



Delta Flood Mitigation Priorities for Proposition 4 Funds Appropriation

Why is there high flood risk in the Delta?

Historically disadvantaged communities in the Delta face significant flood risks due to weakened levee infrastructure, lack of flood protection funding, and subsidence or the sinking of land due to tilling or soil compaction. Despite the need for urgent upgrades, there is insufficient support to secure funding for the necessary 1,100 miles of levee enhancements for long-term protection from flooding, seismic activity and sea level rise paired with holistic flood protection through floodplain restoration in San Joaquin County.

Who is at risk? Both Immigrant BIPOC communities redlined into high-risk flood zones, and the greater 4 million Delta county residents that are surrounded by a mosaic of levees, are at risk. Additionally, these communities have not been properly informed by the city or county about their flood risks, emergency response resources and updates for before, during and after a flood, or solicited community input for nature based solutions to mitigate for flood in both urban and rural Delta areas (see figure 1).

Proper Allocation of Proposition 4 Funds can Save Lives: Restore the Delta has collaborated with various organizations, people and local and regional governments to successfully pass Proposition 4. Though successful, critical language has been cut or amended as it cycled through the legislature as a flood bond and a general climate bond. As we move forward, we would like to establish priorities for the Delta region and its communities as funds move to be appropriated.

Natural Resources Agency: **Twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000)** will be available as grants for nature and climate education facilities, nonprofit organizations, public institutions, accredited zoos and aquariums, and geologic

heritage sites serving diverse populations. Grants may fund buildings, equipment, and exhibits to promote climate, biodiversity, and cultural literacy, as well as support species recovery and biodiversity protection to advance the state's 30x30 conservation goal.

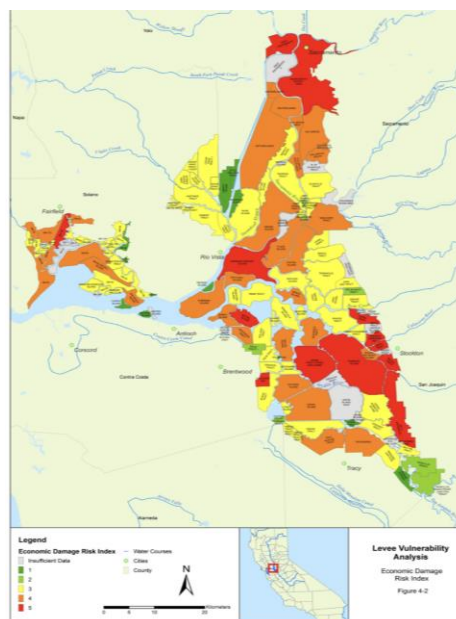


Figure 1: Army Corps of Engineers Levee Vulnerability Analysis for Economic Damage Risk Index in the Rural Delta

Recommended Appropriations: Ensure grant funding is directed to environmental and community organizations in disadvantaged communities focused on flood emergency response, preparedness, and education, including support for bond initiatives and multi-benefit flood management projects (refer to figure 2).

Why? The San Joaquin and Sacramento Office of Emergency Services (OES) has expressed capacity and funding issues concerning flood disaster notifications and their translation. This led to failures to translate flood updates for non-English speakers, lack of internal communication regarding resources, and awareness and outreach

Recommended Appropriations: Full implementation of Flood Control Subventions Program to support Delta populations and water supply for Southern California. **Why?** All the local reclamation districts have significant taxes in the rural Delta while Delta residents have historically invested half a billion dollars into local cost shares for the maintenance and rehabilitation of levees, yet they still remain vulnerable and inadequate. As a historically disadvantaged community, it's time for the state to prioritize the Delta, ensuring that the region is properly protected and supported.

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Recommended Appropriations: Funds should be allocated to prioritize multi-benefit flood projects in the Delta, Delta tributaries and San Joaquin Valley, ensuring that at least 40% directly benefit historically disadvantaged immigrant BIPOC communities, such as those in Stockton, and address urgent levee upgrades, floodplain restoration, nature-based solutions and multi benefit restoration projects on the projected 43 million acres of retired farm land for both urban and rural areas, to reduce flood risks and provide long-term resilience and biodiversity (refer to figure 2). Urban communities would benefit from small-scale multi-benefit flood and restoration projects as it can enhance public access to safe and clean green spaces for heat islands, recreational spaces and shoreline based activities, and improve water quality by mitigating harmful algae blooms.