



**Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency**  
**"A Partnership for Flood Safety"**

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**WORK BEGINS ON FEATHER RIVER WEST LEVEE REHABILITATION PROJECT**

*Geotechnical and environmental work expected to be ongoing through end of 2010*

SUTTER COUNTY, CA – Detailed engineering and environmental work is underway on a major effort to improve 44 miles of levees along the west bank of the Feather River. Starting tomorrow, engineering crews working under contract to the Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency will begin to collect soil samples from within and next to levees (known as Geotechnical Subsurface Investigation).

The soil samples will be analyzed to evaluate the condition of the levees. At the same time, environmental specialists will begin collecting information that is needed for later environmental permit approvals. The results of the geotechnical and environmental analyses will help engineers finalize the levee project design and prepare requests for necessary permits from state and federal agencies. Design and environmental work is expected to be completed in 2012, with construction commencing shortly thereafter.

Levees along the west bank of the Feather River do not provide 100-year flood protection (protection against a flood that has a one percent chance of occurring in any given year), because they suffer from potential underseepage and through-seepage. Similar problems caused major levee failures in Yuba City in 1955, Yuba County in 1986 and 1997, and more recently in New Orleans.

The Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency is responsible for planning, financing and constructing the Feather River West Levee Rehabilitation Project. The \$250 million project will improve 44 miles of levees from Thermalito Afterbay south to the Sutter Bypass, and reduce flood risk in Sutter and Butte Counties. The state is expected to pay for 71 percent of that amount, or \$177.5 million. The local cost share of the project is 29 percent, or \$72.5 million. In June, property owners who will benefit from improved levees approved an annual assessment (72.2% of the weighted vote) to pay the local cost share.

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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 plan, finance and construct levee improvement projects within its jurisdictional boundaries, which includes the west bank of the Feather River from Thermalito Afterbay south to the Sutter Bypass.*

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

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