



# Proposed Replacement Assessment for Levee Maintenance & Capital Services

Community Meeting #1

February 5, 2025

# Meeting Format



## Presentation

Please hold questions



## Q&A



## Information Station

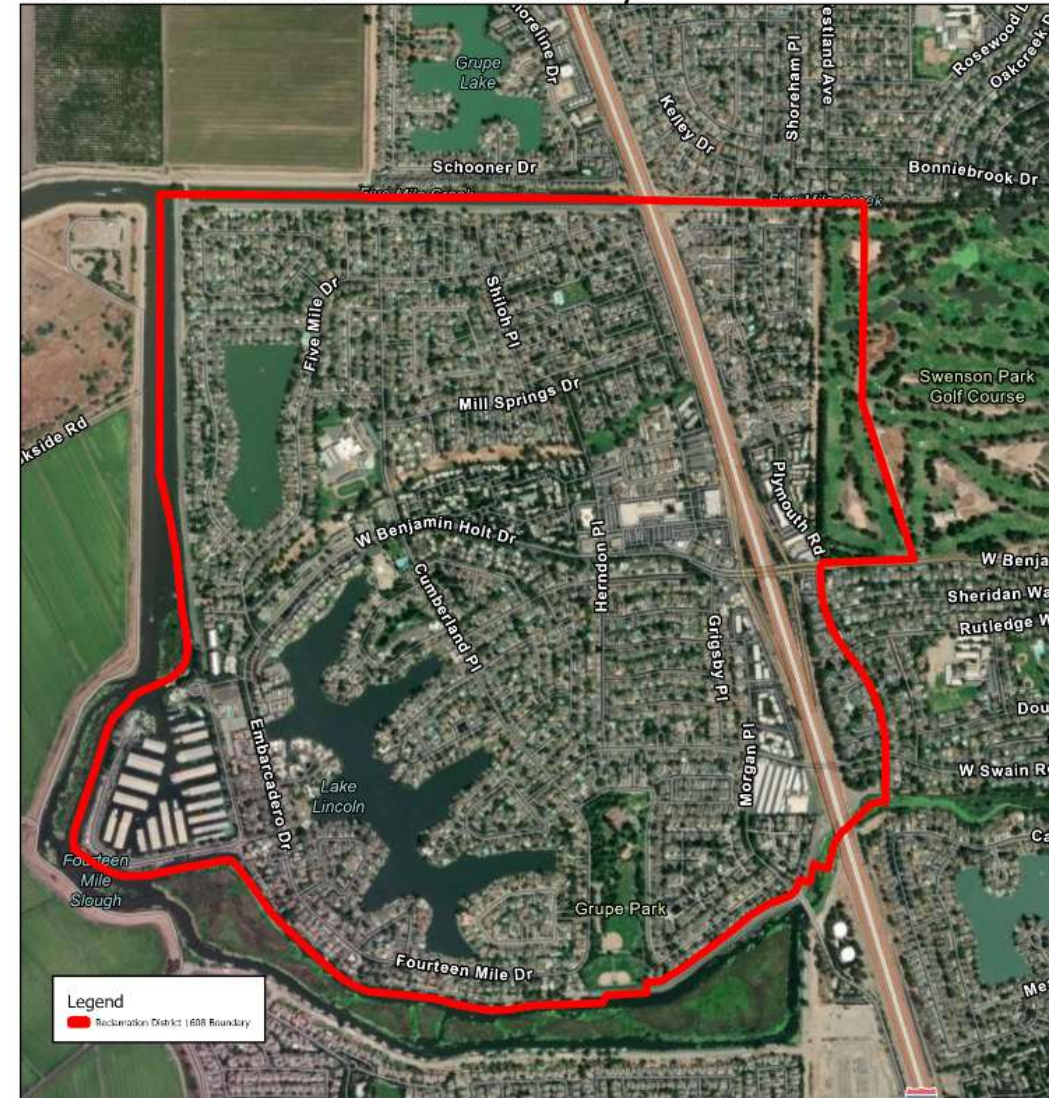
Assessment Lookup

Assessment Methodology

# About RD 1608

- Public agency formed in 1914
- Governed by three-member, elected Board of Trustees
- Responsible for reducing flood risk for LVW
- Maintains 3.5 miles of levees along Fourteen & Five Mile Sloughs

Reclamation District 1608 Boundary





# What's the Risk?

- Nearly surrounded by Fourteen & Five Mile Sloughs
- Levees are only barrier between sloughs and properties
- Levee failure =
  - Flood depths up to 9 feet
  - Up to \$2 Billion in property damage
  - 1 inch of flooding = \$10K in damage to a 1,000 SF home
- Most homeowners don't carry flood insurance



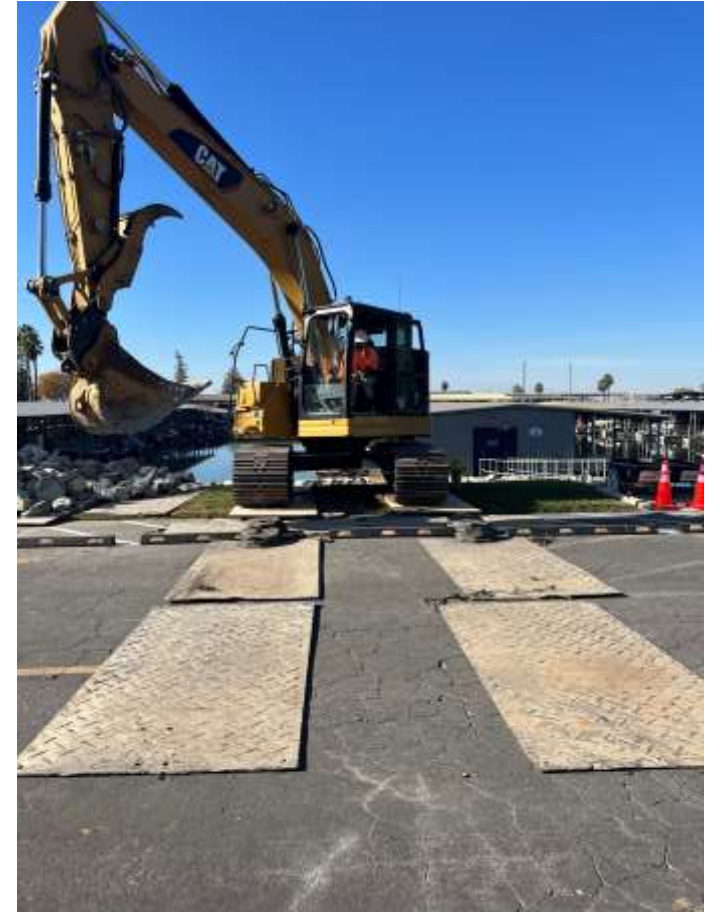
# How to reduce risk?



- Properly maintain levees
- Meet state/federal flood protection regulations to avoid economic impacts:
  - FEMA remapping & mandatory flood insurance
- Support USACE improvements to Fourteen Mile Slough levee
  - Lower San Joaquin River Project

# Levee Maintenance Activities

- 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
- 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





# Common Issues for Levee O&M

- Erosion from high tides & wave action (wind/boats)
- Burrowing rodents
- Removal of vegetation/debris
- Prevention of encroachments
- Unexpected threats to levee stability



# Other Services

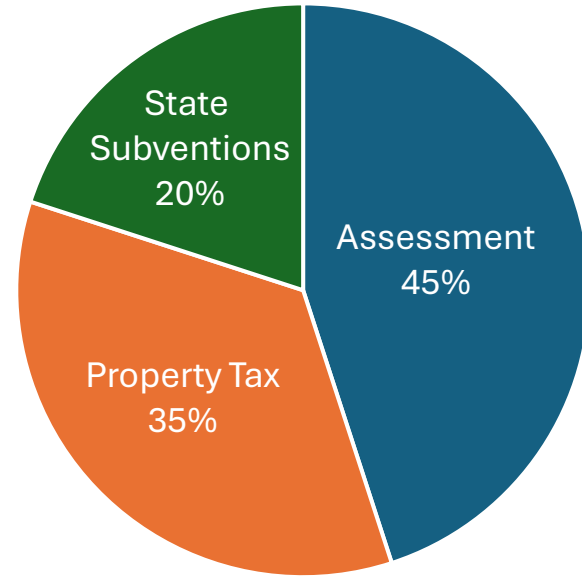
- Environmental permitting
- Construction of capital projects
  - Rock Slope Protection Project
  - Dredging - removed approximately 80,000 cubic yards of sediment
- FEMA Accreditation
- Annual inspection of levee-adjacent lots





# RD 1608 Operating Revenues

- Funding sources:
  - Property assessment (45%)
  - Portion of property taxes (35%)
  - Delta Levee Subventions Fund (20%)
- Property assessment adopted in 2010 for 15 years
  - Generated \$298,000/year
  - No inflation adjustments
  - Expires in June 2025



Proposed  
Replacement  
Assessment  
Budget:  
FY 25/26

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

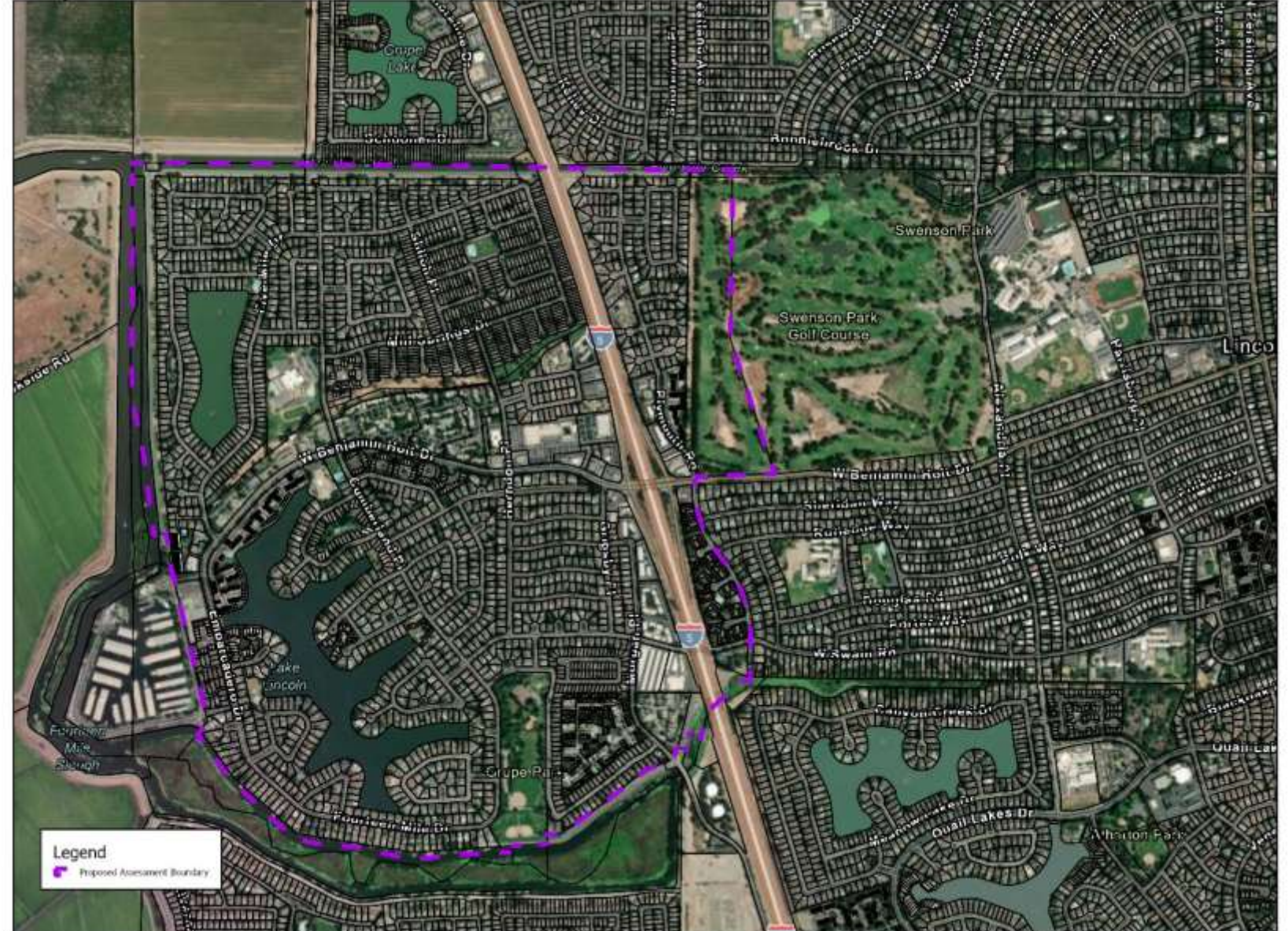
# Proposed Annual Property Assessment

- Replaces assessment that ends in 2025
- \$330,000 per year
  - Subject to annual escalation starting in 2026
  - Annual escalation is not automatic and requires RD 1608 Board approval
  - Limited to CPI with 4% cap
  - Continues so long as services are provided
- Properties can only be assessed for benefit received
  - Avoided flood damages to land, structures and contents
- Assessment revenues may not be used for any purpose other than levee maintenance and capital services (projects)



# Assessment District Boundary

Proposed Assessment Boundary



# How Benefit is Calculated

Every property's assessment differs based on property characteristics:

- Land use type
- Structure type and size
- Parcel size (acres)
- Flood depth

Assessment methodology has been updated to comply with state law

- Approximately 45% of annual assessments will decrease

# Example Assessments – Single Family Home

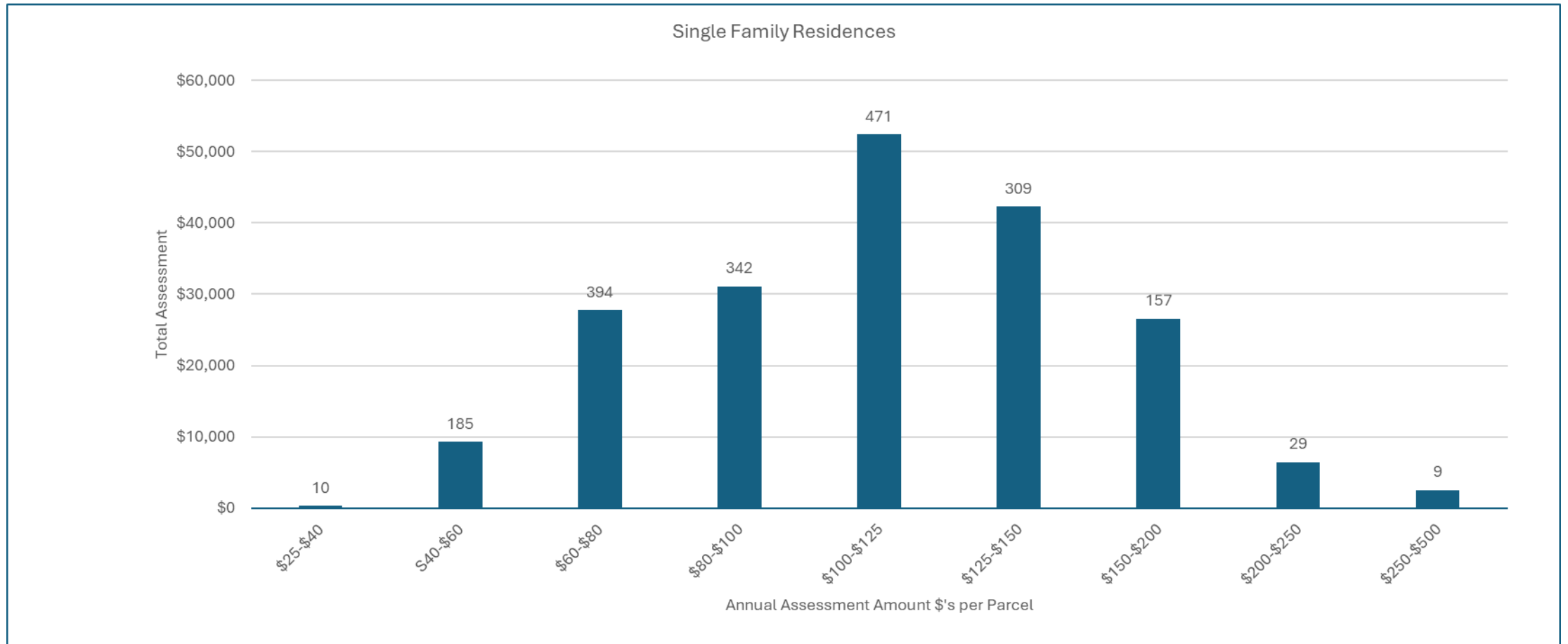
- Land use – Single Family Residential
- Structure size- 1,900 structure SQFT
- Parcel size - 0.18 acre

Assessed Flood Depth (Feet)	Assessment
1	\$47.36
3	\$77.15
4	\$91.26
6	\$114.49



# Single-Family Assessments

89% will pay \$150 or less per year



# Prop 218 Process

- Only property owners vote
- Weighted vote (\$1 assessment = 1 vote)
- Ballots mailed to property owners – February 6
- Public Hearing – March 25
- Ballot Tabulation (commencing March 25 until complete)
- RD 1608 Board meeting/Balloting Results – April 2
- Majority Protest
  - Weight of ballots opposed exceed weight of ballots in favor

# Consequences of Outcome

## YES

- ✓ Existing assessment ends in 2025
- ✓ New replacement assessment begins in July 2025, and RD 1608's levee maintenance program will be adequately funded
- ✓ RD 1608 will invest 100% of assessment revenues into levee maintenance activities and capital services
- ✓ RD 1608 can assure state and federal agencies that it can maintain levees to state and federal regulations
- ✓ RD 1608 levees will remain accredited by FEMA, and property owners can voluntarily purchase lower-cost flood insurance



# Consequences of Outcome

## NO

- Existing assessment ends in 2025
- RD 1608's revenues are reduced by 45%
- Levee maintenance and capital services will be significantly reduced
- Levees will degrade more quickly, increasing the likelihood of a flood
- Ultimately, 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. In that case, any property with a mortgage would be required to carry high-cost flood insurance

# More Information

- Hotline: (209) 475-7861
- Email: info@rd1608.com
- [www.rd1608.com](http://www.rd1608.com)
  - Frequently Asked Questions
  - Preliminary Engineer's Report
  - Assessment calculator
  - Annual budgets



## Q&A



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