

Per California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 548.5, the following information will be posted to CalHR's Career Executive Assignment Action Proposals website for 30 calendar days when departments propose new CEA concepts or major revisions to existing CEA concepts. Presence of the department-submitted CEA Action Proposal information on CalHR's website does not indicate CalHR support for the proposal.

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Date

2024-04-26

2. Department

Department of Water Resources

3. Organizational Placement (Division/Branch/Office Name)

Division of Flood Planning and Improvements

4. CEA Position Title

Manager, Division of Flood of Flood Planning and Improvements

5. Summary of proposed position description and how it relates to the program's mission or purpose. (2-3 sentences)

The Department of Water Resources proposes to allocate the above position to the CEA category. The Manager, Division of Flood Planning and Improvements is responsible for flood planning and improvement activities related to Flood Projects, Flood Planning, and Flood Financial Assistance. This position also oversees the development of updates to the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan.

6. Reports to: (Class Title/Level)

Deputy Director, Flood Management and Dam Safety / CEA B

7. Relationship with Department Director (Select one)

- Member of department's Executive Management Team, and has frequent contact with director on a wide range of department-wide issues.
- Not a member of department's Executive Management Team but has frequent contact with the Executive Management Team on policy issues.

(Explain): The Deputy Director is the member of the Executive Management Team, but this position has frequent contact with other Deputy Directors, Lead Deputy Directors, and the Director.

8. Organizational Level (Select one)

- 1st
- 2nd
- 3rd
- 4th
- 5th (mega departments only - 17,001+ allocated positions)

B. SUMMARY OF REQUEST

9. What are the duties and responsibilities of the CEA position? Be specific and provide examples.

The Manager, Division of Flood Planning and Improvements plans, organizes, directs and controls the programs and activities of the Division. This is a critical position responsible for leading a division charged with preparing the flood systems to prevent loss of life and property damage caused by floods, facilitating improvements to increase the flood system's performance and resiliency, and facilitating flood planning, including development of updates to the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan.

This position is the division manager over the following branches: Flood Planning, Flood Projects, Statewide Flood Financial Assistance. This position will be responsible for carrying out the Department's priorities for flood planning and improvements under the general direction of the Deputy Director for Flood Management and Dam Safety. This position provides strategic leadership and direction to ensure operation and success of the DFPI programs. This position is responsible for implementing the appropriate DWR Strategic Plan objectives, coordinating with other areas within the Department for collaboration and cross-coordination including external partners.

Flood Planning - Oversees the development of updates to the CVFPP and associated documents, and ensure equity and underserved community priorities are integrated into planning efforts. Reviews and approves technical analysis and assessments, and statewide flood risk assessments and plans. This includes coordination and collaboration with the Central Valley Flood Protection Board, regional flood management groups, other agencies, and other interested groups.

Flood Projects - Oversees the partnership with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to ensure proper support is given and Department initiatives are considered and implemented in flood risk reduction projects in the Central Valley. This may involve representing the State interests on behalf of the Department. Also oversees the State's programs for urban flood risk reduction in the Central Valley.

Flood Financial Assistance - Oversees the development and implementation of flood local assistance programs to improve the flood system and flood management in the Central Valley and statewide. This includes programs within the Central Valley, such as Small Community Flood Risk Reduction and Central Valley Tributaries, and Statewide programs, such as Flood Control Subventions and Coastal programs.

Administrative Services and Program Control and Resource Management branches directly reports to the Manager, DFO, and supports DFO along with the Division of Flood Planning and Improvements.

This position is engaged with DWR's Governance Board and the Central Valley Flood Protection Board to ensure a cohesive and integrated approach to program activities. This position coordinates with others to integrate climate resilience, equity, groundwater management, ecological restoration/engineering with nature, sustainability, and environmental justice into the DFPI programs.

Internally, this position plays a vital role in providing strategic direction to DFPI branches, disseminating information within the organization, and fulfilling Executive direction through Executive briefings, managers' meetings, one-on-one meetings, and all-staff meetings. Externally, the role involves coordinating with partners and handling public communications, ensuring effective communication both within and outside the organization to promote transparency and collaboration between State Partners, as necessary.

B. SUMMARY OF REQUEST (continued)

10. How critical is the program's mission or purpose to the department's mission as a whole? Include a description of the degree to which the program is critical to the department's mission.

- Program is directly related to department's primary mission and is critical to achieving the department's goals.
- Program is indirectly related to department's primary mission.
- Program plays a supporting role in achieving department's mission (i.e., budget, personnel, other admin functions).

Description: The Department has specific directives to carry State's responsibilities under funding agreements with the federal government (USACE) to perform feasibility studies and improve existing flood systems. The Department also receives funds for statewide local assistance programs related to flood management that will be overseen by this position.

This position oversees the Department's requirements under the California Water Code and Central Valley Flood Protection Act of 2008 to update the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) every five years. The CVFPP is the State's strategic and financial blueprint to improve flood risk management in the Central Valley especially in an era of whiplash weather - from drought to flooding - driven by the impacts of climate change. The CVFPP guides the State's participation in managing flood risk in areas protected by the State Plan of Flood Control.

Although flood management has improved considerably in the Central Valley since the passage of State bonds in 2007 and the Act in 2008, this vast region still faces significant flood risk particularly with the urgent threat of climate change. Approximately 1.3 million Californians live and work in the valley's floodplains, which contain approximately \$223 billion worth of structures and their contents. All of California and the nation could experience a devastating societal and financial impact from a major flood in the Central Valley. Without sufficient and sustained investment in Central Valley flood management, the risk to life and property will increase.

Each five-year cycle of the CVFPP includes an update of the following supporting documents: the State Plan of the Flood Control Descriptive Document Update, Flood System Status Report, and Conservation Strategy Update.

B. SUMMARY OF REQUEST (continued)

11. Describe what has changed that makes this request necessary. Explain how the change justifies the current request. Be specific and provide examples.

A comprehensive organizational review of the Division of Flood Management (DFM) was conducted to improve functionality and better position the organization for the extraordinary challenges California faces in proactively addressing flood risk reduction and supporting communities across the State. DFM's engagement with these programs is at a much higher level than ever before. This review highlighted the need for changes within DFM to improve leadership bandwidth, stakeholder engagement, and innovative problem-solving. This restructures DFM into two divisions – Division of Flood Operations and the Division of Flood Planning and Improvements. This restructure prepares DWR to make even greater contributions to the State's flood risk reduction efforts, ensuring the safety and resilience of California's communities and infrastructure against the backdrop of a changing climate and evolving societal needs.

The Division of Flood Planning and Improvements is responsible for all flood planning and improvement programs. The California Water Code (CWC) and Central Valley Flood Protection Act of 2008 mandates that the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) is updated every 5 years. The level of coordination internally with various programs in DWR and more importantly coordination externally with the Central Valley Flood Protection Board, local jurisdictions, other agencies, etc. are critical to acceptable updates.

Managing major flood improvement projects in the Central Valley and grant funding statewide has helped with incremental improvements of the system. The system improvements to the State Plan of Flood Control (SPFC) is especially critical as it would reduce the State's liability during flood events. These programs are not only for urban areas, such as Urban Flood Risk Reduction (UFFR) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) funded projects, but also several Statewide programs, such as Coastal Watershed, Small Communities, etc.

Considering the level of funding and extensive coordination required, these programs demand a much higher level of attention from a division manager. Prior to the reorganization, one CEA was responsible for flood operations and flood planning and improvement which limited DWR's effectiveness.

C. ROLE IN POLICY INFLUENCE

12. Provide 3-5 specific examples of policy areas over which the CEA position will be the principle policy maker. Each example should cite a policy that would have an identifiable impact. Include a description of the statewide impact of the assigned program.

The Manager, Division of Flood Planning and Improvements coordinates directly with USACE in implementation of feasibility studies and improvement projects in the Central Valley. As part of any implementation, a number of federal policies are evaluated to ensure California can maximize federal funding, and at times legislative changes are needed, which this position is directly involved with.

This position oversees the development of updates to the CVFPP, which is required to be updated every 5 years by the CWC and Central Valley Flood Protection Act of 2008. The Plan considers all legislative requirements and policies as it is being prepared. The CVFPP preparation requires extensive coordination with local and State partners. New policies are always considered in Plan updates to improve the overall flood system functionality. The CVFPP is our strategic blueprint to improve flood risk management in the Central Valley.

The division's many Statewide local assistance programs have their own program guidelines that are revisited every time funding is made available to ensure the programs are meeting the needs of flood communities statewide. Changes to these guidelines will impact the type of assistance and State's level of participation for these programs.

All DWR programs strive to meet the Governor's Water Resilience Portfolio and various Executive Orders. There are several bills, such as SB 112 that drive some of the activities, including the Division of Flood Planning and Improvements. Many of the bills have since been codified in the California Water Code. Some other laws, rules, regulations, and directives that fall under the responsibility of this position are Flood Control Subventions, CWC 12570-12949, CVFPP, CWC 9600, and Federal Water Resource Development Act.

C. ROLE IN POLICY INFLUENCE (continued)

13. What is the CEA position's scope and nature of decision-making authority?

The CEA is responsible for all day-to-day decisions to ensure the areas of their responsibilities are carried out as expected and intended by laws, regulations, and agreements. This includes overseeing the development of updates to the CVFPP and associated documents, and ensuring equity and underserved community priorities are integrated into planning efforts. Reviews and approves technical analysis and assessments, and statewide flood risk assessments and plans including coordination and collaboration with the Central Valley Flood Protection Board, regional flood management groups, other agencies, and other interested groups. This position oversees the State's programs for urban flood risk reduction in the Central Valley. Addressing California's water management challenges, including flood risk reduction, in an era of enormous challenges necessarily demands that solution sets integrate and incorporate opportunities across all water management sectors, such as groundwater recharge. There are dozens of endangered species throughout the flood systems in California. Increasingly, flood risk reduction projects are expected to integrate measures to aid species recovery and restore habitat.

14. Will the CEA position be developing and implementing new policy, or interpreting and implementing existing policy? How?

This CEA implements and interprets existing laws, regulations and policies related to flood planning and improvements programs. The local assistance grant programs' guidelines are revisited every time new funding is identified to ensure the program continues to meet the needs of the flood communities statewide. Every CVFPP update considers new policies and regulations that would help the flood system and continues to build on the significant amount of work completed over the past 15 years to better understand and develop priorities to improve flood risk management in the Central Valley. This includes not only State policies and regulations, but also federal ones. The State continues to work with legislative and congressional representatives on the needs of the flood system. An example of this is the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) that is taken on by Congress every 2-4 years. The programs under this CEA's authority also need to ensure they are meeting the Governor's Water Supply Strategy.