

Dear Homeowners and Businesses:

In the last year, Reclamation District 1608 has accomplished several goals. Among those are the following:

- Lawns on levee crowns have been replaced with all-weather surfaces.
- Gates have been repaired.
- Levees have been cleared of vegetation. In April alone, more than 300 large bags of vegetation were removed from levees.
- The mesh that was placed on the levees has led to a significant reduction in the cost of replacing rock removed from the levee by vandals.

Your commitment to keeping our levees clean is very much appreciated. Each property owner and resident must be forever vigilant to ensure the levees' safety and protection against flooding.

Thank you, also, for contacting our District Superintendent when you have noticed suspicious, unauthorized activities on the levees. Your vigilance has had a positive impact on the condition of the levees.

Please review the information on the reverse side of this newsletter. Feel free to contact our District Superintendent for clarification on any items.

Sincerely,

*Board of Trustees
Reclamation District 1608*

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



CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

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

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



Cooperating with Caltrans

The District has been working closely with Caltrans to ensure emergency ingress and egress for District property owners and residents during a flood emergency. Caltrans has modified the sound wall design at our northeast levee near Five Mile Drive and Allegheny Drive to permit construction of a road access gate. We appreciate Caltrans' cooperation to minimize risk to the residents of Reclamation District 1608.

Reclamation District Defined

A reclamation district is a form of special-purpose district in the United States (and possibly other countries) which is responsible for reclaiming and/or maintaining land that is threatened by permanent or temporary flood for agricultural, residential, commercial, or industrial use. The land is reclaimed by removing and/or preventing water from returning via systems of levees, dikes, drainage ditches, and pumps. (Wikipedia)

Typically, a reclamation district is operated by elected board members who often own property in the district. (See front page for the list of Reclamation District 1608 Trustees.) The costs of maintaining the levees are paid for by taxes and assessments that are placed on property owners.

Federal, state, and local governments all interact with reclamation districts. In states like California, the districts can operate under their own authority. However, if the Central Valley Flood Protection Board, which is responsible for monitoring California reclamation districts, determines that a local district is not adequately maintaining its levee system, the Board has the power to authorize the California Department of Water Resources to establish a maintenance area and essentially take responsibility of the levee.

Your commitment to maintaining levees free of vegetation and structures is a vital link in the operation of our levees and keeping our neighborhoods free from flooding. Please remember that any work on your property on or near the levee requires an encroachment permit. Call Joe Bryson, District Superintendent, before planting or building to ensure that you are fully aware of the permit process and requirements.

Questions? Comments?

Feel free to call the District Hotline at (209) 298-3307 with any questions or comments, or attend the board meetings. Board meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 8:00 a.m. in the offices of Neumiller & Beardslee, 509 West Weber Avenue, 5th Floor, Stockton. An opportunity for public comment is offered at each board meeting. If you live on a district levee, please send your email address to Joe Bryson at joebryson@gmail.com.

Joe's Maintenance Minders

If you see anyone engaging in behavior that could compromise the integrity of our levee system, call District Superintendent Joe Bryson at (209) 298-3307. Watch for these things:

- No bonfires! Bonfires destroy the geo-synthetic mats under the rocks and the rocks themselves, and subsequently damage the underlying levee structure.
- Don't move the rocks! The levee is not a playground. Please prohibit children (and adults!) from playing on the levees and from throwing rocks in the area.
- Do not allow your trees to overhang the fence onto the levee. Please trim the trees.
- Raccoons, squirrels, and beavers! Oh, my! Please contact Joe if you observe any of these pesky critters burrowing into the levee.
- No bicycling or skateboarding is allowed on the levees except in Grupe Park.
- Throwing trash from your backyard onto the levees creates dangerous conditions and attracts scavenging seagulls and rampant rodent destructive behavior.
- Report any stolen or damaged signs to Joe.
- Do not install trampolines and other large pieces of equipment next to a levee without a permit granted by the District. Contact Joe to apply for a permit.
- Please keep plastic off the levees.

Stay off the Slopes

No unpermitted building or planting is allowed on or within four feet of the levee slopes (shoulders) in those sections of the levee where planting may be permitted. The levee shoulders must be kept clean and clear of vegetation and unauthorized items or other construction.

Flood Insurance?

Yes. Even though the levees in Reclamation District 1608 are certified, your Board of Trustees encourages you to maintain flood insurance.

