

# Reclamation District 1608

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# Reclamation District 1608

DECEMBER  
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## Community Newsletter

RD1608.COM

## What is 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 at [www.rd1608.com](http://www.rd1608.com).

**Questions?** 209-475-7861  
**Contact us at:** [info@rd1608.com](mailto:info@rd1608.com)  
[www.rd1608.com](http://www.rd1608.com)

Reclamation District 1608

### RD 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.

**MICHAEL PANZER**  
*President*

**DAN MACDONNELL**  
*Trustee*

**DOT LOFSTROM**  
*Trustee*

### Other District Contacts

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

**ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT**  
Andy Pinasco (209) 948-8200  
*Neumiller & Beardslee*

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

## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

### RD 1608 Board Proposes Renewal of Annual Property Assessment

RECLAMATION DISTRICT 1608 [RD 1608] is the public agency responsible for maintaining 3.5 miles of levees along the waterways that nearly surround Lincoln Village West (see map). 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 providing a high level of flood protection, especially during storms and high-water events. RD 1608's operations are funded in near equal amounts through an annual property assessment and a percentage of property taxes. The property assessment that was approved by property owners in 2010 will expire on June 30, 2025. This will leave RD 1608 with little more than one-half of its required annual operating revenues.

For RD 1608 to continue providing a high-level of flood protection, the annual property assessment must be renewed. Property owners will receive ballots for the proposed assessment renewal in early February 2025. Please read this newsletter and watch your mailboxes in coming months for more information.

### What Happens if the Assessment is Not Renewed?

RD 1608'S EXISTING PROPERTY ASSESSMENT provides 45 percent of RD 1608's annual operating revenues. If the proposed assessment renewal is not approved by property owners:

- Levee maintenance services will be significantly reduced.
- The likelihood of a flood will increase over time as levees degrade due to substandard care.
- Ultimately, the levees won't meet state and federal regulations for flood protection.
- The community will be at risk of being mapped into a FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area and subjected to mandatory flood insurance.

The US Army Corps of Engineers, in partnership with the CA Department of Water Resources and the San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency, is planning to improve the Fourteen Mile Slough levee as part of the Lower San Joaquin River Project. However, RD1608 must provide assurances that it can maintain the improved levee to state and federal regulations. The Fourteen Mile Slough levee improvement may be in jeopardy if RD 1608 lacks the funding to properly maintain the levee to state and federal regulations over the long term.



More Inside!

### 100% of Property Assessment Revenues Used to Prevent Flooding

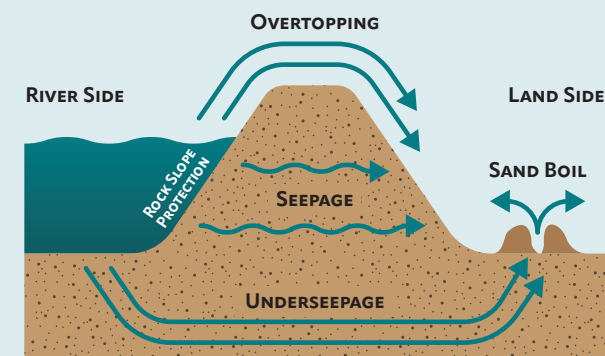
RD 1608 INVESTS ALL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT REVENUES into maintaining levees to state and federal regulations. It employs one full-time superintendent and four part-time maintenance workers. RD 1608's ongoing levee operations and maintenance activities generally include:

- Routine inspection of levees and drainage facilities
- Removal of debris that obstructs flood flows, or otherwise damages levees
- Maintenance of channel depth to provide access to marine mounted equipment (material and crane barges)
- Vegetation removal and control
- Rodent removal and control
- 24/7 levee patrol during high water warning and flood stages
- Resurfacing of levee maintenance and patrol roads
- Construction of erosion repair and protection
- Repair of levee embankments
- Storing and maintaining emergency flood fight materials
- Inspection and repair of gates
- Placement and distribution of sandbags and riprap during high water events
- State and federal environmental permit application and compliance
- Identification of encroachments and coordination with property owners to remove any that threaten levee stability/integrity
- Recertification of levees for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) accreditation
- Administration and staffing
- Technical support services

### Levee Maintenance is a Great Investment

LEVEES ARE TYPICALLY MADE of earthen fill (dirt). Damage to levees caused by erosion, rodents and vegetation can lead to water finding its way under and through the levee, resulting in a levee breach (failure) and uncontrolled flooding. Primary threats to RD 1608's levees include erosion from high tides and wave action from wind and/or boats, and damage from burrowing rodents.

#### HOW DO LEVEES FAIL?



A failure of any of the Lincoln Village West levees could result in flood depths of up to 9 feet throughout the community and approximately \$2 billion in property damage. Just 6 inches of water can cause more than \$20,000 in damage to your home and/or business. The deeper the flooding, the

greater the cost. Most homeowners' insurance policies don't cover flood damages. The best way to avoid flood damage is to routinely inspect the levees and repair damage as quickly as possible. Paying for levee maintenance to protect your property is a smart investment.

### The Cost of Flooding

Don't underestimate how much damage water can cause! The deeper the flooding, the greater the cost. **Most homeowners' insurance policies do not cover flood damage.** A flood insurance policy can help you recover in the event of a flood.

Depth	Cost*
4 FOOT	\$43,400
3 FOOT	\$39,831
2 FOOT	\$36,360
1 FOOT	\$29,360
6 INCHES	\$21,161

\* Based on damage to a 1,000 square-foot home  
Source: FEMA

### Overview of RD 1608 Revenues

The RD 1608's operating revenues come from three primary sources:

- 1 A portion of property tax
- 2 An annual property assessment
- 3 Reimbursements from the State's Delta Levees Subvention Program

The property tax and property assessment revenues provide a reliable source of funding year-to-year. State reimbursements cover a portion of costs for larger capital projects, like RD 1608's Rock Slope Protection Project completed in 2022. These funds are variable and can't be guaranteed, as they're limited and subject to changes in the state's budget.

### Overview of RD 1608 Expenditures

The RD 1608's operating expenditures fall into five major categories:

- 1 Operations and Maintenance
- 2 Capital Projects
- 3 Emergency Reserve
- 4 Debt Service
- 5 General and Administrative

Operations and maintenance cover general levee maintenance activities (see "100% of Property Assessment Revenues Used to Prevent Flooding"), along with inspections, engineering, environmental compliance, planning, subventions administration, small repairs/replacements, and emergency operations planning. Capital Projects are reflected in RD 1608's Five-Year Plan and include improvements like levee road repair, rock slope protection, and channel dredging. The Emergency Reserve is designed to cover unplanned major costs, such as repairs following a levee failure. The RD 1608 has traditionally utilized bank loans (warrants) to cover cash flow for short term debt. Repayment of these loans is categorized under Debt Service Expense. General and Administrative expenses include legal services, financial audits and accounting, Board operations, office expenses, and liability insurance.

### Estimated FY24-25 Revenues

For purposes of the proposed property assessment renewal, the RD 1608's estimated revenues include:

Estimated Tax Revenue and Interest	\$253,000
Delta Levee Subventions Fund Reimbursements	\$150,000
Proposed Property Assessment Renewal	\$330,000
<b>Total Revenue Sources</b>	<b>\$733,000</b>

### Estimated FY24-25 Expenditures

For purposes of the proposed property assessment renewal, the RD 1608's estimated expenditures include:

Operations and Maintenance	\$318,000
Capital Projects	\$57,000
Debt Service Expense	\$168,000
Emergency Reserve Expense	\$40,000
General and Administrative	\$150,000
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$733,000</b>

### More Information to Come!

In the next few months, watch your mailboxes for more information about the proposed property assessment renewal, to include dates for community meetings and a public hearing. Ballots will be sent to property owners on February 7, 2025. Ballots must be returned by March 25, 2025.