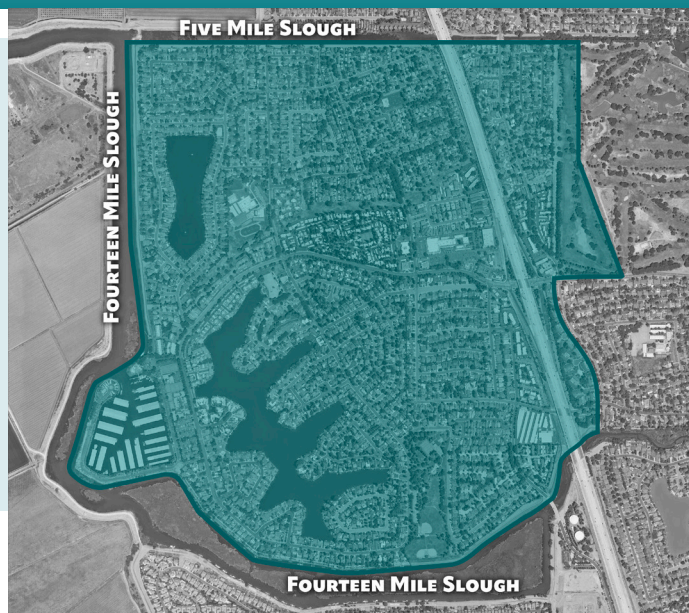


RD 1608 Maintains the Levees that Protect Your Property from Flooding

RECLAMATION DISTRICT 1608 (RD 1608) is the public agency responsible for maintaining the levees to reduce flood risk for Lincoln Village West. The community is bordered by waterways on three sides (see map). To reduce the chance of flooding, RD 1608 takes care of ("maintains & operates") 3.5 miles of levees that act as a barrier to flooding from these waterways. These levees are Lincoln Village West's only defense against flooding from the Delta along Fourteen Mile and Five Mile Sloughs. Proper maintenance of the levees is critical to ensuring they prevent flooding especially during storms and high-water events.



Levee Maintenance Reduces Risk of Flood Damage

Damage to levees caused by erosion, settlement, cracking, rodents, and vegetation can lead to a levee breach (failure) and uncontrolled flooding. A failure of any of the RD 1608 levees could result in flood depths of up to 9 feet throughout the community. This would cause approximately \$2 billion in property damages. To prevent flood damage, RD 1608:

- Conducts daily inspections of levees and performs routine maintenance as necessary, including placing rock slope protection (riprap), filling burrows from rodents, filling shrinkage cracks, repairing all weather road surfaces, clearing and trimming vegetation, and removing other man made and natural encroachments (e.g. structures and vegetation that prevent levee inspection).
- Maintains channel depths in the adjacent Fourteen Mile Slough to provide critical access to marine mounted barges and cranes for levee work, and drainage facilities that divert seepage water from levees to enhance flood protection.
- Patrols levees 24/7 during all high water and storm events to inspect for levee seepage, slipped riprap, cracking or settlement and any other potential damage.
- Complies with strict state and federal regulations for levee maintenance. As a result, RD 1608 levees currently meet the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requirements for 100-year flood protection. Collectively, this saves Lincoln Village West property owners millions of dollars each year on high-cost, mandatory flood insurance. Flood insurance is optional, and less expensive, as a result.

RD 1608 Must Renew Property Assessment to Fund Levee Maintenance

RD 1608 is funded through a property assessment and a percentage of your property taxes. The property assessment, which accounts for approximately half the district's revenues, will expire in 2025. The assessment was adopted in 2010 and has not been increased since that time. Property owners will be asked to renew the property assessment in late 2024 (by mailed ballot). If the assessment is not renewed, RD 1608 will be required to significantly reduce its level of service. As a result, flood risk for your property will increase over time as levees degrade. Levees will ultimately not meet state and federal flood protection regulations. In that case, the community will be at risk of being mapped into a FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area and subjected to mandatory flood insurance. Watch your mailbox for more information in coming months.

Get to Know Joe

RD 1608 Superintendent Joe Bryson is a recognizable figure in the RD 1608 area. A Navy veteran and Carnegie Leadership program alum, Joe credits much of his success in life to becoming a good reader and a self-described workaholic. Prior to joining RD 1608 in 2006, Joe owned and operated one of northern California's largest HVAC and sheet metal companies. He had planned to retire in South Carolina, but wanted to remain close to immediate family. So, he decided to stay in California and step into the role of Superintendent for RD 1608, where he and his hardworking crew were faced with the big task of getting the levees into tip top shape.

Joe's responsibilities include managing levee maintenance and vegetation, oversight of minor levee repairs, patrolling the levee daily and during high tide and water, and working with property owners to remove encroachments on the levee. "I'm here to help people, to work with them," said Joe. "My job is to maintain the levee, but I also work to build community."

Recently, RD 1608 added remote cameras to its facilities which has helped Joe and his team monitor the property and cut down on trespassing, theft, and levee gate breaches.

In his little spare time, Joe is active in Pets N Pals rescue and enjoys a love for dogs. On occasion, RD 1608 property owners seek Joe's help in directing loose dogs back to their owners. "They all think I know where they live," said Joe. "Actually, I do in most cases."

When asked what the most important message he would like to share with property owners, he replied, "If you ever see a problem on the levee, please call me."



Joe Bryson, RD 1608 Superintendent

Did You Know?

- Lincoln Village West is bordered by waterways on three sides
- RD 1608 levees along these waterways are the community's only defense against flooding
- A failure in any of the RD 1608 levees could cause up to 9 feet of flooding and approximately \$2 billion in property damages
- To prevent flooding, levee maintenance must be done every day, year-round, even during dry years
- Levees must be maintained to strict state and federal standards to avoid financial impacts to property owners and economic impacts to the community



Levees protect Lincoln Village West from flooding

Reclamation District 1608

P.O. Box 4857
Stockton, CA 95204

Community Newsletter

RD1608.COM

About RD 1608

RD 1608, A PUBLIC AGENCY FORMED IN 1914, is responsible for operating and maintaining levees that reduce flood risk for approximately 3,000 properties and 9,000 residents in Lincoln Village West. RD 1608 is governed by a three-member elected Board of Trustees composed of property owners within the district's boundaries. Learn more www.rd1608.com.

Questions? **209-948-8200**

Contact us at: info@rd1608.com

www.rd1608.com

Reclamation District 1608

Board of Trustees

The Board regularly meets at 8 a.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at the offices of Neumiller & Beardslee, 3121 W. March Lane, Stockton.

DR. MICHAEL PANZER
President

DAN MACDONNELL
Trustee

DOT LOFSTROM
Trustee

Other District Contacts

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT
Joe Bryson (209) 298-3307

ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT
Andrew J. Pinasco (209) 948-8200
Neumiller & Beardslee

ENGINEER FOR THE DISTRICT
Christopher H. Neudeck (209) 946-0268
Kjeldsen, Sinnock & Neudeck, Inc.