



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

1227 Bridge Street, Suite C
Yuba City, CA 95991

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CONTACT: Kim Floyd
(916) 409-0426

LEVEE REPAIR ASSESSMENT APPROVED BY WIDE MARGIN
SBFCA Board to Consider Adopting Benefit Assessment District on July 14

YUBA CITY, CA – With ballots counted and results in hand, the Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency (SBFCA) announced today that property owners in Sutter and Butte Counties have approved a benefit assessment for 44 miles of levee improvements along the west bank of the Feather River. Results will be officially announced at the July 14 SBFCA Board meeting, at which time the Board will consider official action to form the Benefit Assessment District.

Ballot tabulation was completed by a third-party certified public accountant on Thursday afternoon, with results showing that 71 percent of the weighted ballots returned by property owners were in favor of the benefit assessment. In total, nearly 13,500 of the approximately 34,200 ballots were returned, or about 39 percent.

"These results are remarkable given the economic climate," said Larry Montna, Sutter County Supervisor and SBFCA Chair. "It speaks volumes about our communities' collective commitment to improve public safety, provide protection against onerous state and federal regulations, and take advantage of state grant funding that will pay the majority of the levee improvement costs."

The assessment is expected to raise approximately \$6.65 million each year. Assessment revenues would be used to fund project design and permitting, repay bonded construction debt, and provide the required local cost share for another \$172.5 million in state funding for the \$250 million project.

"Assuming the Board gives us the go-ahead, we're planning to get started with the design and environmental work immediately," said Bill Edgar, SBFCA Interim Executive Director. "Our goal is to complete these levees by 2015, so we're going to be aggressive on our timeline." On July 14, the SBFCA Board will consider approving a contract with a civil engineering team lead by HDR Engineering for the required levee design, environmental and geotechnical work. In addition, the Board will consider retaining a financial advisor to assist SBFCA in preparations for short and long-term financing.

If the Benefit Assessment District is adopted by the SBFCA Board, assessments will first appear on property tax bills this fall. Per state law, each property's assessment is proportional to the special benefit it receives from better, stronger flood protection. Individual property assessments are calculated based on their location (relative flood risk), depth of flooding absent levee improvements, land use type, square footage of any structures, and size of the parcel.

Property owners with questions can contact SBFCA's Assessment District Hotline at 530-870-4425, or visit www.sutterbutteflood.org.

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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.