

# Central Valley Flood Protection Plan and the Delta Plan

*State of California (State) law, enacted through the Central Valley Flood Protection Act of 2008 and codified in Sections 9600 through 9625 of the California Water Code, requires the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to prepare the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP). The CVFPP proposes a State Systemwide Investment Approach for sustainable, integrated flood management in areas currently protected by facilities of the State Plan of Flood Control (SPFC). The Related Project Series provides a brief summary of the subject effort and its relationship to CVFPP.*

*Each fact sheet in the CVFPP Related Project Series provides a brief summary of the subject effort and its relationship to the CVFPP.*

The Delta Stewardship Council is to develop, adopt, and implement a legally enforceable, comprehensive, long-term management plan for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) and the Suisun Marsh – the **Delta Plan** – that achieves the coequal goals as described in California Water Code Section 85054.

*“‘Coequal goals’ means the two goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The coequal goals shall be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place.”*

Portions of the Delta Plan, once adopted as State regulations, will become legally enforceable policies; the remainder will consist of recommendations. These policies and recommendations will be organized under five categories: (1) creating a more reliable water supply for California, (2) restoring the Delta ecosystem, (3) improving water quality, (4) reducing flood risk in the Delta, and (5) protecting and enhancing the unique cultural, recreational, natural resources, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place.

The Delta Plan will not contain a list of physical projects to achieve the coequal goals. Rather, the policies and recommendations will be statements of direction to other agencies that could lead to specific physical actions.

Delta Stewardship Council released a draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) in November 2011, and expects the final Delta Plan and PEIR in spring 2012. More information on the Delta Plan and PEIR is available at <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/>.

## Relationship to Central Valley Flood Protection Plan

The primary goal of the CVFPP is to improve flood risk management. Accordingly, the CVFPP focuses on reducing the chance of flooding on lands protected by facilities of the SPFC, including those located in the Delta. However, not the entire Delta receives protection from such facilities. The CVFPP is one of many management plans that would contribute to the Delta Plan.

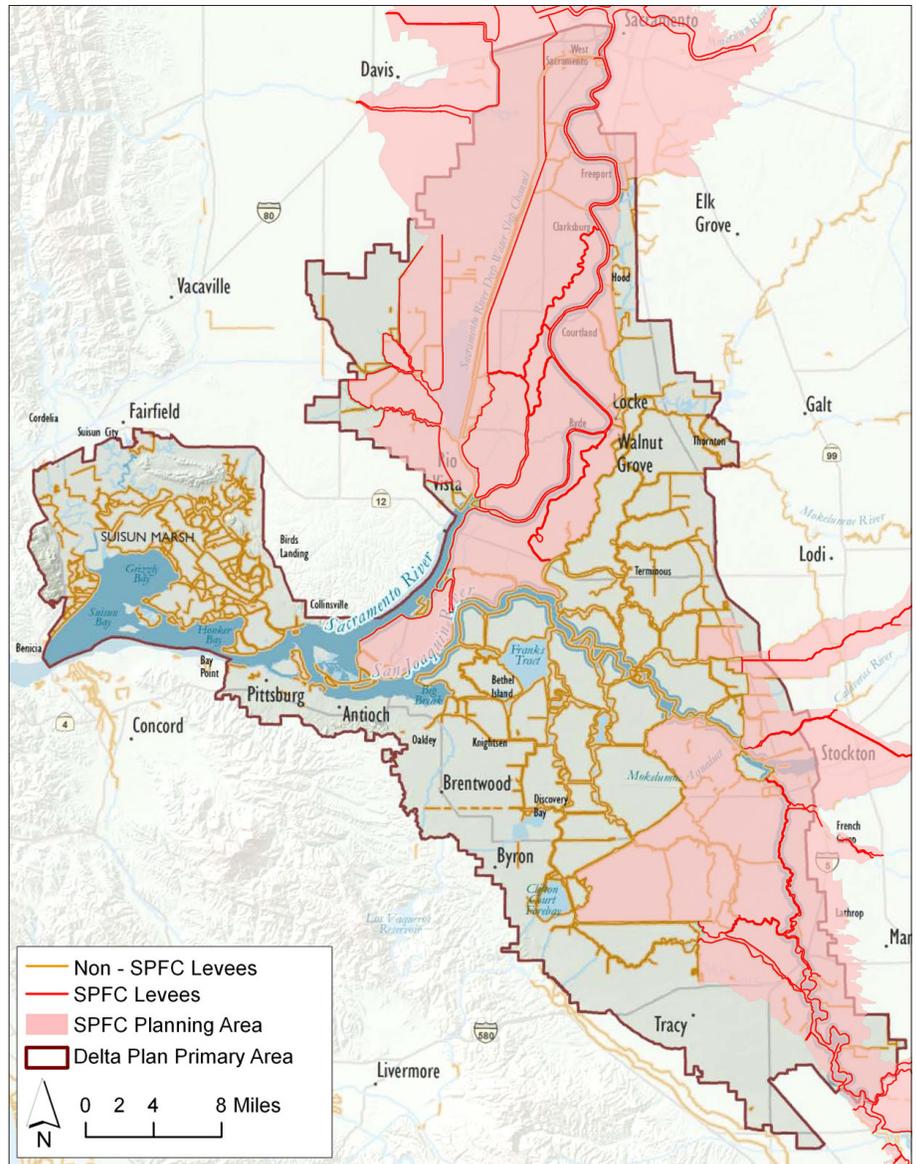
The CVFPP’s recommended approach – known as the State Systemwide Investment Approach (SSIA) – sets forth a strategy for responsibly meeting the State’s objectives to improve public safety, ecosystem conditions, and economic sustainability, while recognizing the financial challenges facing local, State, and federal governments today. The major SSIA elements are consistent with the policies and recommendations in the draft Delta Plan. Under the CVFPP, the State will consider the following for areas protected by SPFC facilities:

1. Urban level of flood protection against a 200-year (0.5% annual chance) flood for urban and urbanizing areas (e.g. Stockton metropolitan area).
2. Structural and nonstructural options for protecting small communities from a 100-year (1% annual chance) flood (including Clarksburg, Isleton, Walnut Grove, Courtland, Hood, and Rio Vista).
3. Rural-agricultural flood protection options, with a focus on integrated projects that achieve multiple benefits and help preserve the rural-agricultural lands from urban development:

- » Maintaining SPFC levee crown elevations and providing all-weather access roads to facilitate inspection and floodfighting.
- » Conducting levee improvements, including setbacks, to address known performance problems; and subject to additional project-level evaluation, reconstructing rural SPFC levees to also address small community protection, where economically feasible.
- » Acquiring agricultural conservation easements to preserve agricultural practices in the secondary zone and prevent urban development, when consistent with local land use plans and in cooperation with willing landowners.

In addition, the SSIA includes system elements such as a potential Yolo Bypass expansion to increase system capacity, attenuate peak flow during flood events, and increase opportunities for ecosystem restoration compatible with the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan (another major management plan contributing to the Delta Plan), and a potential new Lower San Joaquin Bypass to alleviate flood risk to the Stockton metropolitan area and to provide opportunities for environmental restoration and agricultural preservation.

As discussed in the draft Delta Plan, many upstream actions could affect the State's ability to meet the Delta Plan's coequal goals. Similarly, the State is sensitive to the potential effects that upstream SPFC improvements may have on the Delta and is developing more detailed State policies for minimizing and mitigating for redirected hydraulic and other adverse impacts. Based on the results of current evaluations, the SSIA as a whole would not have adverse impacts on the Delta; however as part of implementation actions, additional studies would be required to evaluate potential temporary impacts and mitigation strategies related to the sequence of implementation activities.



Delta Plan Primary Area and Areas Protected by SPFC facilities

The CVFPP will be implemented in coordination with other FloodSAFE programs and projects also addressing flood risk in the Delta, especially from tidal estuaries and for non-SPFC facilities, such as the Delta Levee Maintenance Subventions Program, the Delta Levees Special Flood Control Projects, and the Delta Emergency Operations Plan.