



THREE RIVERS LEVEE IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY

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TRLIA ISSUES BALLOTS FOR PROPOSED BENEFIT ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

Property owners have until May 12 to return ballots

SOUTH YUBA COUNTY, CA – Approximately 10,000 property owners in Plumas Lake, Olivehurst and Linda will receive ballots as early as tomorrow for a proposed benefit assessment district to support levee maintenance and operations.

Ballots sent via mail late today should arrive in mailboxes within the next several days. Property owners will have until May 12 to return their ballots by mail, or in person at a public hearing at 6 p.m., Tuesday, May 12, at the Yuba County Government Center.

Proposed assessments for single family residential properties range between \$11 and \$148, depending upon the benefit to the property from approximately \$400 million in recent and ongoing levee improvements. Better protection comes at a higher cost – approximately \$800,000 each year to maintain the levees to urban standards.

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 the fact that levee improvements will not be accredited by FEMA unless levee owners demonstrate provisions 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.

For more information, please visit www.trlia.org (Assessment District link), 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