

DPC January 16, 2020 meeting – Agenda Item 10 (DWR FY 2018-2019 funding for Delta levee projects)

**Delta Protection Commission Meeting
January 16, 2020**

AGENDA ITEM 10: DWR FY 2018-2019 funding for Delta levee projects

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Resources

Requested Action: **Receive Report**

Type of Action: Information Only

Background: The Department of Water Resources (DWR) funds and guides many flood management activities across the State and within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. For State Plan of Flood Control (“Project”) levees, DWR works with the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) through the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan. DWR also administers two grant programs that primarily benefit non-project levees; the Delta Levees Maintenance Subventions Program, which provides a cost-share with local maintaining agencies for maintenance of Delta levees, and the Delta Levees Special Flood Control Projects Program, which funds improvements to levees and levee-related wildlife and fish habitats.

The CVFPB allocates and reimburses costs for maintenance and rehabilitation of levees eligible for reimbursement through the subventions program. Local agencies are required to enter into agreements with the CVFPB to perform the maintenance and improvement work specified in those plans. If sufficient funds are not available, it is the responsibility of the CVFPB to apportion funds among projects based on which are more critical and beneficial, in response to recommendations by DWR.

The Delta Stewardship Council (DSC) developed an interim set of levee investment priorities (Policy RR P1) as part of the initial 2013 Delta Plan. The Delta Plan also included a recommendation for updating the interim priorities (RR R4). DSC then prepared a white paper (*State Investment in Delta Levees: Key Issues for Updating Priorities*) that formed the basis of the Delta Levee Investment Strategy (DLIS), adopted in April 2018 as revisions to Delta Plan Policy RR P1, which now incorporates a three-tiered priority list. Rulemaking under the California Administrative Procedures Act is underway.

The DSC, DWR, and the CVFPB entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to implement the DLIS and recognize the overlapping jurisdictions of the agencies on Delta levee investments.

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DWR has submitted the first annual report to DSC detailing fiscal year 2018-19 Delta levee funding decisions. DWR approved funding for 23 projects on 19 islands/tracts; of these, three islands are identified as very high priority by the DLIS, four are considered high priority, and twelve are considered other priority. More than \$123 million in State funds was awarded by DWR during FY 2018-19 to programs and projects with levee improvement or rehabilitation components, including expenditures for levee maintenance in the Delta. DWR will present a summary of FY 2018-19 levee funding decisions to the Commission.

Recommended Action: No action

Relationship to Vision 2030 (Commission strategic plan):

Levees and Emergency Response (Strategic Theme)

1.2 Support Levee Maintaining Agencies in collaborative efforts (e.g. emergency preparedness and response, levee standards, regional funding, public education, communication) and advocate for inclusion of Levee Maintaining Agencies in levee prioritization and other Delta-wide decision-making processes.

L.2 Advocate for reliable funding for Delta levee maintenance and improvements.

2.2 Advocate with all agencies to prioritize levee funding for minimum PL-84-99 level of protection for the entire Delta.

L.3 Work to ensure that Delta residents are represented in decision-making processes.