

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA



PROCLAMATION  
by the  
Governor of the State of California

WHEREAS, the California Department of Water Resources document "Flood Warnings: Responding to California's Flood Crisis," submitted to the Legislature in January 2005 identified major deficiencies and challenges to the flood control system in the California Central Valley;

WHEREAS, the California Department of Water Resources testified before the Legislature that a magnitude 6.5 earthquake in the Sacramento Delta region would likely result in a catastrophic levee failure that threatens the drinking water supply for 24 million citizens in California;

WHEREAS, a majority of California's agriculture industry is dependent on water from the Sacramento Delta and a catastrophic levee failure would result in cessation of pumping capacity for as much as 18 months, causing \$30-\$40 billion in economic damage to the State;

WHEREAS, a catastrophic levee failure would threaten tens of thousands of homes and major transportation corridors;

WHEREAS, a catastrophic levee failure would result in significant environmental impacts including the permanent loss of critical habitat for endangered species around the Sacramento Delta;

WHEREAS, severe weather conditions during the past two flood seasons have brought unusually heavy rains, which combined with the already poor condition of many levees creates conditions of imminent peril to those living near the levees, to the environment, businesses, and critical life support systems, such as drinking water supplies;

WHEREAS, my Administration has introduced to the Legislature a comprehensive flood control investment strategy to address these serious threats;

WHEREAS, because of these severe weather conditions, I, Arnold Schwarzenegger, have issued Proclamations of State of Emergency in as many as 42 counties that have suffered flooding, mudslides, the accumulation of debris, washed-out and damaged roads, and the loss of human life;

WHEREAS, severe weather conditions during each flood season have resulted in the accumulation of significant damage to the levee system;

WHEREAS, severe weather conditions during the future flood seasons or an earthquake will likely overwhelm the State's levee system;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in cooperation with the California Department of Water Resources has identified 24 critical erosion sites on project levees in the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Flood Control systems that need to be repaired before a catastrophic levee failure occurs; and will continue to identify additional levee erosion sites;

WHEREAS, any levee breaches in the Central Valley have both hidden and known deficiencies, and it is imperative that the State take measures to address serious risks as they become known;

WHEREAS, without an emergency proclamation and federal assistance, the California Department of Water Resources will not be able to complete necessary repairs to these 24 identified critical erosion sites before the start of the next flood season;

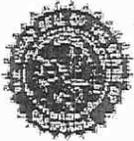
WHEREAS, the Department of Water Resources will continue to identify additional levee sites that require expedited repairs to prevent the loss of human life and significant property damage during a catastrophic levee failure;

I, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor of the State of California, find that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exist within the California levee system;

The resources to address this threat exceed the capabilities, services, personnel, equipment and facilities of any one county. Under the authority of the California Emergency Services Act, set forth at Title 2, Division 1, Chapter 7 of the California Government Code, commencing with section 8550, I hereby proclaim that a State of Emergency exists for the State's levee system;

Pursuant to this proclamation, I hereby direct all agencies of the state government to utilize and employ state personnel, equipment and facilities for the performance of any and all necessary activities to alleviate this emergency in accordance with the State Emergency Plan.

I FURTHER DIRECT, that as soon as hereafter possible, this proclamation be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this proclamation.



**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** I have here unto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this the twenty-fourth day of February 2006.

/s/ Arnold Schwarzenegger

Governor of California