

## Improved Levee System in Yuba County to Receive Federal Accreditation

With the help of more than \$265 million in grants funded by California voters through Propositions 13 and 1E, the Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority (TRLIA) has achieved a monumental flood protection accomplishment for south Yuba County residents. In June, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) confirmed that levees improved by TRLIA since 2004 meet its certification standards for providing 100-year level of protection and that it will accredit the levee system. FEMA accreditation means properties protected by the levees, except those affected by internal drainage issues, will not be subject to building restrictions or mandatory flood insurance regulations.



The 29-mile levee system at TRLIA's focus surrounds the south Yuba County communities of Linda, Arboga, Olivehurst, and Plumas Lake and includes the Bear River, Feather River, Yuba River, and the Western Pacific Interceptor Canal (see map). Levee failures in 1986 and 1997 inundated these areas, causing approximately \$600 million in damages and several deaths. The improved levees are designed to withstand a 200-year flood event, thus exceeding FEMA's standards and affording residents some of the strongest flood protection in the state.

Yuba County and Reclamation District 784 established TRLIA in 2004 as a joint-powers agency with the goal to increase flood protection in the region. Since 2007, California has invested more than half of the \$405 million project costs through bond funds administered by DWR's Early Implementation Program (EIP), which funds existing or construction-ready federal and local projects to improve State Plan of Flood Control facilities before completion of the 2012 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan.

At the center of the project's final phase is perhaps the most notable EIP-funded achievement yet: a 6 mile-long setback levee that resulted in 1,600 acres of expanded floodway and habitat along the Feather River. The setback is expected to lower water levels in the Yuba and Feather rivers by more than 1.5 feet during large flood events, providing regional flood protection benefits to Marysville and Sutter County. The American Society of Civil Engineers, Sacramento section, selected this project as the best flood control facility of 2009, and the national chapter named TRLIA's Bear River setback levee California's top flood control facility of 2008.

More than \$47 million in FloodSAFE grants administered through the EIP will continue to fund TRLIA's remaining work: the installation of a slurry wall and seepage berm in the upper Yuba River levee, expected to be complete by early next year.

For more information, visit <http://www.trlia.org>.

### In This Issue:

*Topographic data and imagery of the Central Valley nearly complete, p.2*

*Topic-specific public workshops for flood protection plan begin July 19, p.3*

*Public review underway for land-use planning handbook, p.3*

*DWR to recommend flood management strategies statewide, p.4*

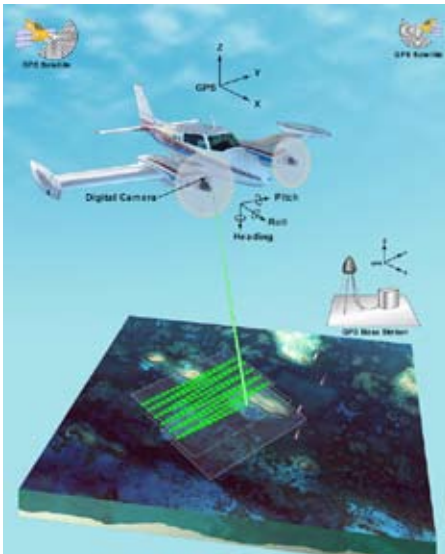
### Vision:

*A sustainable integrated flood management and emergency response system throughout California that improves public safety, protects and enhances environmental and cultural resources, and supports economic growth by reducing the probability of destructive floods, promoting beneficial floodplain processes, and lowering the damages caused by flooding.*

## Detailed Topographic Data to be Available Soon for Local Governments

A number of cities and counties near the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers and their tributaries may soon have new resources for understanding the physical terrain and flood risk in their communities. DWR's Central Valley Floodplain Evaluation and Delineation Program (CVFED) is currently preparing outreach to local planning agencies about newly developed aerial imagery and base light detection and ranging (LiDAR) data. DWR will notify each community as their data become available.

In 2008, the CVFED team surveyed both the Sacramento and San Joaquin river basins using aerial imagery and LiDAR-equipped aircraft, covering approximately 9,000 square miles stretching from the city of Redding to the Kings River. DWR will use this information as it works with cities and counties to develop new maps for the 100-, 200-, and 500-year floodplains in areas currently receiving protection from the State Plan of Flood Control.



Typically, aircraft-mounted LiDAR equipment uses laser pulses to determine the distance to an object. (Photo courtesy of US Geological Survey)

The aerial surveys and data preparation are part of CVFED's overarching work to produce new physical data, models, and maps to support FloodSAFE efforts such as development of the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan. For more information on the availability of local data sets, contact Yiguo Liang at [yliang@water.ca.gov](mailto:yliang@water.ca.gov).

## Flood Protection Plan Workshops Slated for July 19-29

Members of the public, Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) work group members, partner agencies, and other stakeholders are invited to participate in a series of workshops focusing on potential management actions for inclusion in the 2012 CVFPP. As shown in the accompanying table, these workshops will be held from July 19 through July 29, 2010. Each of the 3- to 4-hour workshops will focus on (1) reviewing a distinct category of management actions that state, federal, or local agencies could consider in helping to improve flood risk management in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley, and (2) identifying additional management actions.

A second round of workshops slated for late August will focus on applying management actions in different community settings and their potential to provide additional benefits.

The workshops will be held at the Center for Collaborative Policy, 815 S Street, First Floor, Sacramento. Participants may attend in person or via webinar. All prospective attendees are requested to RSVP. For instructions for participating via webinar, to RSVP, or for more information, please visit <http://www.water.ca.gov/cvfmp/>.

### July 2010 Management Actions Workshops

July 19	1:30 p.m.	Policy and Regulations
July 20	1:30 p.m.	Ecosystem Restoration
July 22	9:00 a.m.	Flood Protection System Modification
	1:30 p.m.	Permitting
July 23	9:00 a.m.	Disaster Preparedness and Flood Warning
	1:30 p.m.	Flood Fighting, Emergency Response, and Flood Recovery
July 27	9:00 a.m.	Finance and Revenue
	1:30 p.m.	Operation and Maintenance
July 28	1:30 p.m.	Floodplain Management
July 29	9:00 a.m.	Additional Floodplain and Reservoir Storage
	1:30 p.m.	Storage Operations

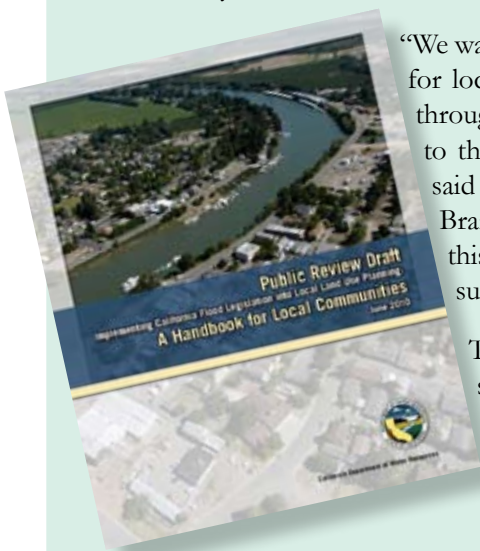
**LiDAR** (or light detection and ranging) technology is an aircraft-mounted remote sensing system to collect elevation data used to produce topographic maps.

## Local Review Needed for Draft Handbook on Land-Use Planning and California's 2007 Flood Management Laws

DWR has released for public review a draft guide titled *Implementing California Flood Legislation into Local Land Use Planning: A Handbook for Local Communities*. The handbook describes how the 2007 California flood-related legislation affects cities' and counties' responsibilities related to local planning requirements, including general plans, zoning ordinances, development agreements, tentative maps, and other activities. The 30-day public review period will close on July 29, 2010.

DWR developed the handbook in recognition that cities and counties may find the process of identifying and interpreting which, how, and when codes apply to their jurisdictions challenging.

Although some of the new requirements, which became effective January 1, 2008, apply to all California jurisdictions, others apply only if a city or county is located in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley or the Sacramento-San Joaquin Drainage District. Time-lines and triggers for compliance vary, as well. For instance, general plan land-use element requirements, such as identifying and annually reviewing areas subject to flooding, are statewide mandates. However, jurisdictions in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley must prepare their general plans to be consistent with information included in the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan that will be adopted by the Central Valley Flood Protection Board in 2012.



“We want to make sure the handbook is a valuable tool for local planning officials and their staff navigating through the complexities the new requirements add to their existing land-use planning responsibilities,” said Ricardo Pineda, DWR Floodplain Management Branch Chief. “That’s why it’s crucial they review this draft with a critical eye and share with us any suggestions to improve its usability.”

The draft handbook and instructions for submitting comments are available at <http://www.water.ca.gov/LocalFloodRiskPlanning>.

## Calendar

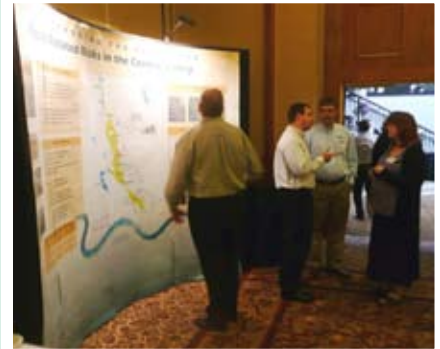
**July 19-23** – CVFPP Management Actions Workshops, Sacramento

**July 23, 8:30 a.m.** – Central Valley Flood Protection Board Meeting, Sacramento

**July 27-29** – CVFPP Management Actions Workshops, Sacramento

**August 23-27** – CVFPP Management Actions Workshops, Sacramento

<http://water.ca.gov/calendar>



Erin Mullin, staff member of DWR's Central Valley Flood Planning Office (right), discussed elements of the 2012 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan at an exhibit booth stationed at the June 2 State of the Sacramento Watershed Forum. Staff from DWR and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provided information on the range of flood planning activities currently underway in the Central Valley. More than 200 people attended the Sacramento Forum, which featured key presentations from Congresswoman Doris Matsui and California Natural Resources Secretary Lester Snow.

**Integrated flood planning** is an approach to dealing with flood risk that recognizes flood management actions exist within a broader context that includes water resources management and land-use planning; multiple geographic and agency boundaries; opportunities and potential impacts, both systemwide and localized; and environmental stewardship and sustainability.

## Statewide Flood Planning Effort Launched

### Flood Management Forum Draws Participants from throughout the Valley, Web

On June 3, 2010, more than 120 people gathered in West Sacramento for DWR's Central Valley Flood Management Planning (CVFMP) Program Valleywide Forum. The forum was held to discuss regional and topic-specific perspectives on flood management in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley. In addition to the individuals participating in person, nearly 100 people followed the forum proceedings through the event webcast. A number of these participants submitted questions or comments to the panelists live via e-mail.



Retired farmer and Agricultural Stewardship Scope Definition Subcommittee member Ray Anderson questions panelists during the June 3 Central Valley Flood Management Planning Program Valleywide Forum.

The event marked the end of Phase 1 development of the 2012 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP), which is a major component of the CVFMP Program. More than a quarter of the attendees to the forum participated in one or more Phase 1 work groups or subcommittees over the last year.

A broad range of organizations and perspectives were represented at the event, including state, federal, and local partner agencies; environmental groups; tribal groups; legislative representatives; and private citizens. Additional forums may also be held to mark CVFPP development milestones. The webcast video is available to view through July 18, 2010, at <http://cawater.rm.xpres.com/webcast/data/vn/f06032010/msh.htm>.

### Upcoming Expansion of Statewide Flood Planning Effort

DWR will soon expand major planning activities in the Statewide Flood Management Planning Program (SFMP). SFMP will complement DWR's existing flood management planning in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley, with the goal of working with state, federal, and local stakeholders to develop a holistic understanding the current state of California's flood management infrastructure and its overall future flood management needs statewide. The program will assess current and future flood risk in all flood-prone regions of the state, and develop recommendations and a financing strategy for improving and sustaining integrated flood management throughout the state. To date, SFMP has incorporated integrated flood management perspectives and regional flood history reports into the California Water Plan 2009 update, and expects to expand this role in future plan updates. For more information on the program's upcoming work, contact Terri Wegener at [twegener@water.ca.gov](mailto:twegener@water.ca.gov).

### Multiagency Program's Work Maximizes Opportunities for Maintenance and Conservation

An initiative established to more effectively manage the Central Valley Flood Control Project has expanded its activities. The Interagency Flood Management Collaborative Program, begun in 2005 at the request of former DWR Director Lester Snow, was instrumental in accelerating 29 critical Central Valley levee repairs ordered by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in early 2006. Consisting of both state and federal flood management and resource agencies, the program meets monthly to support the implementation of corridor management demonstration projects and to improve permitting process for repairing small levee erosion sites. These and other program activities reflect the program's goals of effective and sustainable management of the flood protection system in a manner that integrates and addresses water supply, public safety and environmental needs.

*A periodic newsletter highlighting the progress to produce the 2012 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan and the related FloodSAFE efforts within the Department of Water Resources*



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