

Meeting Summary
Oroville Dam Citizens Advisory Commission
Meeting #21: October 24, 2025
10:00 a.m.– Noon
Southside Community Center, Oroville, CA

This summary provides an overview of the October 24, 2025, Oroville Dam Citizens Advisory Commission (OCAC or Commission) meeting and focuses primarily on capturing the comments and questions posed by commissioners and members of the public. It is organized by agenda topic to assist readers in cross-referencing the meeting materials. This document is not intended to serve as minutes of the meeting or a transcript of the discussion. Related materials, including the slide deck and a video recording, are available on the [OCAC Website](#).

Meeting Agenda

- Welcome and Opening Remarks
- Oroville Dam Safety Program Update
- Oroville Annual Budget and Project Prioritization Update
- Water Control Manual Update
- Downstream Perspective on Water Control Manual Update Process
- Public Comment and Questions
- Adjournment

Action Items

Administrative Action Items:

- CNRA will solicit comments on a draft section of a legislative report.
- Send link (and QR code) to the USACE Water Control Manual update website to commissioners and add to OCAC website. [DONE]
- Post additional meeting materials provided by downstream commissioners re: WCM on website. [DONE]

Additions to the Action Item Tracker:

- Schedule meeting between DWR and the USACE with interested parties, Molly White, and Jenny Fromm; ideally, late 2025/early 2026 (at a minimum, before WCM initial scoping meeting in early 2026).
- DWR will address the use of the existing probable maximum flood analysis in the next Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) safety review board.

Potential agenda items for next meeting:

- FERC Relicensing
- Water Control Manual Update
- Oroville Levee Screening Report (pending receipt of report from USACE)
- Plan for ensuring continuity of knowledge on Commission, including content for new member orientation meetings

Rollcall

As mandated by the requirements set forth in Senate Bill 955 (2018, Nielsen), the Commission comprises representatives from the following agencies and public bodies. Attendance at Meeting 21 on October 24, 2025, is noted in the table below.

Agency or Public Body	Commissioner (or Alternate)	Attendance
California Natural Resources Agency	Secretary Wade Crowfoot (represented by Deputy Secretary Samantha Arthur)	Yes
California State Senate	Senator Megan Dahle (represented by Bruce Ross)	Yes
California State Assembly	(Acting Chair) Assemblymember James Gallagher	Yes
Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)	Director Armando Quintero (represented by District Superintendent Matt Teague)	Yes
Department of Water Resources (DWR)	Director Karla Nemeth	Yes
California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)	Director Nancy Ward (represented by Deputy Director Lori Nezhura)	Yes
Oroville City Council	Mayor David Pittman	Yes
Oroville City Council	Vice Mayor Eric Smith	Yes
Butte County Board of Supervisors	Supervisor Tod Kimmelshue	Yes
Butte County Board of Supervisors	Supervisor Bill Connelly	Yes
Representative on behalf of Butte County Board of Supervisors	Robert Bateman	Yes
Yuba County Board of Supervisors	Supervisor Seth Fuhrer	No
Yuba Office of Emergency Services	OES Manager Oscar Marin	No
Sutter County Board of Supervisors	Supervisor Jeff Boone	No
Sutter County Board of Supervisors	Supervisor Jeff Stevens	No
California Highway Patrol	Lieutenant Patrick Leach	Yes
Butte County Sheriff's Office	Lieutenant James Beller	Yes
Yuba County Sheriff's Office	Operations Captain Nathan Lybarger	Yes
Sutter County Sheriff's Office	Deputy Andre Licon	No

Welcome, Opening Remarks, and Announcements

Assemblymember James Gallagher, acting Commission Chair in the absence of Secretary Wade Crowfoot, welcomed commissioners, presenters, and members of the public to the twenty-first meeting of the Oroville Dam Citizens Advisory Commission.

Chair Gallagher invited Terra Alpaugh from Kearns & West, the meeting planner, to conduct roll call of the Commissioners; he then invited other commissioners to provide any relevant updates or comments.

- Director Karla Nemeth of the California Department of Water Resources (DWR or the Department) provided remarks on the start of the new water year, which began on

October 1st. She reflected that recent years have been marked by extreme variability and that this year will likely follow a similar pattern of extended dry periods interrupted by intense storm events.

- State Water Project Deputy Director John Yarbrough, DWR, provided brief updates on current conditions at Lake Oroville and the Department's preparedness efforts for the upcoming water year. He reported that Lake Oroville is about half full (approximately 55% of capacity), which is average for this time of year. Deputy Director Yarbrough discussed the importance of upcoming storm patterns, explaining that California's water supply depends on the balance of large, intermittent storm events.
- Director Nemeth provided an update regarding the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Army Corps) one-time assessment of the Oroville levee completed in May 2025. The Army Corps finalized a draft levee screening report in September 2025, and the levee screening team made up of DWR, the City of Oroville, and Sutter-Butte Flood Control Agency (SBFCA) will now incorporate comments before submitting the report to the Army Corps headquarters for final review. Director Nemeth emphasized the value of this collaborative process among state, local, and federal partners as a model for coordinated flood protection efforts.
- Mayor Pittman commended DWR and Army Corps staff for their efforts to assess the levee, now formally named "Oroville Levee One," which will help move the community toward their goal of the 200-year flood protection standard. He encouraged other downstream communities to engage with the Army Corps for similar assessments to strengthen local flood protection efforts.
- Vice Mayor Smith recalled how Oroville had been nationally recognized as a top destination for a major fireworks celebration in 2015. He proposed exploring the possibility of reviving a similar community event which would include a firework display from the top of the Oroville Dam in partnership with Explore Butte County in the future.
- California Natural Resources Agency Deputy Secretary Samantha Arthur provided an update on the development of the tri-annual OCAC report. Commissioners previously reviewed the report outline over the summer and a partial draft will be shared before the end of the year for Commissioner's feedback. A complete draft is expected in the first quarter of 2026. Commissioners can submit feedback at each stage and are encouraged to submit broader reflections on Commission progress or areas for improvement to be included in the report's appendix.
- Mayor Pittman introduced a proposed public art and beautification project to the Commission, inspired by the original commemorative panels placed on Oroville Dam during its dedication by Ronald Reagan in which each panel represented contributions from a California county. He suggested installing new mosaic panels created by students along the dam top, representing communities statewide. Mayor Pittman emphasized that the concept is in early discussion stages but could serve as a unifying, grant-funded initiative celebrating California's shared connection to the state's water system.

Oroville Dam Safety Program Update

David Sarkisian, Dam Safety Services manager of the Division of Operation and Maintenance at DWR, provided an update on three primary topics related to Oroville Dam safety: condition assessment ratings and the outcomes of the emergency spillway erodibility study, ongoing flood control outlet projects and activities, and Director's Safety Review Board and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Part 12D Safety Inspections.

Condition assessment ratings and outcomes of the emergency spillway erodibility study

Mr. Sarkisian reported that both FERC and DWR's Division Safety of Dams (DSOD) currently rate Oroville Dam as "Fair," meaning there are no existing safety deficiencies under normal operating conditions but rare or extreme hydrologic or seismic events could result in a dam safety deficiency. This rating is reflected in the National Inventory of Dams (NID) database. Oroville's rating remains at "fair" rather than "satisfactory," because of outstanding studies evaluating what might happen to various dam components during extreme hydrologic and seismic events.

Primary among those studies is the state-of-the-art emergency spillway erodibility study finalized and submitted to regulators in May 2025. That study assessed the emergency spillway's ability to safely pass a range of extreme flood flows without excessive erosion that could compromise the stability of the emergency spillway monoliths. Using data from the 2017 spillway incident, the study modeled realistic, time-based flood scenarios from 2,000-year events to ARkStorm conditions to the probable maximum flood. The study found that none of the extreme flow scenarios resulted in erosion upstream of the secant pile wall. Therefore, they determined it is "improbable" that releases down the emergency spillway would undermine the pile wall, the roller-compacted concrete apron, or the spillway crest and monoliths. Downstream erosion is anticipated and will be further evaluated. These results demonstrate strong structural performance and will be incorporated along with ongoing follow-up studies, including stochastic flood and radial gate reliability analyses, to support a comprehensive risk assessment planned for 2026. DWR's goal now is to reach consensus with FERC and DSOD on the emergency spillway's performance and need for any action or improvements for dam safety, which in turn could prompt a future update of the dam's safety rating to "satisfactory."

Ongoing flood control outlet projects and activities

Mr. Sarkisian then provided a refresher on DWR's process to evaluate and address dam safety risks: generally, routine dam safety activities (e.g., monitoring, inspections, five-year regulatory reviews, or periodic risk analyses) which can identify a potential dam safety issue. DWR then examines the issue to determine whether it rises beyond a routine dam safety activity/maintenance need and if it should be evaluated via specific studies and quantitative risk analysis. Those studies help answer important questions about whether identified risks are high enough to justify risk reduction actions and be advanced to the corrective action alternatives stage (at which a range of options to reduce risk are considered). This structured process ensures major decisions are well-documented and justified.

He provided updates on DWR projects related to the flood control outlet/main spillway and how they fit into the dam safety risk process described above:

Maintenance, Inspections, & Monitoring

- Spillway Maintenance Contract (in year three of three): The spillway is inspected every year. In 2022, spillway inspections indicated the need for specialized maintenance work through a contractor, including joint sealant replacement, minor concrete repairs, and underdrain inspections. The repairs began in 2023 and are anticipated to be completed this year.
- Annual Spillway Radial Gates Full-opening Tests and Structural Inspections: The radial gates are tested every year, including non-destructive ultrasonic testing of the gate's steel anchor rods, which "tie" the gates to the headworks structure, for any cracking or corrosion. USACE also periodically conducts guided wave testing down into the rods to ensure there are not any breaks or cracks beneath the surface. In 2022, DWR conducted a 10-year structural, mechanical, and electrical inspection of the gates, including evaluation of the wire ropes. The inspectors found no evidence of advanced

wear on the ropes and found the gates suitable for continued operations. Recommendations focused on continued maintenance and monitoring.

- Flood Control Outlet Pier 10 Crack Inspections: Prior to 2017, DWR identified a crack originating at the corner of a notch in the pier wall for the roadway bridge deck. They monitored the crack for potential growth over time, but growth has not been observed. Ultimately, the crack was determined to be non-structural in nature and caused by tensile stress at that corner as a result of concrete shrinkage following construction. It was injected and sealed with epoxy in 2019 and continues to be monitored. All other cracks in the FCO are non-structural and fine.
- Flood Control Outlet Piezometer Monitoring: Piezometer readings beneath the flood control outlet monoliths and spillway continue to show no indication of abnormal uplift pressures or groundwater behavior during spillway releases or high reservoir conditions. One instrument, B162 near Pier 1, shows slight responses to rainfall and sustained lake levels but remains within expected ranges.

Studies

- Radial Gate Reliability Study (to be completed in December 2025): While DWR has not found any significant anomalies in the inspections described above and are confident that the number of anchor rods provides significant redundancy, DWR recognizes that the gate structure and operating equipment does have a service life, so they will be evaluating the need to maintain or replace components critical to gate operations. This study will also be an input to other risk analysis that consider the likelihood of the radial gates to operate “on demand” as needed.
- *Flood Control Outlet – Monolith 25 & 26 Seismic Retrofit Alternatives Analysis*: Quantitative Risk Workshops are planned for 2027 to determine whether retrofitting the existing monoliths is sufficient or whether a new headworks structure might be needed.

Project Design & Implementation

- Radial Gate Standby Generator Project (construction 2026-28): Identified within the Comprehensive Needs Assessment, this dam safety project will install a new standby generator for gate operations and has been approved by FERC. DWR anticipates issuing a contract for this work next year.
- Radial Gate Seismic Retrofits (design phase 2025-2028, construction phase 2028-2037): This project will focus on increasing the seismic resiliency of the radial gates as well as addressing maintenance items.

Director’s Safety Review Board and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Part 12D Safety Inspections

Mr. Sarkisian provided a summary of dam safety review activities, explaining that under California Water Code and federal regulations, DWR conducts both a Director’s Safety Review Board assessment and FERC Part 12 inspections every five years. The most recent Director’s Safety Review was completed in December 2023, followed by the Part 12D inspection in January 2024. Both independent reviews involved comprehensive documentation and field evaluations. Final reports were issued in mid-2024 and concluded that the Oroville facilities are safe for continued use and reservoir impoundment. The next inspection cycle in 2028 for Oroville Dam, Bidwell Bar Canyon Saddle Dam, Parish Camp Saddle Dam and Thermalito Diversion Dams are anticipated to consist of a Part 12 Comprehensive Assessment, which includes a probable failure mode analysis and Level 2 risk analysis.

Commissioner questions and discussion included:

- Vice Mayor Smith asked about the potential risks posed by the recently discovered golden mussel invasive species and its potential to impact Oroville infrastructure. Mr. Sarkisian explained that the mussels are not of great dam safety concern for Oroville Dam, except possibly with small-diameter pipes within the powerplants that could become clogged by mussel growth. DWR is already studying mitigation options including ultraviolet sterilization, filtration, and strainer systems. Larger infrastructure like the radial gates are not considered at significant risk.
- Supervisor Kimmelshue asked about the timeline for advancing the dam's current "Fair" safety rating to "Satisfactory." Sarkisian explained that this would likely take several years, as each major study takes about two years to complete, followed by additional regulatory review and potential follow-up studies by FERC, whose main concern is the emergency spillway.
- Supervisor Kimmelshue asked about the dam's seismic vulnerability. Mr. Sarkisian responded that DWR has updated its seismic analysis in line with modern standards and will continue to do so. Preliminary results from a state-of-the-art seismic stability study indicate excellent dam stability under updated ground motion models, but they are still likely to advance into further risk analysis of those results.
- Supervisor Kimmelshue then asked how 1960's dam technology can be brought up to contemporary standards and how DWR addresses aging infrastructure. Mr. Sarkisian emphasized that the department continuously incorporates modern design standards into its upgrades and retrofits. For example, they are proceeding with retrofits of Flood Control Outlet gates and likely the monoliths as well. In the long term, DWR may consider adding new gated structures upstream to provide redundancy and account for the service life of the original infrastructure.
- Commissioner Bateman asked if there is concern about eroded material from the emergency spillway being deposited in the diversion pool in the event of its use. Mr. Sarkisian explained that they will be starting a study to look at the volume of erosion that would be anticipated under different flows; erosion in those scenarios will likely not risk life, but could have environmental consequences.
- Supervisor Connelly described his fear that if the emergency spillway were used part of the town and downstream would flood. He wants the Water Control Manual to be updated to provide 500-year protection, so that the emergency spillway never needs to be used. He stated his understanding that when the dam was built, they did not develop a maintenance manual or the redundancy that is now such a focus of DWR's presentations. He complimented DWR, saying that since the incident, DWR has demonstrated a commitment to forward-looking dam safety improvements.
- Mayor Pittman observed that since the dam was built in the 1960s, a significant amount has been learned and voiced appreciation for the dam safety efforts underway.
- Chair Gallagher asked a series of questions on key takeaways from the presentation. In response to his questions, Sarkisian confirmed that after the latest reviews, DWR has determined that the dam is in a safe condition, which FERC's rating of "Fair" confirms; FERC is most interested in the emergency spillway studies, which they still need to review prior to considering a rating upgrade; underdrains were installed in the main spillway and DWR's Dam Safety Surveillance and Monitoring Program shows they are working properly; the piezometer monitoring also shows an absence of water pressure under the spillway; DWR is reviewing potential issues with the gates on an ongoing basis but they have not found any structural deficiencies. DWR will consider when a new headgate structure should be pursued and will likely pursue retrofits in the meantime; and during every annual inspection, DWR examines the "green spot" on the face of the

dam and reconfirms that it is fed by precipitation water on the surface of the dam, not through seepage from the reservoir.

- Chair Gallagher also asked about whether any unanticipated risks were identified during the most recent inspections. Mr. Sarkisian described how Potential Failure Mode Analysis workshops are used to identify and evaluate unlikely or emerging hazards. These workshops involve engineering teams brainstorming hypothetical failure modes, screening them for plausibility, and prioritizing those that pose credible risks. DWR also maintains a rigorous internal reporting system for any anomalous readings or observations, which are promptly investigated and tracked to ensure they do not indicate developing safety issues.
- Mayor Pittman asked about work that has been done at the Palermo Tunnel. Mr. Sarkisian confirmed that rehabilitation work to reline a section of the canal, which was a risk reduction measure identified in DWR's Comprehensive Needs Assessment, was successfully completed in January 2025.

Oroville Annual Budget and Project Prioritization

Scott Turnquist, Field Division Manager for DWR's Oroville Field Division, provided an overview of operations, maintenance, budget, and capital project prioritization for Oroville Field Division.

Mr. Turnquist explained that the division oversees seven dams, multiple power plants, recreation facilities, the Feather River Fish Hatchery, the Lake Oroville Visitor Center, and related infrastructure for the Oroville Thermalito Complex. Additionally, the Oroville Field Division is responsible for Upper Feather River facilities including three dams and reservoirs, water master service areas, and weather monitoring sites.

He cited examples of the division's annual activities, which include facility operations and maintenance as well as field division administration.

Mr. Turnquist emphasized DWR's structured, risk-based process for identifying and prioritizing capital projects that involves evaluating potential consequences, especially those affecting public safety, to ensure the right work is done at the right time with the right resources.

Mr. Turnquist presented an overview of Oroville's expenditures, including operations and maintenance and capital projects. He highlighted that spending increased significantly in 2024 due to outstanding contractor invoices that were resolved in 2024, resulting in a drop in spending in 2025. The annual budget typically ranges from \$50 to \$60 million and fluctuates each year based on factors such as emergency events (fires or floods) and above-average water years. When higher expenditures are anticipated, the Field Division Manager has the flexibility to request additional funds as needed.

Lastly, he provided a list of ongoing capital improvement projects, highlighting those related to dam safety. Most of these are multi-year efforts.

Commissioner questions and discussion included:

- Bruce Ross, representing Senator Megan Dahle, asked why expenditures fluctuate between dry and wet years. Mr. Turnquist explained that costs tend to rise significantly in wet years because increased water flows require more maintenance and cleanup across Oroville's infrastructure, including the roads, ditches, and debris management around

the lake. Higher water movement also increases wear on equipment and power units, leading to more outages and repairs.

- Commissioner Bateman asked whether the costs felt by communities during evacuations are factored into DWR's risk assessments. Mr. Turnquist confirmed that public impacts, including potential evacuation costs, are incorporated into DWR's risk assessment matrix as part of the broader evaluation of project risk before and after implementation. Director Nemeth added that community and mitigation costs are also being considered at the federal level with ongoing advocacy for FEMA to better account for these real, long-term community impacts when prioritizing safety investments.
- Commissioners asked Mr. Turnquist if he feels he has sufficient budget to complete the necessary tasks for the facilities and whether funds are secure for Oroville or if they ever get reallocated elsewhere in the state budget. Mr. Turnquist responded that he generally does have a sufficient budget, noting the heightened attention on Oroville following the spillway incident and the strong support he receives for dam safety priorities. He confirmed that the budgeted funds for Oroville are secure.

Downstream Perspective on Water Control Manual Update Process

Supervisor Bill Connelly presented a downstream perspective to inform the water control manual update process. He described his understanding that prior to its construction, the State Water Project promised that the Oroville Dam would provide 500-year flood protection, but the current Water Control Manual creates conditions that fall short of even 200-year protection.

Supervisor Connelly discussed how climate change is increasing the frequency and intensity of atmospheric storms, and that current forecasts remain imperfect despite improvements over the years. He referenced citizen Matt Mentink's analysis of maximum reservoir elevations needed to provide 500-year flood protection, shared as part of compiled documents articulating downstream perspectives. Given the relative newness of forecast-informed reservoir operations (FIRO), he urged that conservative margins be used in flood control regulations to prioritize public safety, highlighting the significant local costs of evacuations. He emphasized the importance of robust flood protection even in the face of competing political pressures for increased water storage.

Commissioner questions and discussion included:

- Director Nemeth thanked Supervisor Connelly and the team for the documents that were provided to members at the meeting. She clarified that under the forecast-informed reservoir operations approach, it gives DWR more flexibility in reservoir operations. Dr. Nemeth noted that the Department will strive to be closely aligned on public safety considerations for the WCM update.
- Supervisor Connelly emphasized that modernizing the approach will require a cultural shift at DWR toward prioritizing public safety rather than rigidly following the USACE manual without accountability.
- Commissioner Bateman expressed support for a more flexible, forecast-informed approach rather than relying on outdated fixed flood pool assumptions the USACE relies on. He requested access to hydrographs and clarification on any operational constraints tied to reservoir bottom levels.
- Director Nemeth acknowledged Bateman's points and stated the department will work internally to look into the requested information. She emphasized that flood protection remains the dominant driver for using FIRO at Oroville Dam.

- Chair Gallagher recapped the discussion on the water control manual update: he emphasized the community's concern that historically, insufficient water is released ahead of major inflow events. With improved forecasting technology, the community hopes the updated manual will allow greater flexibility to lower reservoir levels in advance, keeping spillway releases at or below 150,000 cfs, which would mitigate localized flooding. He concluded by reiterating agreement on prioritizing public safety while maintaining water delivery.

Water Control Manual Update

Jenny Fromm, Chief of the Water Management Section of Sacramento USACE, provided an update on the status of the update for the Oroville and New Bullards Bar Water Control Manual. She explained that the process is currently preparing to enter the NEPA phase. She is seeking input from Commissioners on potential locations for public meetings, ideally centralized in the Marysville area for accessibility. The goal is to have draft NEPA documents and water control manual formats for both projects completed by mid-2027. The type of environmental document (Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement) will determine the public comment period, ranging from 30 to 45 days.

Ms. Fromm referred attendees to the March presentation, which contains a QR code linking to the project website for detailed updates and contact information for herself, her project manager, environmental lead, and public affairs office. She emphasized that interested parties are encouraged to reach out with questions as the process advances. Director Nemeth made the request the link to the USACE website gets posted on the OCAC website.

Commissioner questions and discussion included:

- Chair Gallagher confirmed with Ms. Fromm that the NEPA scoping meetings will provide additional opportunities for public input to help inform the Water Control Manual development.
- Supervisor Kimmelshue repeated that flood protection remains the priority, with water delivery secondary. He also asked when the last Water Control Manual updates were written. Ms. Fromm answered 1970 for Oroville and 1972 for New Bullard's Bar.
- Supervisor Connelly asked whether climate forecasts could be integrated before the NEPA analysis. Ms. Fromm responded that it would require detailed coordination and encouraged direct communication via email for follow-up questions.
- Chair Gallagher asked whether forecast-informed operations typically result in greater pre-releases ahead of major storm events. Ms. Fromm confirmed that pre-releases are one way to incorporate FIRO and that the Army Corps' role has historically been limited to setting releases within the defined flood control space, but project operators have always been able to conduct pre-releases if they notify ahead of time. Ms. Fromm stated that any water-supply impacts will be fully evaluated during the NEPA analysis phase.

Public Comment and Questions

Vice Chair Gallagher opened the floor for Commissioners to propose future agenda topics in addition to relicensing and pending its availability by February, the City of Oroville Levee screening report.

- Commissioner Bateman requested that the Water Control Manual Update item continue to be an agenda item at all future OCAC meetings until it is finalized and done.
- Deputy Secretary Arthur thanked the Commission for the opportunity to provide materials in advance and noted that submitting letters or summaries ahead of meetings

has been helpful, allowing them to serve as substitutes for slides and ensuring they can be included in the meeting packet. She stated that the tri-annual Commission Report will include an appendix logging communications and submitted documents can also be attached.

Vice Chair Gallagher opened the floor to public comment.

Comment One:

Matt Mentink discussed the time and investment that went into reviewing multiple large reports and preparing the compiled documents submitted as meeting materials and referenced earlier by Supervisor Connelly. While a small, preliminary meeting occurred on September 4th, 2025 with DWR staff, he requested a substantive follow-up meeting with Molly White, her operations team, and Jenny Fromm from USACE and that this meeting occur before the Water Control Manual Update progresses too far.

Mr. Mentink discussed historical flood considerations and proposed operational tools like decision-support systems, reservoir simulation rule stacks, and updated risk curve approaches to help achieve the target water surface elevations. He asked all parties not to work in silos and reiterated the importance of a technically focused workshop to evaluate all options that will inform the Water Control Manual Update process.

Chair Gallagher and Director Nemeth agreed a meeting between the parties could occur in early 2026 before the NEPA scoping period.

Mr. Mentink thanked the Commission and reiterated concerns that the previous FIRO report was constrained by holding storage to 900,000 acre-feet rather than maintaining the 1-in-500-year flood-protection standard. He advised that the upcoming 2029 Part 12, Level 2 risk analysis will rely on outdated probable maximum flood (PMF) data and excludes snowmelt which could raise PMF estimates significantly. He urged the state to coordinate with NOAA to provide interim guidance in updated PMF analysis.

Director Nemeth thanked Mr. Mentink and noted some of his comments require further review.

Mr. Mentink reiterated the importance of evaluating issues holistically such as future PMF requirements, Water Control Manual implications, and dam-safety obligations rather than addressing each regulatory step in isolation.

Vice Chair Gallagher asked for any other comments from the public or Commissioners.

- Commissioner Kimmelshue noted that the Commission faces some turnover of commissioners in the next year and raised concerns about how new leadership will be brought up to speed on the extensive work undertaken over the past five to six years. He emphasized the need for a continuity plan to ensure critical institutional knowledge is preserved as membership changes. The other Commissioners agreed and asked to agendaize the topic for the next meeting.
- Mayor Pittman highlighted recent river cleanup efforts by 75–100 volunteers ahead of the salmon festival and noted ongoing challenges with debris and public safety. He shared that the city is considering a special designation for the area, such as a wildlife

sanctuary or city park, to better manage and protect it while encouraging visitors to enjoy the river safely.

- Deputy Secretary Arthur provided the update that DWR staff recently met with the Commission's two newest members, Stevens and Boone, to provide a briefing on dam safety and flood operations. She welcomed feedback at the next meeting on how best to support future transitions and bring new commissioners up to speed.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Gallagher adjourned the meeting by thanking the public, the presenters, and commissioners for their engagement at OCAC Meeting 21.

The next Commission meeting will be virtual and is scheduled for February 2026.

All meeting materials can be found on the Commission's website [Oroville Dam Citizens Advisory Commission](#).