

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 Operations

4. CEA Position Title

Manager, Division of Flood Operations

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 revise the above CEA allocation. The Manager, Division of Flood Operations is responsible for all operations and activities related to Flood Maintenance and Operations, Hydrology and Flood Operations, and Floodplain Management.

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 will have 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 Operations (DFO) position plans, organizes, directs and controls the programs and activities of the Division. This is a critical position responsible for leading a division charged with preventing loss of life and property damage caused by floods and facilitating recovery efforts following any natural disaster.

This position is the division manager over the following branches: Floodplain Management, Hydrology and Flood Operations, Flood Maintenance and Operations, Administrative Services, Program Control and Resource Management, and Special Projects. This position is responsible for carrying out the Department's priorities for flood operations under the 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 DFO programs. This position is responsible for implementing the appropriate DWR Strategic Plan objectives, coordinating with other areas within Department for collaboration and cross-coordination including external partners.

Flood Maintenance and Operations - Direct the operations and maintenance of facilities in the Sacramento River Flood Control Project and the Sacramento River Major and Minor Tributaries Flood Control Project assigned to the Sacramento and Sutter Maintenance Yards. This includes operation of the system during high water, maintaining the system to reduce the State's liability from potential flood events, and funding programs to deal with deferred maintenance.

Flood Preparation and Response - Direct emergency response and preparation activities of the division. This includes the Flood Operations Center responsibilities during a flood emergency, and programs to better prepare for response activities, such as forecasting and data sharing. Emergency response and preparation requires coordination and collaboration with federal, State, and local agencies. Key forecasting includes river and reservoir inflow forecasts year-round and water supply forecasts of seasonal runoff.

Floodplain Management - Direct DWR's floodplain management programs to support public safety by seeking to improve floodplain and watershed risk assessment, risk notification and awareness, and risk mitigation statewide. This includes collaborative programs related to flood risk assessment and statewide hazard mapping and direct resources and initiate inventory and aggregation of technical studies, flood planning, flood system evaluation, floodplain mapping products and other relevant information to exchange information with public and local agencies for floodplain management.

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

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 is key in directing and overseeing the Special Projects staff in integrating key initiatives across other divisions.

Internally, this position plays a vital role in providing strategic direction to DFO 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 under the California Water Code for maintaining and operating the flood systems. It also has agreements with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on implementing certain programs related to floodplain management, which includes funding to support the resources needed to do so. The Flood Operations Center (FOC) resides in the Hydrology and Flood Operations Branch within the Division of Flood Operations, which is a critical element of California's emergence response to flood events, especially in the Central Valley.

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 Operations is responsible for all flood operations. Flood emergencies tend to be larger and more frequent with atmospheric rivers hitting California. The recent 2023 Winter Storms caused significant flooding in the Central Valley and damage to the flood system causing DWR's Flood Operations Center (FOC) to be activated for months. Climate change is increasing the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events.

Flood maintenance and restoration continues to be a challenge with storm damage and the current challenges with other agencies. Implementing restoration projects, such as Butte Slough Outfall Gate (BSOG), Tisdale Bypass, etc. are taking much longer and requires significant coordination other external agencies.

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 Operations coordinates directly with FEMA in implementation of FEMA's Floodplain Management Program in California. The implementation and unique circumstances of flood risk management in California may lead to California specific programs, such as a state flood insurance program, which would require legislative approval to implement.

This position makes maintenance and operational decisions on the flood system under the State's responsibility, including the State Plan of Flood Control facilities. This may include which facilities are prioritized for repair and restoration with limited resources. Restoration of flood facilities are requiring significantly more coordination with other agencies.

This position is responsible for the Department's response to flood disasters, by activating the FOC and managing the State's flood emergency response resources. Climate change is increasing the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events statewide. This position plays a critical role at the state, local, and federal levels and requires the involvement of this position.

DWR is the lead State agency for flood fight assistance and DFO manages DWR's flood emergency response. The principal mission of DFO is to prevent loss of life and reduce property damage caused by floods and assist in recovery efforts following any natural disaster. DFO also recognizes the importance of environmental resources and strives to protect these and other resources while meeting DWR's public safety responsibilities. DWR's primary authority is to respond to flood emergencies set forth in the authorizing language in the California Water Code (CWC) Section 128, DWR's Administrative Orders, the California Emergency Services Act, and the California State Emergency Plan.

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 Operations. 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 CWC 8326, CWC 8361, CWC 12878, Federal Public Law 84-99, National Flood Insurance Program, California Code of Regulations 200,

C. ROLE IN POLICY INFLUENCE (continued)

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

This position is responsible for all day-to-day decisions to ensure the areas of responsibility are carried out as expected and intended by laws, regulations, and agreements. This includes FOC activations, engagement with other agencies on restoration of flood facilities, potential implementation of the new state flood insurance program, which requires new laws and regulations; therefore, engaging with the Governor's Office, the Legislature, and other State and federal agencies. This position directs DWR's floodplain management programs to support public safety by seeking to improve floodplain and watershed risk assessment, risk notification and awareness, and risk mitigation statewide. This position responds to flood emergencies, including traveling to communities affected by flood events to provide necessary State support.

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 the flood operations programs. Potential changes in such laws, regulations, and policies will likely bring further scrutiny by all impacted constituents. The potential new state flood insurance program requires new laws and regulations, which would require engagement with the Governor's Office, Legislature, and State and federal agencies. The flood operations programs under this CEA's authority need to ensure they meet the Governor's Water Supply Strategy.