



**Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency**  
Post Office Box M  
Yuba City, CA 95992

## COMMUNITY MEETING

### 100-Year Flood Protection for South Sutter Basin

Wednesday, December 15  
6:30 p.m.

Barry Elementary  
1255 Barry Road, Yuba City

## SBFCA Board of Directors

SBFCA is governed by a 13-member Board of Directors comprised of elected officials representing SBFCA's member agencies. The Board typically meets at 1 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at the City of Yuba City Council Chambers, 1201 Civic Center Boulevard, Yuba City.

#### COUNTY OF SUTTER

Mat Conant  
Mike Ziegenmeyer

#### CITY OF YUBA CITY

Shon Harris  
Grace Espindola, Vice Chair

#### COUNTY OF BUTTE

Bill Connelly  
Tod Kimmelshue, Chair

#### LEEVE DISTRICT 1

Al Montna  
Charlie Hoppin

#### CITY OF BIGGS

Bo Sheppard

#### LEEVE DISTRICT 9

Mike Morris  
Chris Schmidl

#### CITY OF GRIDLEY

Bruce Johnson

#### CITY OF LIVE OAK

Lakhvir Ghag  
Alt. Luis Hernandez

## CONTACT US

Stay in touch with SBFCA by visiting its website at [www.sutterbutteflood.org](http://www.sutterbutteflood.org), reviewing its Strategic Plan, attending Board and community meetings, and/or by calling the Agency Hotline at **530-870-4425**.



# COMMUNITY UPDATE

## Fall 2021

### ABOUT US

The Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency (SBFCA) was created in September 2007 by the counties of Sutter and Butte, the cities of Yuba City, Live Oak, Biggs and Gridley, and Levee Districts 1 and 9. SBFCA is responsible for planning, financing, and implementing flood protection for the Sutter-Butte (Yuba City) Basin.

SBFCA is governed by a 13-member Board of Directors comprised of elected officials from each of the eight member agencies. Meetings are typically held on the second Wednesday of each month at the City of Yuba City Council Chambers, 1201 Civic Center Boulevard, Yuba City. Meeting agendas, notices and other documents may be viewed at [sutterbutteflood.org](http://sutterbutteflood.org).

[sutterbutteflood.org](http://sutterbutteflood.org)

### SBFCA Completes 200-Year Flood Protection Project

In 2007, the cities of Biggs, Gridley, Live Oak and Yuba City, the counties of Butte and Sutter, and Levee Districts 1 and 9 formed the Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency (SBFCA). SBFCA's mission is to provide 200-year flood protection to northern parts of the basin (generally Yuba City north to Thermalito Afterbay) and 100-year flood protection to properties in south Sutter County (generally south of Yuba City, to the confluence of the Feather River and Sutter Bypass). A minimum of 100-year flood protection is required to meet Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regulations. The state requires 200-year flood protection for urban areas.

In October, SBFCA certified that its Feather River West Levee Project 1 meets the 200-year flood protection requirement. The project, completed in 2019, included 36 miles of repairs to the west Feather River levee from Thermalito Afterbay south to Star Bend. The next step is to work with FEMA to accredit the project for 100-year flood protection. As part of that process, which could take up to five years, FEMA will "remap" the urban area as a low-to-moderate risk flood zone. This will prevent mandatory flood insurance requirements and building restrictions for most properties, so long as levees are maintained to state and federal standards.



Sediment removal equipment at Feather River.

## Work In Progress for South Sutter Basin

With part of its mission accomplished, SBFCA is now shifting focus to 100-year flood protection for the south Sutter Basin. To achieve it, both the Feather River and Sutter Bypass east levee must be repaired, as the area has flood risk from both. SBFCA, in conjunction with the US Army Corps of Engineers and the CA Department of Water Resources, recently completed repairs along nearly eight miles of the west Feather River levee from Star Bend south to Highway 99. These repairs will provide protection from a 100-year flood event. As a next step, SBFCA is working to secure funding to repair the remaining 1.5 miles of the lower Feather River west levee downstream of

Highway 99. SBFCA is also seeking state cost sharing to fix critical sections of the Sutter Bypass on behalf of the state. This will substantially reduce flood risk until the state implements a major repair. Finally, SBFCA is pursuing reform of FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program for rural areas. This would result in lower-cost flood insurance and exemptions from flood-proofing requirements for agricultural structures. Please attend SBFCA's community meeting on December 15 to learn more about projects and programs for the south Sutter Basin.

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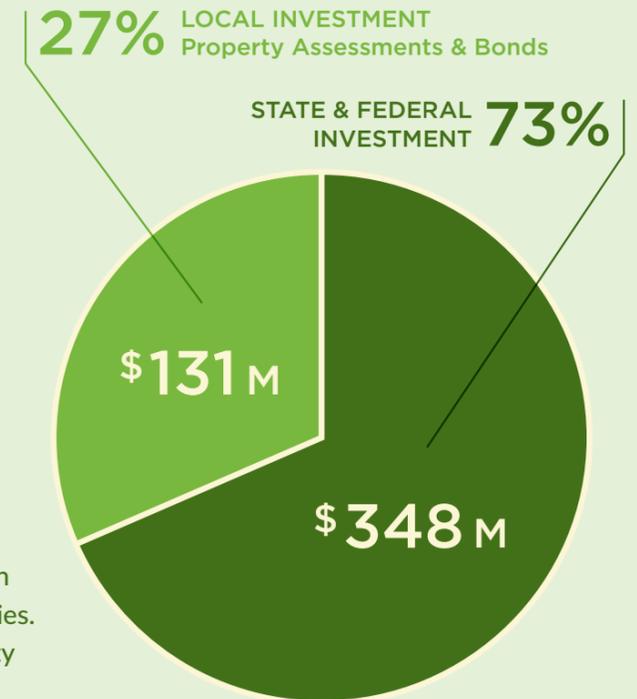
Levee repairs on the west Feather River levee in Yuba City – 2013.

## More Than Just Levees

SBFCA works on other projects and programs to reduce flood risk in the Sutter Basin. These projects include the Oroville Wildlife Area, the Yuba City Boat Ramp Sediment Removal Project, Feather River Regional Flood Management Planning, and Flood Risk Reduction Studies for the small communities of Sutter and Tudor. These projects are almost entirely funded by the state. Learn more at [www.sutterbutteflood.org](http://www.sutterbutteflood.org).

To date, the majority of levee repair and flood risk reduction project costs have been paid for by state and federal agencies. The local cost share has been covered by an annual property assessment approved by property owners in 2010.

### PROJECT COSTS



## Agency to Adequately Fund Levee Operations & Maintenance

Although large storms can happen any time during the year, California designates November 1 through April 15 as "flood season." Levee improvements have reduced, but don't eliminate, the risk of flooding. Levees must be maintained year-round to strict state and federal standards to ensure they continue to provide high levels of flood protection. Not maintaining the levees is like not fixing the roof on your house or changing the oil in your car. Eventually a small problem will turn into a big one. It can also result in the loss of FEMA accreditation, leading to mandatory flood insurance and building restrictions.

Levee Districts 1 and 9 are responsible for operating and maintaining more than 22 miles of west Feather River levee from Paseo Road south to Marcuse Road. Currently, neither of the districts are adequately funded to maintain and operate the levees to state and federal standards. In 2020, the districts joined Sutter County in forming the Feather River West Levee Financing Authority (FRWLFA), a joint powers agency that plans to assess and collect revenues to adequately fund the districts' required services. FRWLFA's goal is to consolidate assessment administration, which will provide a cost savings to property owners over the long term, and to ensure all benefitting properties are fairly and equitably assessed. Learn more at [www.frwlfa.com](http://www.frwlfa.com).