



FACT SHEET

Flood Risk Reduction for Sutter-Butte Basin

About Us

The Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency (SBFCA) was created in September 2007 by the counties of Sutter and Butte, the cities of Yuba City, Live Oak, Biggs and Gridley, and Levee Districts 1 and 9. SBFCA is responsible for planning, financing, and implementing flood protection for the Sutter-Butte (Yuba City) Basin. SBFCA is governed by a 13-member Board of Directors comprised of elected officials from each of the eight member agencies. Meetings are typically held on the second Wednesday of each month at the City of Yuba City Council Chambers, 1201 Civic Center Boulevard, Yuba City. Meeting agendas, notices and other documents may be viewed at sutterbutteflood.org.

SBFCA BOARD

COUNTY OF SUTTER

Jeff Stephens
Mike Ziegenmeyer

COUNTY OF BUTTE

Bill Connelly
Tod Kimmelshue

CITY OF BIGGS

Bo Sheppard

CITY OF GRIDLEY

Bruce Johnson

CITY OF LIVE OAK

Jeremy Chapdelaine

CITY OF YUBA CITY

Marc Boomgaarden
Dave Shaw

LEVEE DISTRICT 1

Charlie Hoppin
Al Montna

LEVEE DISTRICT 9

Mike Morris
Chris Schmidl

EXEC. DIRECTOR

Michael W. Bessette, P.E.
m.bessette@sutterbutteflood.org
530.755.9859

Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency

P.O. Box M
Yuba City, CA 95992

Background

In 2007, the Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency (SBFCA) was formed to plan, finance and construct projects that reduce flood risk for more than 90,000 people in the Sutter-Butte Basin (basin). SBFCA's mission is to provide 200-year flood protection for urban areas and 100-year flood protection for non-urban areas within the basin.

In 2013, SBFCA began construction on the Feather River West Levee Project (FRWLP), which consists of improvements to approximately 44-miles of levees from the Thermalito Afterbay south to Highway 99.* The project accomplishes SBFCA's mission of providing 200-year flood protection to the urban areas. The total project cost of the FRWLP is ~\$470 million and construction was completed in 2021.

**Includes approximately 6 miles of improvements being constructed by the US Army Corps of Engineers.*

SBFCA's mission to provide 100-year protection to the rural area in the southern portion of the basin is not yet complete. In 2019, SBFCA prepared the Sutter and Tudor Small Community Flood Risk Reduction Feasibility Studies to identify flood risk reduction alternatives for the rural area. Study findings indicate that 18 miles of the Sutter Bypass east levee, which border the basin, suffer from through-seepage and under-seepage and do not provide 100-year flood protection. The study identified a number of critical sites needing immediate repair. Repairs have been prioritized for phasing so that flood risk can be gradually reduced over time as funding becomes available.



Feather River West Levee Project 2013

Sutter Bypass East Levee Project (SBEL)

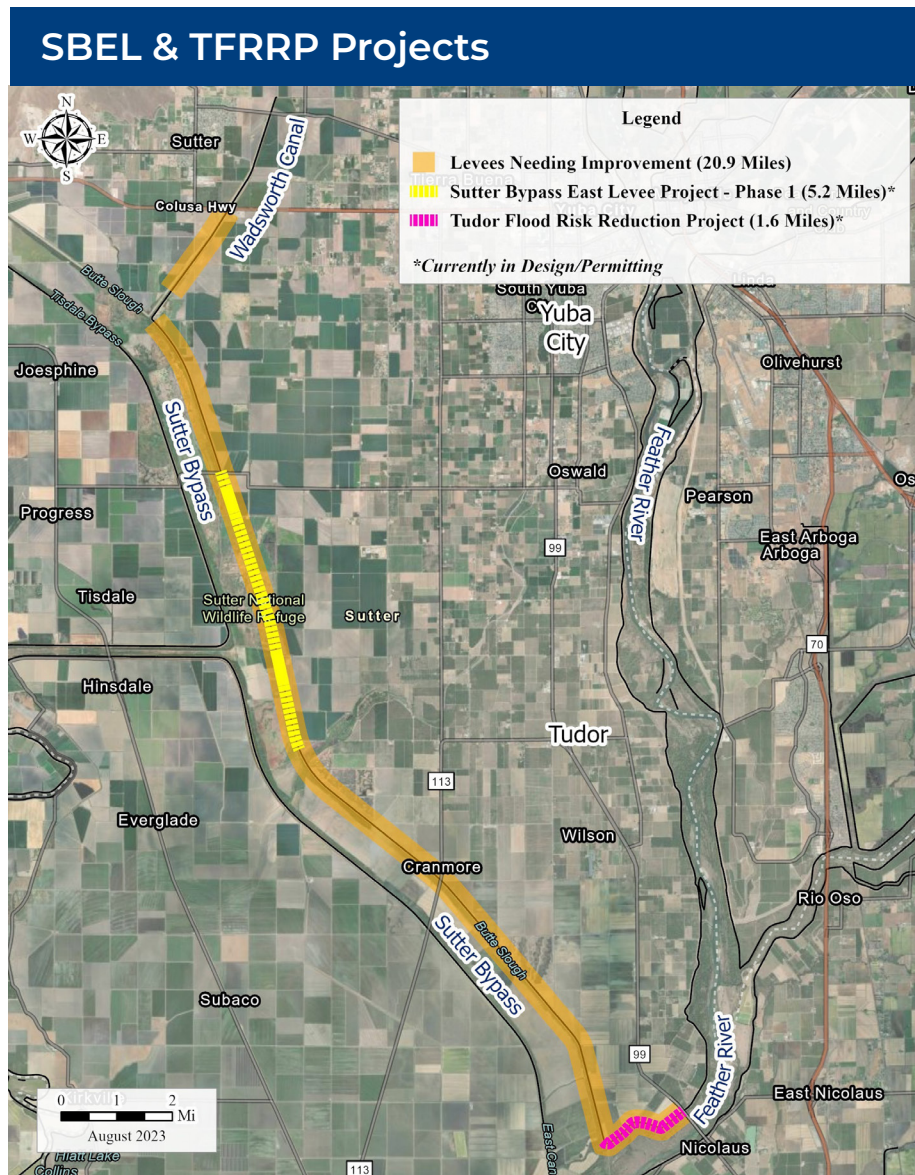
The Sutter Bypass East Levee Project (SBEL) is needed to reduce flood risk to the south basin. In total, the ~\$290 million project includes improvements to approximately 18 miles of levees located along the east side of the Sutter Bypass in Sutter County, just southwest of Yuba City. SBEL Phase 1 consists of the design and permitting of 5.2 miles of levee, which includes the three highest priority reaches along the south basin as outlined in the Feasibility Study. Activities will include:

- Preparing design drawings, specifications, and cost estimates for remediation of this reach of the Sutter Bypass.
- Acquiring necessary California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and permits to comply with environmental regulation.
- Improving approximately 5.2 miles of 20-foot high levee with a 45 to 80-foot deep cutoff wall.
- In 2024, the federal government canceled \$49.9M in FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) funding for project construction.

Phase I fix-in-place improvements began in 2023 with funding provided by SBFCA and the state. Design and permitting efforts will take approximately three years to complete. Construction is delayed, but could begin as early as 2027 if funding is secured.

Tudor Flood Risk Reduction Project (TFRRP)

The Tudor Flood Risk Reduction Project (TFRRP) consists of improvements to 1.6 miles of the Feather River west levee between the Highway 99 bridge and the Sutter Bypass. The project will address existing underseepage deficiencies by installing cutoff walls of varying depths (35-65 feet). It also includes improvements to pipe penetrations and levee geometry. Total project cost is ~\$16M. Construction started in May 2025 and will be completed by October 2026.



Project Benefits

Under California Water Code §8361, the State is obligated to operate and maintain the Sutter Bypass levees. However, SBFCA can provide a local cost share for the SBEL to encourage state investment and prioritization of critical repairs. If no funds are received, the State maintains its existing liability and bears the full cost and burden of future repairs. Benefits of state investment include:

- Reduces flood risk and State liability to hundreds of millions in damageable property within the south basin floodplain, including the small community of Tudor.
- Protects State Route 99 and Highway 20, two critical evacuation routes just south of Oroville Dam.
- Reduces the State's cost by leveraging local cost share.
- Takes advantage of SBFCA's resources and expertise in design, permitting and construction. SBFCA has a proven track record in completing levee improvements on time and under budget.
- Protects existing and planned Calpine facilities, including its planned \$1 billion carbon capture and storage (CCUS) project.
- Boosts local economy by adding 37,500 labor hours per mile of construction.
- Ensures that the recent ~\$470 million investment in Feather River West Levee improvements is not undermined by potential breaches along the Sutter Bypass.
- Addresses Executive Order 11988 concerns since the project would not change the extents of the 200-year regulated floodplain (as required for urban development) and preserves the basin's rural agricultural characteristics.
- Provides added levee system resiliency and robustness in response to changing weather conditions.
- Complies with the current State Systemwide Investment Approach, Sutter-Tisdale Bypass Multi-Benefit Management Plan, Feather River Regional Flood Management Climate Resiliency Approach, and Central Valley Flood Protection Plan Update.