation, and operation and maintenance identified in the flood legislation include the following:

- By December 31, 2008, the Board is to advise the Legislature, in writing, as to the Board’s schedule for mapping areas at risk of flooding in the Sacramento River and San Joaquin drainage. Reporting is to be annually thereafter (as added in Water Code Section 8612).

- By December 31, 2008, the Board is to advise the Legislature of its intended schedule for preparation of a status report on the State Plan of Flood Control. The status report is to include identification and description of each facility, an estimate of the risk of levee failure, and a discussion of the inspection and review undertaken. Reporting is to be annually thereafter (as added in Water Code Section 8612).

- By December 31, 2010, DWR is to prepare a status report on the progress and development of the CVFPP, to be made available to the public (as added in Water Code Section 9610).

- By September 30 of each year, local agencies responsible for the operation and maintenance of project levees are to prepare and submit to DWR a report on the status and condition of those levees, including a summary of maintenance performed and an estimate of maintenance costs (as added in Water Code Section 9140). This information will be used by DWR to meet its existing reporting requirements.