



# Delta Flood Risk Management Assessment District FEASIBILITY STUDY



The Delta Protection Commission is conducting a Delta Flood Risk Management Assessment District Feasibility Study. The work will be completed over a thirteen month period, with a final report due in July, 2016.

The Study will recommend whether and how to create an Assessment District with fee assessment authority to provide adequate flood protection and emergency preparedness for the benefit of all beneficiaries of Delta levees and flood protection infrastructure.

## BACKGROUND

A Delta Flood Risk Management Assessment District would provide for levee maintenance and improvements and flood emergency response.

Included in the Delta Stewardship Council Delta Plan as Recommendation RR R2 (Chapter 7):

"The Legislature should create a Delta Flood Risk Management Assessment District with fee assessment authority (including over State infrastructure) to provide adequate flood control protection and emergency response for the regional benefit of all beneficiaries, including landowners, infrastructure owners, and other entities that benefit from the maintenance and improvement of Delta levees, such as water users who rely on the levees to protect water quality."

Also included in the Delta Protection Commission Economic Sustainability Plan as a recommendation:

"Transfer (to a regional agency with fee assessment authority on levee beneficiaries) responsibility for allocating funds for the longer-term improvement of Delta levees and the coordination of Delta preparedness, response and recovery."

Finally, it is also listed as a recommendation in the Governor's Water Action Plan:

"The administration, in consultation with the Delta Protection Commission and the Department of Water Resources, will sponsor legislation establishing a Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta levee assessment district with authority to collect fees needed to repair and maintain more than 1,000 miles of Delta levees, many of them privately constructed before modern engineering standards were in place."

## SPECIFIC TASKS IN THE STUDY INCLUDE:

**Current Context Description and Analysis:** Describing existing funding sources, institutions and procedures for levee improvement and flood emergency preparedness, and applicable laws and policies that affect formation of an assessment district.

**Beneficiary Analysis:** Determine Delta levee beneficiaries and the level of benefit they receive, as well as both current financial contributions and ability to contribute to a new flood risk management assessment district.

**Assessment District Formation and Implementation Analysis:** Determine how such an assessment district could operate, including reasonable cost share among beneficiaries and relationship to existing institutions (i.e. reclamation districts).