



THREE RIVERS LEVEE IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 10, 2009

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TRLIA TO UNVEIL PROPOSED PLAN FOR LEVEE ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

Details to be discussed at Board Workshop on February 17

SOUTH YUBA COUNTY, CA - A \$386 million project to improve 29 miles of levees in South Yuba County is nearly complete. When finished, the area will become the first in the Central Valley to provide 200-year flood protection. Better protection comes at a higher cost – approximately \$800,000 each year to maintain the levees to urban standards.

A plan to pay for annual maintenance costs will be the focus of a Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority (TRLIA) Board Workshop at 2 p.m., Tuesday, February 17, at the Yuba County Government Center. That will be the Board's first opportunity to fully consider details of a proposed benefit assessment district for approximately 13,800 parcels in the communities of Olivehurst, Linda, Arboga and Plumas Lake. The proposed assessment district has been under development by TRLIA staff for more than a year.

Increased costs for levee maintenance reflects a change in status of the area's levees from rural to urban – requiring more manpower and more technical skills, improved levee maintenance equipment, more aggressive vegetation and rodent control, more frequent inspections, and financial resources to immediately correct levee problems and acquire and maintain levee easements.

Adding to the pressure is a recent dictate by FEMA that levee improvements will not be accredited unless levee owners demonstrate provisions to pay for long-term operations and maintenance. In South Yuba, levee accreditation is critical to avoiding being remapped into a high-hazard flood zone. High hazard flood zone ratings trigger severe restrictions on development and mandatory and costly flood insurance for most property owners.

The February 17 TRLIA Board Workshop is open to the public; interested community members are encouraged to attend. For more information, please visit www.trlia.org, or contact Paul Brunner, TRLIA Executive Director, 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