



Headwaters to Floodplains (H2F) Flood Safety Partnership

Background

Flooding is a perennial hazard in California, even in drought years. Two divisions within the Department of Water Resources (DWR)—Flood Management and Dam Safety—work to reduce flood risk and the consequences of flooding.

Recently, DWR's Office of Floodplain Management launched a new safety initiative called "Headwaters to Floodplains." This informal collaborative partnership among public agencies is intended to further reduce flood risk by enhancing communication and project coordination among flood management agencies. In particular, this initiative encourages a watershed approach to reduce flood risk and consequences, as opposed to focusing on individual flood protection assets (e.g., individual levees, channels, or culverts). The H2F initiative will enhance public engagement, inform funding decisions, and facilitate sharing innovative ideas and solutions.

The Commission has an ongoing interest in the use of integrated regional water management (IRWM) to move California toward more sustainable water resource management. Objectives 2 and 4 under Goal 1 of the Commission's revised Strategic Plan express the Commission's intent to promote and explore the use of multi-benefit projects and green infrastructure to meet resiliency and sustainability objectives in water supply. This H2F initiative is an example of using an integrated watershed-based approach to reduce flood risk.

Mike Mierzwa, head of the Office of Floodplain Management, will describe this new initiative.

This is an informational item.

Contact

Jennifer Ruffolo
Assistant Executive Officer
California Water Commission
(916) 653-7937