

Dear Homeowners and Businesses:

Over the last year, you may have noticed that Reclamation District 1608 has been busy inspecting and maintaining the levee system protecting Lincoln Villages West. Work has included placing rock on the sides of the levee as well as the removal of vegetation that can interfere with the visibility of levee slopes during regular and stormy weather inspections.

We appreciate the vigilance of those who own property next to the levees in maintaining their property on the levee as well as reporting any issues to the District's Levee Superintendent Joe Bryson. You can reach Joe with your questions and to report any problems by calling him at (209) 298-3307.

Thank you for helping to keep our levees safe.

Sincerely,
Board of Trustees
Reclamation District 1608

WWW.RD1608.COM

Last year, the District created a new website that offers a wealth of information for you at your convenience. The website at www.RD1608.com contains copies of the District's newsletters, board agendas and minutes, levee encroachment standards and permit applications, and notices of board meetings, as well as a listing of the board trustees, district superintendent, district attorney, and consulting engineers.

As reported in the last newsletter, the District's Board of Trustees has adopted an Emergency Operations Plan for responding to a flood emergency should one ever occur. You can review a copy of the Plan by visiting the District's website. The Plan includes a detailed account of the following District procedures:

- Flood Preparedness
- Levee Patrol
- Flood Fight
- Flood Water Removal
- Recovery and After-Action Procedures

The District will review the plan annually and make changes and updates as needed.

Those Rascally Rodents

Damage by beavers, gophers, squirrels, and other rodents endangers the integrity of our levees. Recently, beavers have been observed in the area. If you see a beaver, please call Joe Bryson, District Superintendent, at (209) 298-3307 immediately.



Other Threats to Levee Integrity

The activities and conduct of some people is also a threat to our levees. There has been an ongoing problem with people cutting through fences, cutting locks, and damaging gates so they can trespass on the levee. Measures are being taken to discourage entry through or over a damaged fence or gate. If you observe someone on the levee who shouldn't be there, someone cutting a fence or lock, or notice that a fence or lock has been cut, please call Joe Bryson immediately. Also, do report if you see anyone camping or fishing on the levees.

Finally, rock on the levees continues to be stolen on a regular basis causing the District to incur the cost of replacing it. So as tempting as it may be, please do not throw any of the levee rock into the water. The District must pay to replace those rocks as well.

Permits on Levee Lots Are a Requisite

Permits for planting. Permits for construction. Permits for large pieces of play equipment. Permits first!

Living on property with a levee on or immediately adjacent to it requires that you first apply for an encroachment permit before you begin any work within the levee area. Be sure to review the permit requirements and process for every project set forth in the District's Levee Encroachment Standards available on the website. Be very specific as to exactly what kind of plants, shrubs, or trees you plan for. The eventual growth of any plants, shrubs, or trees must also be considered.

If you are considering any type of construction within the district easement or property line, you must first obtain a permit. Replacing an existing fence is one example of construction work that requires a permit. Be sure to include a schematic or drawing of the planned improvements in your permit request. Joe Bryson, RD 1608 District Superintendent, can help guide you through the permit process. If you live on a district levee, please send your email address to Joe Bryson at joebryson@gmail.com.

Doing Your Part

Please help by keeping live vegetation, trimmings, trash, toys, furniture, games, and other items off the levees, especially on the water side. Should a needy situation arise, emergency responders must be able to safely and quickly move through the levee system.

Keep water that flows through pvc pipes turned off at all times when it is not being used.

Questions? Comments?

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

You are also welcome to attend the board meetings, which 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



Joe's team uses dirt to fill spaces on the levee.



CONTACT INFORMATION

DISTRICT TRUSTEES
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Drew Meyers
Brett L. Tholborn, C.P.A.

**DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT/
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