

P.O. Box 4857  
Stockton, CA 95204

# Reclamation District 1608

## Dear Homeowners and Businesses:

August, 2007

The Board of Trustees of Reclamation District 1608 is publishing this newsletter to inform you about the District's activities and the issues facing those who live and work here. The newsletter will tell you where we have spent District money, update you on activities of the board, and inform you of regulatory issues that are impacting, or likely to impact, the District and its residents and businesses.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, state and federal agencies are imposing new requirements for certifying levees in flood zones. Of local interest, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is updating its Flood Emergency Rate Maps (FIRMs) for San Joaquin County. These maps determine what the flood threat is, if any, for a specific area. Reclamation District 1608 has been working proactively with FEMA to ensure that the updated maps would minimally affect RD 1608 property owners.

At a recent meeting with FEMA and various local agencies, FEMA released its map signifying the status of levees within San Joaquin County. As shown on the current map, RD 1608's levees have been fully certified by FEMA. This is good news! Certification means the construction and maintenance of the levees meets the standard for flood control levees as defined by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Unfortunately, some areas outside of RD 1608's boundaries and within the City of Stockton may not receive certification. If a stretch of levee does not meet the Corps of Engineers standard, FEMA effectively does not certify the stretch of levee. Then, for purposes of evaluating the location of flood hazard zones, FEMA considers that stretch of levee as not being present. Depending on FEMA's evaluation of these other levees, RD 1608 may be considered to be subject to flooding, and determined to be in a flood hazard zone, as a result of hypothetical levee failures occurring outside its boundaries and jurisdiction.

Although RD 1608's levees will be certified by FEMA, the Trustees of RD 1608 believe it would be prudent for property owners within the District to consider purchasing flood insurance, which takes thirty days to become

effective, before FEMA issues its final San Joaquin County maps. The cost for flood insurance behind certified levees is approximately \$360 per year and becomes substantially higher in areas determined by FEMA to be subject to



flooding. Residents who consider purchasing flood insurance should contact their insurance agents or their mortgage companies. Residents should also be aware that there is always a risk when living behind flood control levees.

A couple of other issues are of interest to all of us: First, the District has a comprehensive emergency plan on record with San Joaquin County's Office of Emergency Services. The plan is designed to coordinate closely with the emergency plans

of the City of Stockton and San Joaquin County. Second, everyone on the levee must comply with the encroachment standards set by the District. For detailed information

about the standards, call Jean Knight, District Secretary, at (209) 948-8200 or John Stovall, Attorney for the District, also at (209) 948-8200.

San Joaquin County is now preparing comprehensive flood maps. To review these maps, visit the county web site at [www.sjmap.org](http://www.sjmap.org). To see the current FEMA maps of flood plains, visit <http://rnc.mapmodteam.com/rmc9>. Follow the links to identify levees in the county and then to the San Joaquin County 2007 map. On the site, you can also find information about the National Flood Insurance Program.

Later this year, we will publish another newsletter to update you on our activities and the regulatory climate surrounding the District. In the meantime, call the District Hotline at (209) 406-9142 with any questions or comments, or attend a board meeting. Meetings are held the first Friday

of each month at 8:00 a.m. at the offices of Neumiller & Beardslee, 509 West Weber Avenue, Stockton.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

DISTRICT TRUSTEES  
James Bluck, President  
Michael Panzer, D.D.S.  
Drew Meyers

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT  
Joe Bryson

DISTRICT HOTLINE & WEBSITE  
(209) 406-9142  
<http://buethcommunications.com/RD1608.html>

ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT  
John Stovall  
(209) 948-8200

CONSULTING ENGINEERS  
Siegfried Engineering, Inc.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Bluck".

James Bluck, President  
RD 1608 Board of Trustees

## WHAT IS RECLAMATION DISTRICT 1608?

Reclamation District 1608, founded in 1914 and reactivated in 1951, is a governmental special district. About two dozen such districts are within the County of San Joaquin. The reclamation districts were originally formed to protect against flooding, for drainage, and for irrigation. Currently, RD 1608 is considered an urban district and provides two of the three purposes—protecting against floods, and drainage.

RD 1608 owns and maintains one small storm drain/pump station facility. The City of Stockton is responsible for the storm drain lines within the District. The lakes between Cumberland Place and Fourteen Mile Slough—North Lake and Lake Lincoln—are also a part of the City's storm drain system.

The District boundaries are generally as follows: Five Mile Slough on the north, Fourteen Mile Slough on the west and south, and (starting at Five Mile Slough) 300 feet east of Swenson Park Golf Course to Benjamin Holt Drive and then Plymouth Road south to the slough.

The District has an elected board whose trustees live within the District and are elected for four-year terms with an election held every two years. A part-time superintendent and a district secretary work for the board.

Reclamation District 1608 is fortunate. The District has never been placed in a flood plain. Our levees were first certified in 1981 and then again in 1997 by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, FEMA, and the California Department of Water Resources as meeting their standards.

Preliminary maps recently prepared by FEMA reaffirm that District levees still meet the standards. However, FEMA may determine that we face potential flooding from areas outside District boundaries. You may want to consider purchasing flood insurance, which takes thirty days to become effective, before final new maps are issued by FEMA.

## TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The San Joaquin County Flood Protection Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is a subcommittee of the San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Advisory Water Commission.

The TAC's objective is to develop, advocate and make recommendations to the Advisory Water Commission on a unified plan, programs and activities for the betterment of flood protection countywide by incorporating various flood plain interests and to improve and maintain the economic health of the County.

Membership in the TAC includes technical representatives of cities, flood control agencies, reclamation districts, the county, and other stakeholders committed to improving flood protection countywide.

Membership is approved by the Advisory Water Commission.

The TAC's responsibilities are to do the following:

1. Identify flood protection deficiencies and develop mutually beneficial projects for improved flood control within San Joaquin County,
2. Advocate and support projects of general interest to its member agencies,
3. Represent countywide interests on federal, state and local committees which influence Delta and tributary flood control interests,
4. Monitor regulatory requirements (DWR, FEMA, ACOE) as they influence flood control benefits in San Joaquin County and make recommendations,
5. Monitor state and federal legislation as it influences countywide flood control interests and makes recommendations,
6. Seek and advocate for state and federal funding to support programs, and
7. Recommend actions and provide updates and information as appropriate to the Advisory Water Commission and County Board of Supervisors.

The TAC is also considering the effects of any potential FEMA actions. Drew Meyers, RD 1608 Trustee, attends meetings for the district.

## DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

Joe Bryson is the District Superintendent for RD 1608. The superintendent, who reports to the Board of Trustees, inspects levee conditions and ensures standards are met. Among his duties are looking for unauthorized plant growth, repair and maintenance of the levees, contacting owners if encroachments are observed, and looking for evidence of rodents, such as beavers or muskrats.

If you plan to make improvements or significant repairs, or install landscaping, please call the Hotline to ask whether you need a permit for the work.

Recently, rocks worth nearly \$4,000 were stolen off the levee around Grupe Park. The rocks are critical to the levee's stability. Residents are our first eyes and ears in the neighborhoods, so feel free to call the Hotline if you notice something that Joe should check on. Please do not intervene in any questionable activity yourself.



*Joe Bryson, District Superintendent*

Thank you for your efforts in keeping our levees safe and well maintained.