

Recent History

1986

A massive flood in Linda and Olivehurst was triggered by a levee break along the Yuba River. Water quickly inundated the towns. More than 3,000 homes were damaged and 895 were destroyed. Flood waters were 10 feet high in some places.

1997

The Arboga area was ravaged by flood waters when a levee broke on January 2 (the Country Club break). Another levee gave way three weeks later, causing additional flooding in some of the same areas (the Bear River break). These levee breaks occurred in areas scheduled for repair, having been identified as deficient following the 1986 flood.

Homes closest to the breaks were destroyed by the force of the rushing water, with some reports indicating flood depths of 30 feet. Farther from the levee breaks, many homes were damaged beyond repair due to water depths of 10 feet. In total, 38,000 Yuba County residents were evacuated, including almost everyone in Marysville. Three people lost their lives.

Other impacts:

- Land: 1,000 acres of residential, 15,500 acres of agricultural and 1,700 acres of industrial were flooded.
- Homes: 322 were destroyed and 407 suffered major damage.
- Shelters: 46 emergency sites provided respite for 23,600 people.