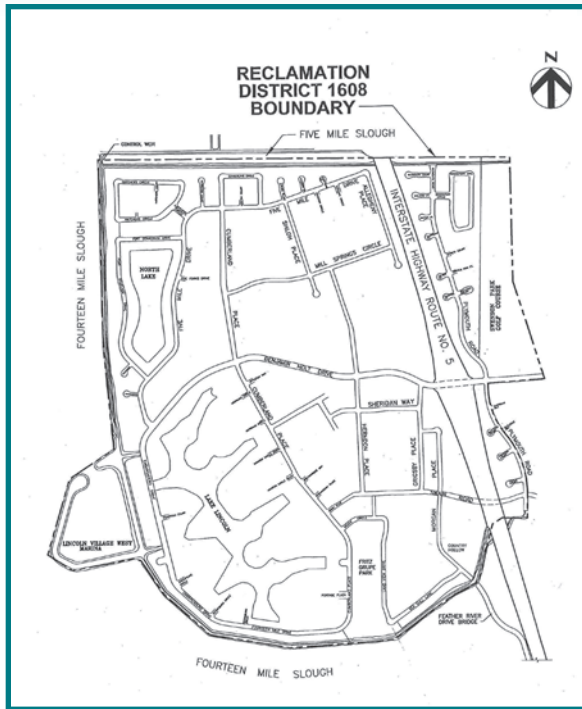


P.O. Box 4857  
Stockton, CA 95204

# Reclamation District 1608

December 2011



## Dear Homeowners and Businesses:

First, thank you for your help in keeping our levees clean and safe. It requires the commitment and cooperation of each property owner and resident of the District, and your efforts are appreciated.

Among the major responsibilities of the RD 1608 board and staff is to keep an up-to-date Flood Emergency Plan. The plan has been recently revised and is very complete. For example, analyzing the risks, developing scenarios, and determining the responses needed for each scenario have been done. Planning for levee patrols is an important part of this overall plan, along with ensuring that we have the resources available to effectively deal with emergencies. Those resources include both labor and equipment resources. Another vital component of the plan is collaboration and coordination with other local agencies, and your board has worked to establish those links.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT/  
HOTLINE  
Joe Bryson (209) 406-9142 or  
(209) 298-3307

ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT  
Dan Schroeder (209) 948-8200

CONSULTING ENGINEERS  
Johnnie Mack  
(916) 436-6050  
HDR Engineering, Inc.

Questions? Curious about the Flood Emergency Plan? It is available for review. Just contact Joe Bryson, District Superintendent, at (209) 406-9142 or (209) 298-3307 to make arrangements.

Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,

**Board of Trustees  
Reclamation District 1608**



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



Chain link on the rocks at Grupe Park, most often used in cyclone fences, is proving to be very successful in discouraging thievery and stabilizing the rocks.

## Drilling for Data

You may have noticed the drilling that has been done in RD 1608. It is part of an ongoing evaluation of urban levee integrity. The levee drilling, which has been done throughout the levee districts in this area, not just RD 1608, was funded primarily by the California Department of Water Resources.

## No Lawns on the Levee

To increase emergency access and safety, the District is endeavoring to replace lawns on levee crowns, with rock.



## Joe's Maintenance Minders

The list of minders grows. Help Joe Bryson, District Superintendent, maintain our levees:

- The levee is not a playground. Please prohibit children from playing on the levees and from throwing rocks in the area.
- Please discourage bicycling or skateboarding on our levees.
- Do not throw trash from your backyard onto the levee. This can create dangerous conditions, and it attracts scavenging seagulls and rodents.
- Please report any stolen or damaged signs to Joe.
- Remove any and all unpermitted wood steps from the levees.
- Do not install trampolines next to a levee without a permit granted by the District. Contact Joe to apply for a permit.
- If you see a bonfire on the levee, call Joe immediately. Bonfires destroy the geosynthetic mats under the rocks, and subsequently damage the underlying levee structure.

## A Plague of Water Hyacinths

No doubt you have noticed the water hyacinths and non-native vegetation, which have plagued our Delta and our levees this year. This hyacinth infestation has gained the attention of the California Department of Water Resources, which has been conducting a pilot program to diminish the growth and destructive impact of these plants. To support this and other efforts, your Board of Directors wrote a letter to the California State Department of Boating and Waterways focusing on the damage the hyacinths are causing to the levees within the District, as well as to Fourteen Mile Slough within the District. The levees must be cleared of the weight of the hyacinths which tend to pull rocks off the levee sides into the water.

## Get Rid of Gophers

We are experiencing an increase in displaced rodents from the Interstate 5 construction project.



Gophers, squirrels, and other pesky rodents endanger the integrity of our levees. Be vigilant. Call our District Superintendent immediately if you spot these destructive mammals on our levees.

## Changes on the Levee

In addition for the need to obtain a permit for planting, any changes on or to the levee require a permit.

When requesting a permit for planting, be very specific and provide the number and type of plants and shrubs to be planted on or near the levee. For instance, a rose is really not just a rose, but comes in many varieties that may affect the environment where grown.



## Questions? Comments?

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