



Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency

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sutterbutteflood.org

COUNTIES

Butte County
Sutter County

CITIES

City of Biggs
City of Gridley
City of Live Oak
City of Yuba City

LEVEE DISTRICTS

Levee District 1
Levee District 9

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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State Funds Awarded for Local Floodplain Restoration Project

The Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency (SBFCA) will expand its efforts to lower storm and flood water elevations in the Feather River while improving habitat for endangered fisheries, thanks to a \$1.14 million Proposition 68 grant from the California Department of Water Resources. The grant, one of only five awarded for flood risk reduction projects related to stormwater flooding, mudslides, and flash floods, will pay for planning costs for SBFCA's Oroville Wildlife Area (OWA) Robinson's Riffle Restoration Project.

The project arose in response to the recent success of SBFCA's 2019 OWA Flood Stage Reduction Project, which involved flood control weir improvements and removal of a dike to reconnect a segment of the Feather River to its historic floodplain. With Robinson's Riffle, SBFCA aims to restore additional habitat, reduce flood stages, and increase flood conveyance and transitory storage within the Feather River by excavating remnant tailing piles from historic gold mining and dredging operations.

"This project when completed will lower water elevations in a key portion of the Feather River during big storms and increase the resiliency of flood management structures in the Oroville area," said SBFCA Executive Director Michael Bessette. "The project will provide new recreational benefits for residents and improve conditions for endangered fish like Chinook salmon and green sturgeon. It's truly an investment everyone can support."

"Getting this grant is great news for the Agency and its members," said Wade Kirchner, a Yuba City council member and SBFCA Board chair. "We've been aggressively seeking federal and state funding for flood control and habitat restoration projects for many years now. This latest grant will position the Agency to compete for future federal and state funding and reduces the financial burden on our residents to pay for these projects."

The Robinson's Riffle Project planning phase will last between 12 and 18 months and will be followed by a design and permitting process before construction can begin in 2024.

For more information, please contact SBFCA Executive Director Michael Bessette at (530) 755-9859.

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The Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency – a joint powers authority of Sutter and Butte Counties, the cities of Biggs, Yuba City, Gridley, and Live Oak, and Levee Districts 1 and 9 – was formed in September 2007 to finance and construct regional levee improvement projects. The Agency is governed by a 13-member board of directors comprised of elected officials from each of the member agencies.