

P.O. Box 4857
Stockton, CA 95204

Reclamation District 1608

March 2014

Dear Homeowners and Businesses:

Thank you once again for your help in keeping our levees clean and safe. The commitment and cooperation of each property owner and resident of our Reclamation District is necessary, and your individual efforts are appreciated.

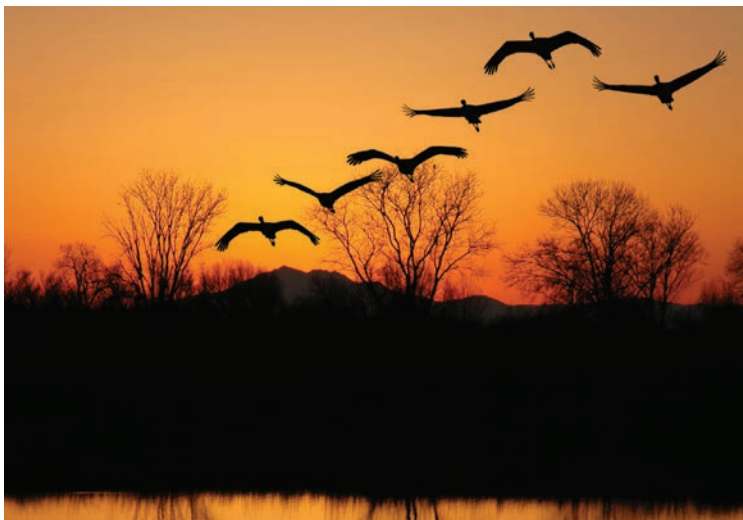
Even in drought years, the potential for levee failure is present. It is a year-round issue. A levee is a living organism that expands and contracts with rain and droughts. Too much rain is a stressor. Drought is also a stressor.

Delta levees differ from upper-reach levees, especially because Delta levees are subject to tidal action. Watchfulness is a 365-day-a-year consideration.

Please review the information on the reverse side of this newsletter. Your safety and the safety of our District neighborhoods are dependent on a solid levee system. Also, feel free to contact our District Superintendent Joe Bryson for clarification on any of the items mentioned in this newsletter.

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.

Keep Levees Clear

We must keep the levee top clear at all times. The roadway must be accessible to allow levee maintenance and to provide passage in an emergency.

Trimming trees? It is important to plan in advance just what you are going to do with those tree trimmings. Two things not to do: First, please do not accidentally let your tree trimmings drop over the fence onto the levee road. Second, do not intentionally deposit your tree trimmings on the levee road. Why not? Inspectors need to clearly see the full levee—from the toe of the water side to the toe of the interior side—to ensure no leaks, cracks, or burrows are evident.

Please keep furniture, games, and other items off the levee crown.

Your District Superintendent notes also, if you do not want strangers in your back yard, don't leave items on the levee that need to be moved. Keep those levees clear.

Permits, please.

Any work on your property on or near the levee requires an encroachment permit.

Please call Joe Bryson, District Superintendent, before planting or construction to ensure that you know all the permit requirements and process. When requesting a permit for planting, be very specific. Provide the type and number of plants, shrubs, or trees you wish to plant. For example, a rose is not just a rose, but comes in many varieties that may affect the environment where grown. Please take into consideration the eventual growth of the plants, shrubs, or trees.

Also, if you are considering any type of construction within the district easement or property line, you must obtain a permit. Construction examples include fence additions, swimming pools, steps on the levee, anything encroaching on the easement-line, and more. Replacing an existing fence does require a permit stating the fence type and size to be constructed. Remember, your permit request must also include a schematic of the planned improvements.

Gophers Aren't Cute

Here is another reason to keep your levee clear: to avoid providing cover for gophers and other rodents. Damage by gophers, squirrels, and other rodents endangers the integrity of our levees. Be observant. Call our District Superintendent immediately if you spot these destructive mammals.

Flood Insurance?

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

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! Please discourage children (and adults!) from playing on the levees.
- Do not allow your trees to overhang the fence onto 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 rodents.
- 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.

Questions? Comments?

Feel free to call the District Hotline at (209) 298-3307 with any questions, comments, or suggestions, 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.

