



Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency
"A Partnership for Flood Safety"

1227 Bridge Street, Suite C
Yuba City, CA 95991

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 13, 2011

CONTACT: Kim Floyd
(916) 409-0426

SBFCA HIRES DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING TO LEAD LEVEE REPAIRS

YUBA CITY, CA – By unanimous vote on Wednesday, the Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency (SBFCA) Board approved the hire of Mike Inamine as its new Director of Engineering, a major step in the Agency's efforts to implement 44 miles of levee improvements along the west bank of the Feather River. Inamine takes the helm of SBFCA's engineering program after providing key leadership for the California Department of Water Resources in its Flood Management and Engineering Divisions, including a stint as the Chief of the Levee Repairs and Floodplain Management Office. Inamine will leave his current post as the FloodSAFE Levees Manager and member of the FloodSAFE Executive Leadership Team to begin work with SBFCA on September 6.

"Mr. Inamine is as highly qualified as they come," said Steve Lambert, Chair of SBFCA and the Butte County Board of Supervisors. "He has proven experience implementing large levee improvement projects and he understands the state and federal regulatory environments. We're excited to bring him on board."

"Mike has the expertise to successfully guide all technical aspects of our levee repair program," said Bill Edgar, Executive Director of SBFCA. According to Edgar, the Board was particularly impressed by Inamine's management of the State's Critical Levee Repairs Program, which remediated hundreds of critically damaged Central Valley levees and his oversight of the Levee Evaluations Program, an unprecedented geotechnical evaluation of 2,100 miles of Central Valley levees. In addition, Mr. Inamine brings extensive experience managing the design and construction of State Water Project facilities throughout California.

"I am keenly aware of the many institutional, environmental, financial, and technical hurdles faced by SBFCA," said Inamine. "These challenges are energizing, and I look forward to assisting the Agency in strategizing and implementing repairs and improvements to the flood protection system."

In June 2010, property owners in Sutter and Butte Counties approved a property assessment to pay the local cost share for major repairs to 44 miles of levees along the west bank of the Feather River. The state is expected to pay as much as 77 percent of the project's estimated \$300 million cost. Assessment revenues will be used to pay the difference.

According to Edgar, the levees suffer from problems with under-seepage and through-seepage, making the region especially vulnerable to flooding. Detailed engineering and environmental work for the levee improvements are underway. Results from recent geotechnical work are being analyzed to evaluate the condition of the levees, and are being used by engineers for the development of the levee project design. The first design phase, also known as 30 percent design, is expected to be completed by August.

For more information, visit SBFCA's website at www.sutterbutteflood.org, or call the hotline at (530) 870-4425.

###

The Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency – a joint powers authority of Sutter and Butte Counties, the cities of Biggs, Yuba City, Gridley, and Live Oak, and Levee Districts 1 and 9 – was formed in September 2007 to finance and construct regional levee improvement projects. The Agency is governed by a 13-member board of directors comprised of elected officials from each of the member agencies.