

## Dear Homeowners and Businesses:

We are pleased to inform you that the levees for Reclamation District 1608 have been certified by FEMA. 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.

The final decision as to whether the District will or will not be in the flood hazard zone, thus requiring flood insurance, has not yet been made by FEMA. This decision may depend on the status of levees outside the District. We do recommend that you consider flood insurance as a prudent measure to protect your home and its contents. There is always a risk when living behind flood control levees.

You can find information about the National Flood Insurance Program at [http:// rmc.mapmodteam.com/rmc9/Links.htm](http://rmc.mapmodteam.com/rmc9/Links.htm). Also, you may want to contact your local insurance agent or broker.

We have had a massive clean-up effort in the last six months with major results. Thank you, Reclamation District 1608 owners and residents, for your support of these clean-up efforts. Your individual vigilance has made a significant contribution in keeping our levees safe and certified.

In just a few weeks, you will see more activity as the levee roads are being resurfaced.

And, in mid-to-late summer, levee rock repair will begin on Five Mile Slough between Plymouth Road and Interstate 5.

The Board of Trustees has entered into cost-sharing discussions with the U.S. Corps of Engineers to dredge Fourteen Mile Slough to enhance flood protection. Enhancement of the Delta levees, of which RD 1608 is a part, is a significant component of the Cal-Fed Levee Improvement Program.

Please take a moment to read the next page about Superintendent Bryson's activities and his suggestions for how you can help maintain the condition of our levees.

Feel free to call the District Hotline at (209) 406-9142 with any questions or comments, or come join us at a board meeting. An opportunity for public comment is offered at each 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.

Sincerely,  
Board of Trustees  
RD 1608



## CONTACT INFORMATION

DISTRICT TRUSTEES  
Michael Panzer, D.D.S., President  
Drew Meyers  
Brett L. Tholborn, C.P.A.

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT  
Joe Bryson (209) 406-9142

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

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

CONSULTING ENGINEERS  
HDR Engineering, Inc.

## California State Senate Bill (SB) 5: Flood Management

SB5 (Senator Mike Machado), which was adopted by the California State Legislature last year, requires the Department of Water Resources and the Central Valley Flood Protection Board to prepare and adopt a Central Valley Flood Protection Plan by 2012. It directs the preparation of a standard for levee districts in urban areas. It also establishes certain flood protection requirements for certain local land-use decisions consistent with the Central Valley Protection Plan to be adopted by 2012. The 100-year floodplain standard generally remains in place, but please be aware that the state has opted to enhance standards in flood-prone areas to a 200-year standard.

You can read the full text of SB5 by visiting the website of the California State Senate. Go to [www.sen.ca.gov](http://www.sen.ca.gov). There, on the Senate's home page, left-hand column, click on "Legislation." In the box labeled "Bill number," type in SB5. Click on "Search." Then, scroll down to SB5.

In future newsletters, we will provide updates on the progress of the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan.

## What Are the Duties of a District Superintendent? Raccoons, Possums, Gophers, and Skunks... Oh, my!

District Superintendent Joe Bryson conducted his semi-annual walk-through on the levees last month. He reports that overall, our levees are looking good! Well-maintained levees, free of brush and trees, are easily inspected for boils, seepage, and other levee damage.

Joe especially appreciates your calls about animals seen on the levees, so he can set about removing the furry offenders.

Also, please call Joe if you observe any humans throwing rocks into the water or stealing rocks. Those rocks are needed in place to protect the levees.

Bonfires on the levees? Vandalism, such as cutting wire or gate chains? Again, call Joe on the Hotline, (209) 406-9142.



*Good. Clear gate access to the levee.*



*Try to avoid storage of this kind. Joe found a furry critter nesting here.*



*Well-maintained area.*



*Please, no live water sources (in this case, a water hose).*



*Remember, you can help by keeping vegetation low.*

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