

Dear Homeowners and Businesses:

It's that time of year again when the District prepares for the winter season. California has experienced some threatening weather in the last few years. Your individual assistance in keeping levees within the District clean and safe is appreciated by all property owners and residents in Reclamation District 1608.

To prepare for the winter season, please keep your bushes, trees, and vegetation maintained to District standards for clear and unobstructed levee inspections.

Contact Joe Bryson, District Superintendent (phone number on next page), if you notice any of the following along the District levees:

- Dead or fallen trees,
- Debris,
- Animal activity that may damage the levees, or
- Unusual or suspicious human activity/acts of vandalism

Thank you for your assistance in keeping the 3.34 miles of levees within the District safe for you, your family, your neighbors, and our community.

Sincerely,
Board of Trustees
Reclamation District 1608

Jean Knight Retirement

After more than 25 years of service to the Reclamation District 1608 Board of Trustees, the District's longtime Secretary, Jean Knight, has decided to retire. At the October District Board meeting, the Trustees presented Jean with a plaque recognizing her outstanding service and dedication to the District. On behalf of Reclamation District 1608, the Trustees wish Jean the best in her future endeavors.



Election

It's election time again. On Election Day, Tuesday, November 5, 2019, District landowners will have the opportunity to cast their vote to elect two members to the District's Board of Trustees. District landowners must vote in person between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Election Day at the District's Polling Place in the library at Mable Barron Elementary School, which is located at 6835 Cumberland Place in Stockton. The three candidates for the two Trustee positions are Dominick Gulli, a licensed civil engineer, and current Trustees Michael Panzer and Brett L. Tholborn. Please visit the District's website (www.rd1608.com) for more information related to the November 5, 2019, District Election.

Sediment Removal

The anticipated Sediment Removal Project continues to make progress, and construction could begin as early as Fall 2020. Bringing a dredging project to the construction phase requires a significant investment of time as the permitting process for dredging projects is extensive and lengthy. Currently, the District is diligently pursuing the necessary permits from California Fish & Wildlife and from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. When approved, the Sediment Removal Project is one step closer to construction.

When complete, the Sediment Removal Project will deepen the Fourteen Mile Slough between Lincoln Village Marina and Grupe Park by removing approximately 60,000 cubic yards of sediment. This endeavor will improve access to the levees for routine maintenance, repairs, and rapid emergency access by barge in a flood crisis.

To complete the project, the District plans to use hydraulic dredging equipment that is mounted on a small barge. Using hydraulic dredging equipment is cost-efficient and will have less impact on homes located on the levee. Another added benefit of hydraulic dredging is that the dredged material will be directly transferred to the placement facility outside of District 1608, saving both time and money by eliminating the need for additional manpower and double handling of the material. Dredging operations are planned to occur only during daylight hours.

The District's Board of Trustees appreciates the patience and support of the landowners as the Sediment Removal Project moves closer to construction.

Complying with Encroachment Standards

The District's Engineer and Superintendent will soon begin the annual levee inspection. The annual inspection is intended to ensure that the levees remain in good working order by identifying levee defects and making sure any permitted structures and vegetation are in compliance with the District's Levee Encroachment Standards, which can be found on the District's website (www.rd1608.com). Please be alert to any problems on the levees and fix or report them immediately to the District Superintendent.

For those property owners with gates on top of the levee, please ensure the gates can always be opened and closed properly. Not only does this assist with the annual inspection, but working gates are crucial for levee access in an emergency.

Asphalt Roads

The District's asphalt roads on top of the levees provide all-weather access to the levee. This access is necessary for operation and maintenance of the levees, especially during storm events. Please keep the District's asphalt roads free from any obstruction. Use of fire pits on the District's asphalt roads have been reported to the District's Superintendent. Fire pits are prohibited on the District asphalt roads. If you notice any fire pits being used, immediately contact the District Superintendent.

Problem Rodents

Nutria have been reported in the vicinity of Reclamation District 1608. Nutria are a non-native rodent that destroys wetlands and can seriously damage and burrow into levees. Nutria strongly resemble native beaver and muskrat, but are distinguished by their round, sparsely-haired tails and white whiskers. However, if you spot anything that resembles a beaver, muskrat, nutria, or other rodent on or near the levee, do not hesitate to contact the District Superintendent. These rodents have devastating impacts on the District's levees. Reporting rodent activity is crucial to the District's effort to operate and maintain safe levees.

Questions? Comments?

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

You are welcome to attend the District Board of Trustees meetings, which are held the first Wednesday of each month at 8:00 a.m. in the offices of Neumiller & Beardslee, 3121 West March Lane, Suite 100, Stockton.

Thank you for your individual efforts to keep our levees safe and well maintained.



Joe Bryson, District Superintendent



A Well-Maintained Levee

CONTACT INFORMATION

DISTRICT TRUSTEES

Michael Panzer, D.D.S., President

Dan MacDonnell

Brett L. Tholborn, C.P.A.

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT/ HOTLINE

Joe Bryson (209) 298-3307

ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT

Dan Schroeder (209) 948-8200

Neumiller & Beardslee

ENGINEER FOR THE DISTRICT

Christopher H. Neudeck

(209) 946-0268

Kjeldsen, Sinnock & Neudeck

www.rd1608.com