



## Fact Sheet: Governor Brown's Four-Point Plan to Bolster Dam Safety and Flood Protection

### 1. Invest \$437 Million in Near-Term Flood Control and Emergency Response Actions

To support California's ongoing emergency flood response, the Governor is investing \$437 million in near-term flood control and emergency response actions by:

- Redirecting \$50 million from the General Fund; and
- Requesting a \$387 million Proposition 1 appropriation from the legislature as soon as possible.

This is on top of \$634 million in Proposition 1E and Proposition 84 bond funds that will be spent on flood control in the next two fiscal years.

Since 2011, the state has invested \$3.1 billion – primarily from state general obligation bonds and the General Fund – to improve the safety of flood control systems, including maintaining and constructing levees. Under Proposition 1, \$2.7 billion is being invested in water storage projects – the largest single investment in new dams and reservoirs in decades.

### 2. Require Emergency Action Plans and Flood Inundation Maps for All Dams

The Governor is proposing legislation to require [emergency action plans](#) for all dams the state regulates in California – starting with the most hazardous (meaning there are people or property downstream). Many dams, such as Oroville, have such plans, but they are not currently required by state law. In fact, approximately 30 percent of dams designated as “high-hazard” currently do not have emergency action plans. Low-risk, smaller dams may request waivers as appropriate.

Under current law, inundation maps are only filed when a dam is licensed and only consider complete dam failure. The legislation will require inundation maps for all dams to be updated to incorporate new information – including population changes and enhanced mapping technology – and will also require maps to consider multiple scenarios beyond complete dam failure, such as spillway failure.

Under the new requirements, all dam owners under the California Division of Safety of Dams inspection jurisdiction must update their emergency action plans and inundation maps at least every 10 years.

### 3. Enhance California's Existing Dam Inspection Program

Inspectors at the California Division of Safety of Dams annually conduct independent safety inspections at approximately 1,250 dams. This includes locally or privately owned dams and the approximately 3 percent of dams in California that are state-owned. California's dam safety program has [exceeded national average rankings](#) in the areas of inspection, enforcement, legislation and education and public outreach. As a result of state inspections and requirements, dam owners have invested more than a billion dollars in modernization and seismic safety retrofits.

To strengthen this inspection program, the Governor has directed the California Natural Resources Agency to conduct more detailed evaluations of dam appurtenance structures, such as spillways, to include geologic assessment and hydrological modeling. The Governor ordered this new review to be expedited for dams that have spillways and structures similar to the Oroville Dam before the next flood season.

### 4. Seek Prompt Regulatory Action and Increased Funding from Federal Government to Improve Dam Safety

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for developing the reservoir regulation procedures (also known as rule curves) and operational manuals that dictate many aspects of dam management. Rule curves for many dams are outdated. The Oroville Dam's rule curve, for example, is 15 years old.

To address this issue, the Governor has requested that the federal government:

- Adopt the state's new, detailed evaluations of dam appurtenance structures at federal dams;
- Update these rule curves and – if the federal government does not fund – allow non-federal authorities to help fund the necessary reviews; and
- Appropriate federal funding for the [newly created federal program to rehabilitate high-hazard dams](#).