

Three Rivers Report



Setback levee construction for the Bear River.

of work on the Yuba and Feather rivers. This fourth phase will strengthen levees along the Yuba and Feather rivers.

Work already completed under phases 1, 2 and 3 has nearly tripled flood protection levels for Yuba County to almost the 100 year level. Once again, much of the funding was raised locally, with contributions from landowners augmenting state grant funds.

This issue will give you the latest news from TRLIA, including a construction update and details behind the approval of our Phase 4 financing by the California State Reclamation Board.

No local government is moving as quickly as we are to protect its residents from flooding, and getting as much done through local funding. Keep an eye on this space for more exciting news from TRLIA. Also visit us online at www.trlia.org for more background, information and updates.

About The Three Rivers Report

By Paul Brunner,
Executive Director
Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority



Post-Katrina America remains awash in news about flood control, most of which asks questions — what to build and where, and especially ... who's going to pay for it and when? But here in Yuba County, California, we're moving ahead with answers and establishing an unprecedented level of flood protection for our residents.

As executive director of the Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority (TRLIA),

I'm pleased to introduce the Three Rivers Report. This is your information source on a historic flood control project, one that will dramatically enhance the safety of a California community that has twice suffered catastrophic floods within the past 20 years. We're also making history through our approach to local funding, a strategy that is giving us fast-track results through locally-grown solutions.

In its scope and ability to raise funds independently of the federal government, the work underway through TRLIA is one of a few of its kind in the nation. A major, four-phase levee improvement project that will deliver 200-year flood protection to south Yuba County residents, with the bulk of it's more than \$250 million cost paid for through local financing made possible by the state and owners of land developed for residential use.

In this inaugural issue of The Three Rivers Report, we'll update readers on the latest developments from TRLIA as we prepare for the fourth, largest and final phase

Three Rivers Report



Your information source on the Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority (TRLIA) flood control project.

Inside This Issue:

- A Message from Paul Brunner, Executive Director of the Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority
- Flood Readiness: Stay Informed and Prepared
- Construction Update
- Homeowners to Receive Pre-Paid Flood Insurance Coverage Through Approval of Financing Plan



Who We Are And How to Contact Us

The Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority is overseen by a four-member board of directors composed of Yuba County Supervisors Dan Logue and Mary Jane Griego and Reclamation District 784 Board members Rick Brown and Richard Webb.

To learn more about TRLIA, visit us on the Web at www.trlia.org. The home page also includes an e-mail link for a contact form that you can use to ask questions or obtain additional information about TRLIA. Information about TRLIA can also be obtained by calling the Yuba County Administrators Office at (530) 749-7841.

Safety From Floods Means Staying Informed and Prepared

"One of the biggest lessons of Katrina is having a comprehensive emergency plan in place before potential disasters."

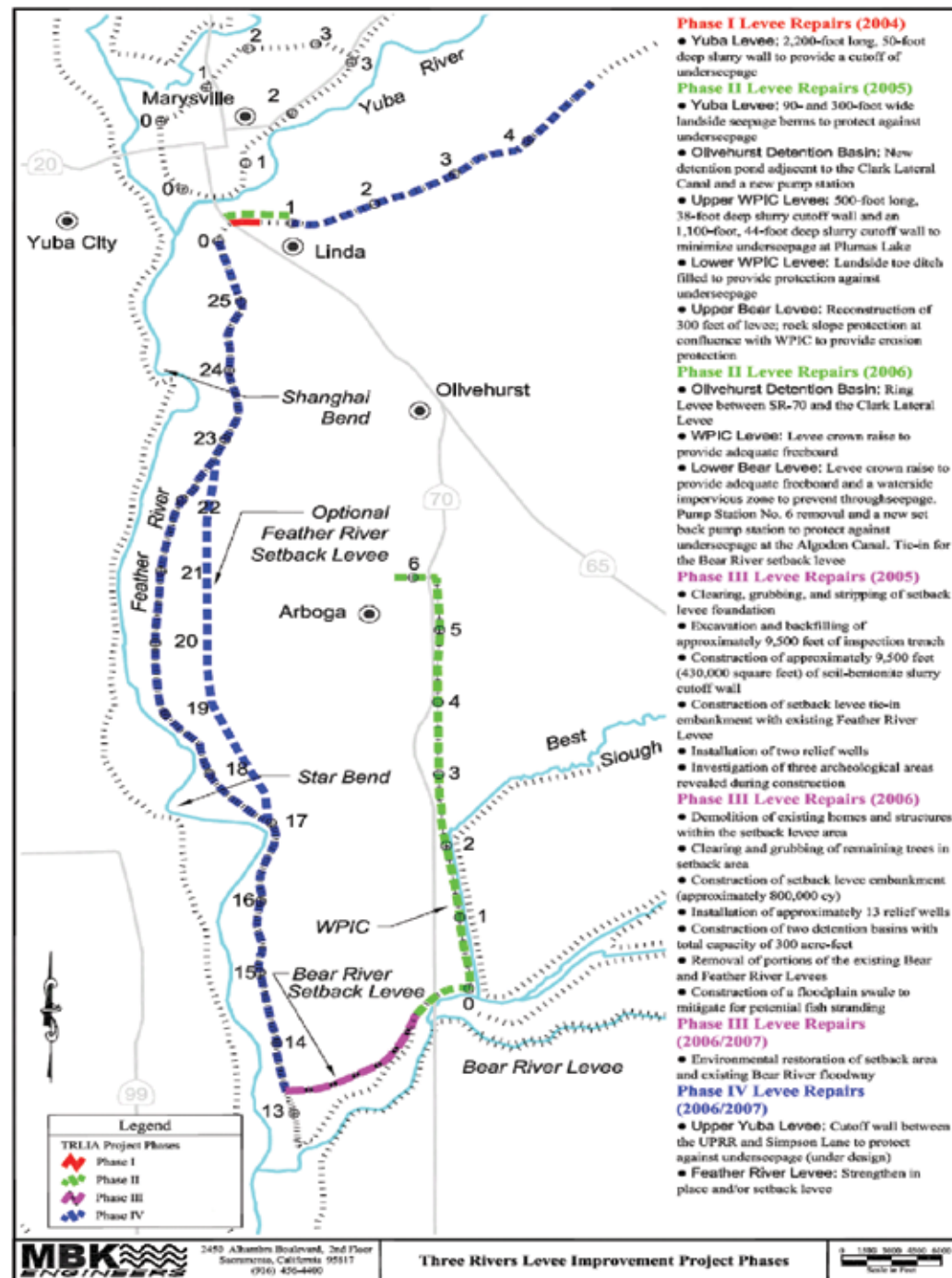
Construction to expand and strengthen south Yuba County's river levees is proceeding on a fast track schedule. When completed in 2008, this vastly improved levee system will provide residents with a 200-year level of flood protection. That's double what the federal government requires.

But to effectively minimize the risk of flood damage, this project requires yet another level of protection — the kind of protection that comes from all of us thinking ahead and staying prepared. This is why Yuba County authorities and the Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority (TRLIA) are studying the lessons taught by Hurricane Katrina to the entire nation.

One of the biggest lessons of Katrina is having a comprehensive emergency plan in place before potential disasters. Another lesson, one that really makes an emergency plan effective, is community involvement. That's where you come in.

To start a dialogue with the community and give everyone the opportunity to stay informed, TRLIA will be distributing quarterly progress updates on levee improvement work. Meanwhile, Yuba County is completing work on its Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, a large-scale effort funded through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) with the largest planning grant ever awarded in the nation.

You can view a draft outline of the plan by visiting www.co.yuba.ca.us. The navigation bar on the left side of the page will guide you to the county's Emergency Services page, where visitors can find links to a draft outline of the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. You can also fill out and submit an online questionnaire that asks participants to rank concerns about the risk of particular hazards.



Most importantly, by visiting the Emergency Services Web site you can quickly find what you need to know about emergency preparedness. This includes developing a family plan, what to include in an emergency kit and vital tips for staying safe during a flood or other type of emergency.

The extensive work to strengthen south Yuba County's levee system will give residents a historic level of security from floods. But no matter how strong our le-

vees are, there will never be a guarantee against another major flood. The chances may be small, but as long as there is a chance of a major flood, the best way to minimize danger and property damage is to stay informed.

Visit www.co.yuba.ca.us, find the Emergency Services page and learn what you can to do give yourself, and your family, the best possible defense against floods.

Phase 4 Construction Starting This Summer

Having secured approval from the California State Reclamation Board for financing Phase 4, the Three River Levee Improvement Authority is wasting no time in proceeding with design work and construction.

The framework for a \$135 million local financing plan for Phase 4 was approved by the Reclamation Board in April. The work in this latest and final stage of area-wide levee improvements will focus on the Feather River between the Bear and Yuba rivers, and the Yuba River levee between the Union Pacific Railroad embankment and the Goldfields. In the latter area, levee construction and improvement work is expected to begin this summer. Meanwhile, design work continues for strengthening levees along the Yuba and Feather rivers. TRLIA has also retained a firm to study right-of-way acquisition.

Funding for all phases of flood protection improvement is being paid through the state and owners of land developed for residential use.

Design work, CEQA approval and permitting for Phase 4 should be completed by this November for construction on the

Yuba and Feather river levees. Phase 4 work on the Yuba River levee is slated for completion by November 2007. By November 2008, TRLIA expects to have completed all construction on the Feather River levee system.

Other Levee Construction Updates Include:

Phase 2 levee repair on the Bear River and Yuba River. The contractor is clearing away flood debris and stripping material to continue levee raising construction from last year. Phase 2 construction is expected to be completed on the Yuba and Bear rivers by October 2006 in time for the winter rainy season.

Phase 3, Bear River setback levee between Feather River levee and the limit of Phase 2 construction. Construction of a setback embankment previously started with the building of a levee foundation. The contractor is now building the embankment. This project should also be completed by October 2006.



Compaction of inspection trench backfill for the Bear River setback levee.

Homeowners to Receive Pre-Paid Flood Insurance Coverage Through Approval of Financing Plan

Calif. State Reclamation Board Green-Lights Final Phase of Levee Improvements

New homeowners in southern Yuba County will temporarily receive flood insurance at no cost through an agreement made recently between the California State Reclamation Board and the Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority (TRLIA).

Under the terms of the agreement, flood insurance will be extended to homeowners through 2010 or the completion of a fourth and final phase of levee improvement work — whichever comes first. TRLIA project managers expect to complete levee improvement work in 2008.

The agreement to pay for homeowners flood insurance was included in the Reclamation Board's approval for financing Phase 4 of TRLIA's rapidly progressing levee improvement project.

Phase 4 cost estimates are being finalized. The cost is being borne by the state of California and the original owners of land developed for residential use. Strengthened levees from all phases of work will raise flood protection for southern Yuba County to the 200-year level. This is twice the minimum protection level required by the federal government.

Through all phases of work, local financing from the state and landowners allowed a fast-track approach to begin badly needed flood protection improvement. Disastrous floods hit Yuba County in 1986 and again in 1997, so risking a lengthy approval process for federal funding was simply not an option.

With approval from the California State Reclamation Board, TRLIA can further accelerate work toward giving Yuba County residents — existing and new — an exceptional level of flood protection.