



THREE RIVERS LEVEE IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY

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PERMIT APPROVAL PAVES WAY FOR COMPLETION OF LEVEE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

SOUTH YUBA COUNTY, CA – A \$360 million, multi-year effort to provide 200-year flood protection in South Yuba County received a major boost with the approval of federal environmental permits necessary to complete the project. On Monday, the Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority (TRLIA) received word from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that it had authorized 408 Permission and a 404 Permit for the Feather River Setback Levee.

With federal permits securely in place, the levee improvement effort continues on an accelerated pace toward a summer 2009 completion. The work is targeted to be completed prior to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's adoption of updated flood hazard maps for Yuba County, an action slated for fall 2009.

"DWR, the Corps and the Central Valley Flood Protection Board have been excellent partners," said TRLIA Board President Mary Jane Griego. "Each has been pivotal in our efforts to improve public safety for South Yuba County."

As a part of that partnership, DWR committed nearly \$139 million in Prop 1E grant funding toward the project. "Projects like these are an important part of the FloodSAFE Program, a comprehensive effort to improve integrated flood management in California. DWR is pleased to support this multi-agency effort to better manage flood risk for communities in the Central Valley," said Dan Flory, Executive Manager for FloodSAFE.

The Central Valley Flood Protection Board has long been involved in state-level permissions and permits for the project, with board members and staff frequently touring the project and engaging with stakeholders.

The Corps, for its part, remains committed to working in partnership with TRLIA. "The US Army Corps of Engineers worked quickly and jointly with the TRLIA to fully study all potential impacts from this project and provided several opportunities for the public to weigh in," said Colonel Tom Chapman, District Engineer for the Sacramento District of the US Army Corps of Engineers. "We recognized early on the importance of this project and through the tireless efforts of our District and regional office this EIS process was completed in ten months, a significant achievement given that Flood Control EISs normally take well over one full year to complete."

The Feather River Levee Improvement Projects are located along the east bank of the Feather River between the Bear and Yuba River confluences. Regionally, the project is expected to lower water elevations by more than a foot during flood events, easing pressures on both the Yuba and Feather Rivers and providing increased flood protection to South Yuba County, as well as the cities of Marysville and Yuba. The project will also create 1,550 acres for habitat and agricultural uses, to include farming.

For more information, please 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