



Senate Bill 1278 Urban Area 200-year Floodplain Maps

This Factsheet provides an overview of the informational urban floodplain maps (Informational Maps) to be provided by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to select cities and counties as required by Senate Bill 1278 and Assembly Bill (AB) 1965 (2012).

Senate Bill (SB) 1278

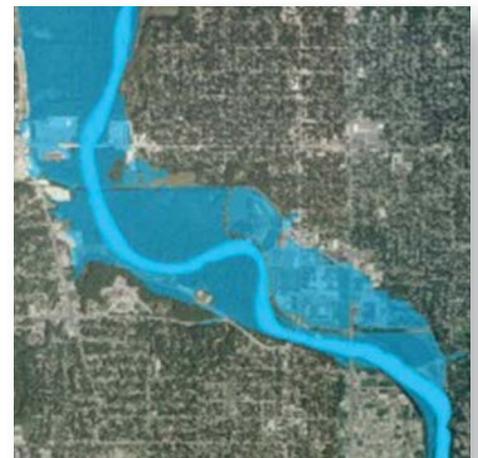
SB 1278, chaptered September 25, 2012, amended Section 9610 (d) (1) of the Water Code to read that:

‘On or before July 2, 2013, and for the purpose of providing information to cities and counties necessary for their determinations relating to level of flood protection, the department shall release flood plain maps that identify at a minimum the facilities of the State Plan of Flood Control [SPFC] and the available data as to the water surface elevation of flooding in urban areas in the event of the failure of the facilities of the State Plan of Flood Control during flooding that has a 1-in-200 chance of occurring in any given year.’

Urban Areas and SPFC Facilities

Within the 2012 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan, the State Systemwide Investment Approach (SSIA) provides that DWR will evaluate and participate in projects that contribute to achieving an urban level of flood protection through reconstructing, rehabilitating, or improving SPFC facilities for the following urban areas in the Central Valley:

- City of Chico
- Yuba City and City of Marysville
- Sacramento Metropolitan Area (Sacramento & West Sacramento)
- Cities of Woodland and Davis
- City of Merced
- Stockton Metropolitan Area (Stockton & Lathrop)



SB 1278 and AB 1965 direct DWR to provide Informational Maps by July 2, 2013 to support local governments.

10 Urban Area 200-year Informational Floodplain Maps

The Informational Maps provided by DWR by July 2, 2013 will identify facilities of the SPFC and will provide information that assists these urban areas in determining their level of flood protection. The Informational Maps will be developed using DWR hydrologic and hydraulic models and inputs configured and adapted to the *Draft Urban Level of Flood Protection (ULOP) Criteria* and ULDC criteria. Levee geotechnical information will be derived in part from the SPFC Descriptive Document and Urban Levee and Non Urban Levee Evaluation program. A series of technical coordination meetings will be held with these communities in the Spring of 2013 to help explain decisions and assumptions that went into development of the Informational Maps. Information used in creating these Informational Maps will be provided to these communities.



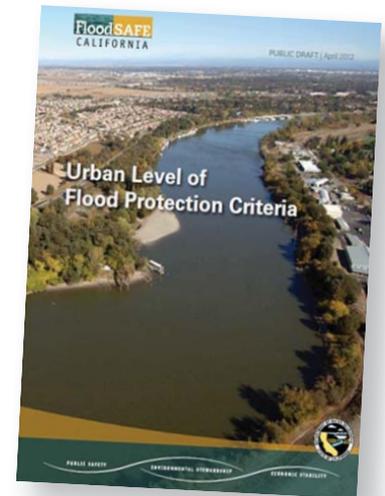
Urban Level of Flood Protection and DWR Criteria

California Government Code §65007(l) as amended by Senate Bill (SB 5, 2007) defines "Urban level of flood protection" as:

'the level of protection that is necessary to withstand flooding that has a 1-in-200 chance of occurring in any given year using criteria consistent with, or developed by, the Department of Water Resources.'

As part of the floodplain management planning effort under the FloodSAFE California Initiative, DWR has developed the *ULOP Criteria* through a collaborative process with stakeholders from cities, counties, other State and federal agencies, and associated professional organizations. The *ULOP criteria* were developed in response to the requirements from the Central Valley Flood Protection Act of 2008, enacted by SB 5, to strengthen the link between flood management and land use. The *ULOP Criteria* provide a systematic approach to help cities and counties make findings related to an urban level of flood protection.

A companion document to the *ULOP Criteria* is the *Urban Levee Design Criteria (ULDC)*, which provides more detailed engineering criteria for determining the design water surface elevation along leveed and unleveed streams, and for design, evaluation, and operation and maintenance of levees and floodwalls. The *ULDC* relies upon the *ULOP Criteria* for procedures such as independent peer reviews, periodic reviews, and approval of exceptions to the criteria contained in the *ULDC*.



Informational Resources

The following are links to additional information:

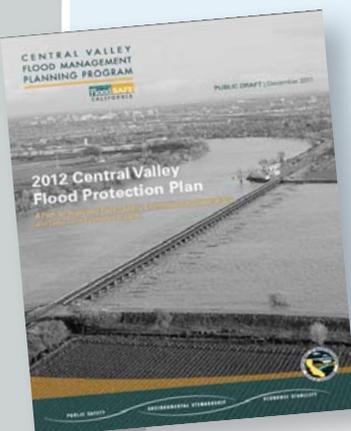
ULOP: <http://www.water.ca.gov/floodsafe/urbancriteria/>

ULDC: <http://www.water.ca.gov/floodsafe/leveedesign/>

The Central Valley Floodplain Evaluation and Delineation Program: <http://www.water.ca.gov/floodsafe/docs/CVFED.pdf>

The Central Valley Floodplain Evaluation and Delineation Program Web Forum: <http://cvfed.org/> (username: CVFED_GEN, password: featherriver)

The Central Valley Hydrology Study: <http://cvhydrology.org/> (username: CVHS_GEN, password: featherriver)



FAQs

Do these maps provide everything needed to make a ULOP finding?

The 10 communities will need additional information to make their Urban Level of Protection findings. The maps from DWR focus on failure of SPFC facilities, so they do not include other flooding sources.

How do these maps relate to FEMA maps?

The SB 1278 Informational Maps are distinct from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps. The maps are based on different conditions and requirements. FEMA maps consider flooding that has a 1-in-100 or a 1-in-500 chance of occurring in any given year. FEMA maps are for determining flood insurance requirements.

How do these maps relate to LFPZ maps?

The SB 1278 Informational Maps are also distinct from the Levee Flood Protection Zone (LFPZ) maps developed by DWR. The LFPZ maps estimate the maximum area that may be flooded if an SPFC levee fails with flows at maximum capacity that may reasonably be conveyed. SB 1278 Informational Maps consider flows from the event that has a 1-in-200 chance of occurring in any given year. The analysis yielding SB 1278 Informational Maps is more detailed than LFPZ map analysis.

Do these maps support feasibility and design studies?

The SB 1278 Informational Maps are for the specific purpose of supporting Urban Level of Protection findings. More detailed maps based on the appropriate conditions should be used for feasibility or design studies. The models and fundamental datasets behind the maps, however, can be useful for feasibility or design studies.