

# Flood Risk Management and Levee Compliance

November 29, 2011



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US Army Corps of Engineers  
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# **Flood Risk Management: Corporate Goal for Levees**

In a collaborative and shared manner with resource agencies and levee sponsors, transition existing levees to Corps standards while maintaining PL84-99 eligibility and adhering to the Endangered Species Act and other Federal environmental laws.



# Options

Policy Document

Policy Elements

Improve Levee System and/or  
Seek Other Solutions

System-wide  
Improvement  
Framework

- Worst-first
- Interim Progress Milestones
- Long-term Plan
- Regional Solutioneering Teams

ETL 1110-2-571  
Standards

- Set-back Levees
- Planting Berms
- National Solutioneering Team
- Can be part of SWIF

Vegetation  
Variance Process  
(PGL)

- Environmental Considerations
- Technical Review
- Vegetation Management Plan
- Can be part of SWIF

Reduce Flood Risk



# System-Wide Improvement Framework

- Sponsors maintain eligibility for rehabilitation assistance while improving levee systems.
- Incorporates "worst first" to optimize risk reduction.
- Incorporates intergovernmental collaboration
- Incorporates time to address both levee safety and environmental and ESA concerns.
- Incorporates regional differences
- Is synchronized with vegetation variance process and vegetation R&D effort
- Two phase process – Letter of Intent followed by SWIF



# Next Steps

- Widely distribute SWIF policy last quarter CY2011.
- Post draft vegetation variance policy in Federal Register for public comment last quarter CY2011.
- Support future related research in CY2012:
  - ▶ Conduct science/stakeholder workshops
  - ▶ Focus on tools to assist in making better decisions about existing vegetation
- Continue supporting regional collaborative efforts, such as in Washington and California



## FRMP Transitioning Levees into Compliance

	2011		2012						
	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	
System-wide improvement framework policy (SWIF)	Senior leadership briefing (28th) ASA briefing (29th) Notification to Hill, CEQ, OMB & public release to MSCs (30th)	<i>Ongoing implementation and improvements based on lessons learned</i> →							
Vegetation variance policy guidance letter (PGL)		Publish in F.R. for 60-day comment period		Close of comment period	Revised based on comments received	Final PGL published	<i>Ongoing implementation and improvements based on lessons learned</i> →		
ERDC research & development	Webinar on future research on vegetation (17th&18th)	Invitation only R&D workshop in Sacramento (13th&14th)		Synthesis meetings to communicate results of December workshop					
Science to policy process memo		Draft circulated for internal review					<i>Ongoing implementation and improvements based on lessons learned</i> →		
Legal memo on NEPA and ESA requirements	Draft circulated for internal review		Final discussions with resource agencies	Final memo issued					
Tribal and Resource Agencies Coordination	Vertical Corps coordination developed, implementation ongoing	<i>Ongoing coordination</i> →				Tribes and resource agencies meet to discuss final PGL			
Solutioneering Teams	HQ draft solutions discussion				HQ draft report				