

System Improvements Workgroup

In the context of the RFMP, system improvements are those projects that extend beyond regional boundaries. The 2012 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) suggested system improvements, such as expanded bypasses and associated large-scale ecosystem enhancements, that were not thoroughly vetted at the local and regional level and which caused considerable concern within the Mid & Upper Sacramento River regions. The primary objective of the System Improvements Workgroup is to help the RFMP team review the system improvements that are currently proposed in the 2012 CVFPP and examine how they may impact local communities. The Workgroup will also help assess DWR's proposed *Conservation Strategy* to ensure the proposed actions are in the best interests of the Mid & Upper Sacramento River regions and do not threaten the regions' economic viability.

The system improvements that are considered in the 2012 CVFPP are intended to address a number of potential physical threats to the existing flood management system. These threats are described in the *Flood Control System Status Report* (DWR, 2011). For levees in the system, threats include problems associated with geometry, seepage, structural instability, erosion, settlement, penetrations, vegetation, rodent damage, and encroachments. For channels of the system, threats include inadequacies in overall conveyance capacity. For necessary flood management structures such as weirs, pumping plants, and bridges, threats primarily include inadequate hydraulic capacities.