

Dear Homeowners and Businesses:

Since our first newsletter in August 2007, an election was held in November; a new district engineer was selected; and the need for flood insurance continues to be an issue.

The election of board trustees for Reclamation District 1608 was held on November 6, 2007. We welcome Brett Tholborn, Certified Public Accountant, to the board. We also wish to thank James Bluck, the immediate past President of the board, for his service to the district. Your new board is composed of the following members: Drew Meyers; Michael Panzer, D.D.S.; and Brett Tholborn.

A new district engineer has been selected: HDR Engineering, Inc., represented by Johnnie Mack, P.E. A description of HDR's duties can be found in another section of this newsletter.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the Trustees of RD 1608 believe it would be prudent for property owners within the District to considering purchasing flood insurance (which takes 30 days to become effective) before the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) issues its final Flood Emergency Rate Maps (FIRMs) for San Joaquin County. These maps determine what the flood threat is, if any, for a specific area. RD 1608 has been working proactively with FEMA to ensure that updated maps would minimally affect RD 1608 property owners.

This month, preliminary maps are expected to be available to the public. The maps will become final and effective after a year-long review and public education period.

The cost for flood insurance for a dwelling behind certified levees is approximately \$360 a year, but is substantially higher in areas determined by FEMA to be subject to flooding. Contact your insurance agent or mortgage company for more information on insurance rates and requirements.

Certification by FEMA means the construction and

maintenance of the levees meet the standard for flood control levees as defined by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. While we expect RD 1608's levees to be certified by FEMA, 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 does not certify the stretch of levee. Then, to evaluate and establish 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 placed in a flood hazard zone, as a result of hypothetical levee failures



occurring outside its boundaries and jurisdiction.

To review San Joaquin County's comprehensive flood maps, visit the county web site at www.sjmpa.org. To see the current FEMA maps of flood plains, visit <http://rhc.mapmodteam.com/rhc9/Links.htm>. 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.

There is always a risk when living behind flood control levees. Each of us should do our part to minimize the risk by keeping the levees free of unauthorized plant growth and other encroachments.

Feel free to 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, 5th Floor, Stockton.

CONTACT INFORMATION

DISTRICT TRUSTEES
Michael Panzer, D.D.S., President
Drew Meyers
Brett Tholborn

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT
Joe Bryson

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

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

CONSULTING ENGINEERS
HDR Engineering, Inc.

Sincerely,

RD 1608 Board of Trustees

What Are the Duties of a District Engineer?

At its December 2007 monthly board meeting, the RD 1608 Board of Trustees approved the appointment of HDR Engineering, Inc. as the district engineer. The expertise of district engineers is essential to the operation and maintenance of the reclamation districts they serve. HDR's engineering and surveying services to RD 1608 include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Advise the District on issues related to the operation and maintenance of the District's reclamation works.
2. Attend Board of Trustee meetings and advise trustees on engineering matters.
3. Prepare and file Levee Subvention Applications and Final Claims, if requested.
4. Prepare plans and specifications for improvements to reclamation works as required.
5. Conduct profile and cross-section surveys of the District levees as required.
6. Prepare for, and respond to, potential and actual flood events.
7. Be responsible for Levee Patrol and Flood Emergency Plans and providing the Trustees an overview at the October RD 1608 meeting.
8. Coordinate efforts with the County Emergency Services, Flood Control, City of Stockton and other local reclamation districts to assure that RD 1608's Flood Emergency Plans are consistent with local agencies within our geographic area.
9. Develop long-range goals and objectives.
10. Establish a 24-hour message phone.
11. Assist with permit applications and environmental issues.
12. Prepare and monitor budgets.
13. Conduct semi-annual joint inspections of the RD 1608 levee system on or about April 1 and September 1 of each year to determine the sufficiency of the maintenance and operation services which are being provided to the District.
14. At the request of the District, represent the District at meetings or conferences where local, regional, statewide, or national flood control or levee issues are discussed.
15. In cooperation with the levee superintendent, establish and schedule an Annual Emergency Plan Flood Fight Seminar for the citizens of the community.
16. Prepare Engineer's Reports for, and assist in conducting, Proposition 218 ballot proceedings.
17. Prepare and process annual assessments.
18. In consultation with the District's attorney, be aware of, and report on, prospective legislation and regulations which could affect the District.

District Superintendent

Joe Bryson, District Superintendent, reminds each of us to keep the levees clean and free of unapproved vegetation and other encroachments. Joe inspects the



Joe Bryson, District Superintendent

levees frequently and reports the results of his inspection to the Board of Trustees each month. "The less green, the better," Joe recommends. Vegetation on the levees can obscure potential problems, such as erosion and boils.

You and other residents are our first line of defense against levee problems, so feel free to call the Hotline if you notice something that Joe should check on. (That includes rodents, such as beavers or muskrats!) Please do not intervene in any questionable activity yourself.

If you plan to make improvements or significant repairs, or install landscaping, please call the Hotline at (209) 406-9142 to ask whether you need a permit for the work.



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