

Emergency Response Workgroup

The Mid & Upper Sacramento River regions contain a diverse set of jurisdictions and economic groups in both urban and rural-agricultural settings. The local governments within this region, including counties, cities and levee maintaining agencies (LMAs), provide flood emergency response to an area of more than 500,000 acres with a total population of approximately 300,000. While essentially rural, this area constitutes a major segment of California's agricultural economy. This agricultural economy, in turn, drives growth and prosperity in the Central Valley. Major floods in the Mid and Upper Sacramento River regions have historically not only impacted this highly productive agricultural area, but also the geographically isolated urban areas situated within it and the critical infrastructure of regional and national importance that crosses it.

In a large flood, different agencies have dealt with different components of the flood emergency response. This can lead to common failures to communicate due to differences in jurisdictional boundaries, resources, and internal protocols. Also, LMAs continue to be constrained by limited financial resources, which can lead to response delays as LMAs are forced to seek necessary funds or resources from another level of government for expensive private contractor assistance, or for the purchase of expensive bulk materials (e.g. rock).

The reality for this region is that major floods have wide-ranging impacts on transportation, communications, and public safety systems even when the flood control system is functioning as designed. When you balance the economic importance of this extensive region against the small-size of the governmental entities that provide public safety functions within it then it is clear that efficient, integrated regional response systems are an absolutely critical need.

The key objective of the Emergency Response Workgroup will be to help identify ideas/projects for improving the emergency planning and response efforts as they relate to flood events within the Mid and Upper Sacramento region. The workgroup will focus on the development of an improved response structure and partnership for local agencies throughout the region.