



# THREE RIVERS LEVEE IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY

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## South Yuba County Property Owners Approve Levee Maintenance Benefit Assessment

*TRLIA Board to Consider Adopting Benefit Assessment District on June 2*

MARYSVILLE, CA – The Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority (TRLIA) announced today that property owners in South Yuba County have approved a benefit assessment to pay for long-term maintenance and operations on 29 miles of improved levees. Results will be officially announced at the June 2 TRLIA 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 Wednesday afternoon, with results showing that 62 percent of the weighted ballots returned by property owners were in favor of the benefit assessment. In total, approximately 25 percent of the 9,288 ballots were returned.

“Given these tough economic times, the results speak volumes about our community’s commitment to public safety,” said Yuba County Supervisor Mary Jane Griego, chair of TRLIA. “We’ve been extremely aggressive in our efforts to provide the best flood protection in Northern California, and our property owners are partnering with us to accomplish that goal. We’re so appreciative of their support.”

The assessment is expected to raise approximately \$800,000 in the first year, the estimated cost for Reclamation District 784 to maintain levees to strict state and federal standards. “These funds are critical to ensuring levees provide 200-year flood protection as designed, and to FEMA’s recognizing these levees on updated flood hazard maps,” said Paul Brunner, TRLIA executive director. FEMA will not include levees on flood maps unless TRLIA and RD 784 can demonstrate provisions for a standards-based maintenance program.

TRLIA is managing more than \$400 million in improvements to 29 miles of levees protecting the communities of Linda, Olivehurst, and Plumas Lake. Nearly half the funding is provided by the state on the condition that levees are continuously maintained to urban standards. “In addition, we need to provide for maintenance to remain eligible for tens of millions in state funding for the final stage of work on the Yuba River,” said Yuba County Supervisor and TRLIA Board Member John Nicoletti. The last of the levee improvement work is expected to be completed in 2010.

*(more)*

*2-2-2-2 TRLIA Assessment District Approved*

RD 784 officials were pleased with the community's show of support for ongoing levee maintenance. "We're entering a new era in levee maintenance and operations," said Steve Fordice, RD 784 general manager. "The revenues from this assessment will be invested in the equipment, manpower, and professional expertise needed to provide urban flood protection to our communities."

Per state law, each property's assessment is proportional to the special benefit it receives from better, stronger flood protection. The proposed assessment district was divided into four zones, with properties grouped by similar benefit. Within each zone, benefit was determined by the risk of flooding and the expected flood damage absent levee improvements. Rates within each zone were adjusted by property type and parcel size. About 67 percent of the weighted vote was held by owners of single-family homes. Annual rates for single family residential properties range between \$11 and \$148.

For more information, please contact TRLIA Executive Director Paul Brunner at (530) 749-5679.

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*The Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority, a joint powers agency, was established in May 2004 by the county of Yuba and Reclamation District 784 to finance and construct levee improvements in south Yuba County. Four work phases were identified with the goal of achieving 200-year flood protection. [www.trlia.org](http://www.trlia.org)*