

# Landmark Calif. plan puts floodplains back in business

By Matt Weiser, Water Deeply

Something monumental happened on Aug. 25 in California water management that received almost no media attention: It became official policy to reconnect the state's major rivers with their floodplains.

The action by the Central Valley Flood Protection Board, an obscure panel appointed by the governor, clears the way for the state to embrace projects that allow floods to recharge groundwater. This could include projects like breaching levees, building setback levees and creating flood bypass structures so rivers can inundate historic floodplains for the first time in a century.

In short, it means rivers must no longer be confined within levees as a standard practice.

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