

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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SACRAMENTO, CA 94236-0001
(916) 653-5791



March 30, 2009

Mr. Paul Brunner, Executive Director
Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority
Yuba County 1-Stop Center
1114 Yuba Street, Suite 218
Marysville, California 95901-5273

Proposed Maintenance Assessment

Dear Mr. Brunner:

I am writing on behalf of the Department of Water Resources (DWR) in regard to the Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority's (TRLIA) efforts to assure adequate funding for the maintenance of the levees maintained by Reclamation District 784.

DWR strongly believes that effective long-term maintenance is required to maximize the flood protection available to those property owners living behind levees. While levee improvements throughout much of the Central Valley are essential, those levee improvements are of limited value without sustainable funding for implementation of an aggressive maintenance program. Indeed, long-term maintenance funding is one of the considerations used by DWR in determining whether local agencies qualify for State funds for levee improvement projects.

DWR is pleased that RD 784 has been able to maintain its levees to a high standard (as reflected in the recent DWR levee maintenance report) with its limited budget. However, now that TRLIA is approaching completion of its levee improvement program, the burden on RD 784 to ensure continuing effective maintenance will be more significant, and an increased assessment would help with that burden. While DWR has not developed recommendations for adequate levels of funding for levee maintenance, we do note that RD 784's current budget for levee maintenance is significantly lower than that of other urban levee maintenance districts, such as American River Flood Control District and Reclamation District 1000.

Mr. Paul Brunner

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Thank you for your continued commitment to improving the flood safety of south Yuba County residents. If you have any questions, you may contact me at (916) 574-0601.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "George T. Qualley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G".

George T. Qualley, Chief
Division of Flood Management