



Flood control project wins second statewide award

[Appeal-Democrat staff report](#)

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For the second time, a flood control project under the Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority has won a statewide award from an engineering group.

The American Society of Civil Engineers Region 9 announced last week the setback levee on the Feather River, which was completed in late 2009, won the Outstanding Flood Management award. The region includes the state of California.

"It's really very noteworthy," said TRLIA executive director Paul Brunner. "It really does represent the level of protection and engineering that's gone into Yuba County flood protection."

Six miles long and built with modern structural engineering in mind, the setback levee replaced one that failed in Olivehurst in 1997. Its construction also resulted in about 1,600 acres of additional land being created for floodway and wildlife habitat along the river.

The setback levee won an ASCE award for the Sacramento region last year, and an earlier TRLIA project, the setback levee on the Bear River, won the Region 9 Flood Control Project of the Year Award in 2009.

Later this year, TRLIA will begin its last large-scale project, to upgrade levees along the upper Yuba River between Linda and Marysville.

TRLIA will host a community meeting in Marysville on April 6 to discuss the project. But because the Yuba work involves rebuilding an existing levee rather than building a new one, Brunner said, it's less likely to draw the sort of commendations the Bear and Feather River projects did.

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