The following series of timelines were made by compiling historical documented records from California Department of Water Resources, US Army Corps of Engineers, reports to California legislature and official reports to the US Senate and Congressional offices. Historical records indicate Sacramento San Joaquin Delta levees are not vulnerable, as the Department of Water Resources (DWR) wants California voters to believe. Important to note when reviewing the history of levee failures:

1. Most of the islands and levees are privately-owned lands, purchased from the State of California; the state did not reserve mineral rights when selling off the lands for farming and other beneficial uses.
2. The levees were privately maintained by the landowners until the Federal and State governments decided to revise the Delta to divert the fresh water to other areas of the state. By changing the water flows, especially in high water times, extra pressure was placed on existing levees. The federal government agreed to maintain certain levees to protect the islands affected basically in exchange for taking excess water flow to other areas of the state. Those levees are called “project levees” because they were included in the federal legislation of the 1930’s when the first federal water projects in California were initiated. Once those levees were improved, the viewer of the timeline will see island flooding declined substantially. When the state decided to build its own water projects, for water conveyance and electrical generation, additional levee improvements would done in the central and southern Delta region, in exchange for the state’s use of fresh Delta water is high water years. Once those levee improvements were completed, after the 1986 floods, the viewer will notice there have been very few levee failures in the Delta.
3. Based on DWR records, some islands are managed to BE intentionally flood for studies, flood control or other purposes. Therefore the timelines later in this document will show the totals of intended floods as well as the accidental ones.
4. ONLY islands of the Delta region are included in this timeline, using written documents from DWR produced prior to 2003. Starting in 2003 DWR added records of islands not located within the legal Delta region. The only possible explanation for doing this is to inflate the numbers of floods to create a perception of eminent danger in the Delta. DWR also reported intentional floods as if they were accidental levee failures, another way to create misperceptions about the current status of Delta levees.

**DECIDE FOR YOURSELF!**

The documents providing historical records can be found at the websites of DWR, USACE, BDCP and others. You can also find many of the documents at [http://deltaReVision.com](http://deltaReVision.com) which is a website dedicated to gathering historical Delta documents for evidentiary purposes.

**Fact:** Historical records show most of the floods of the Delta happened before the levees were improved or built to what we see today. In other words, DWR has been using records from before the current levees or “buildings” were even built!
As the above timeline shows, incidents of flooding have improved over time, which is directly attributed to the building of dams outside the Delta to manage water flow, and the improvements to levees over the timeframe shown. Also note that there are times the government intended to flood an island or breach a levee for study or flood control purposes. For example, both the McCormach/Williamson Tract and Lower Jones Tract have been intentionally flooded for studies or other purposes in the last 20 years. It is substantially misleading for DWR to list intended inundations as if they are accidental floods, so we suggest the view use caution when viewing any documents produced by DWR after 2003, or any documents produced that references Delta studies produced after 2003.
Peak Delta Inflow (TOT) data is from the following Dayflow website: [http://www.water.ca.gov/dayflow/output/Output.cfm](http://www.water.ca.gov/dayflow/output/Output.cfm) accessed on 2/10/2011 (click on link for excel spreadsheet)

Note that there have been NO accidental floods or island inundations since 1997. This is because the Jones Tract Incident in 2004 appears to have been an intended “field study” for the proposed “InDelta” surface storage program. Records of Delta floods/island inundations compiled and compared using the following resources found online as of 2/10/2011. Islands included in the study came from the 1998 CALFED Technical Affected Environment; Supplement to Flood Control, and from flood history provided by USACE. Summary of documents reviewed, and the reports themselves, can be found at [http://ryerisland.com/images/floods/delta_floods_final.pdf](http://ryerisland.com/images/floods/delta_floods_final.pdf) or at [http://DeltaREvision.com](http://DeltaREvision.com)

Delta flood history reviewed by Nicole S. Suard, Esq., for Snug Harbor Resorts, LLC a long time Delta Marina and waterfront RV Park with rental cabins located on Steamboat Slough, North Delta region.