



THREE RIVERS LEVEE IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY

1114 Yuba Street, Suite 218

Marysville, CA 95901

Office (530) 749-7841 Fax (530) 749-6990

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CONTACT: Paul Brunner
(530) 749-5679

STATE FUNDING PUSHES LEVEE PROJECT TOWARD COMPLETION

SOUTH YUBA COUNTY, CA – Good news for South Yuba County residents arrived today in the form of \$11 million in state Prop 1E funding, a financial boost needed for the summer 2009 completion of \$192 million in levee improvements along the Feather River.

In early 2008, the Department of Water Resources committed nearly \$139 million in Prop 1E grant funding toward the project – which includes the state’s largest-ever setback levee. Today’s advance of funding brings the state’s investment to approximately \$91 million, or two-thirds of its commitment.

State funding temporarily stalled in December due to the state’s ongoing budget crisis. In the meantime, local funds provided the resources to continue levee improvement work. Yuba County and the Yuba County Water Agency have partnered to provide the bulk of a local cost share of \$53 million, with smaller contributions coming from Reclamation District 784 and a local landowner.

“We’ve worked extremely hard to fast-track these improvements and provide our residents with unparalleled levels of flood protection,” said Yuba County Supervisor Mary Jane Griego, who also chairs TRLIA’s board. “We continue to push forward, overcoming challenges that threaten to interfere with completion.”

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 significant flood events, easing pressure on both the Yuba and Feather River Levees and providing increased flood protection to South Yuba County, as well as the cities of Marysville and Yuba. The region suffered devastating flooding from the floods of 1955, 1986 and 1997, causing hundreds of millions of dollars in damages and resulting in dozens of deaths.

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