



Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency

A Partnership for Flood Safety

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 7, 2013

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Long Awaited Levee Repairs to Begin at Site of 1955 Levee Failure that Resulted in 38 Deaths
Groundbreaking ceremony scheduled for 10 a.m., August 7 in Yuba City

YUBA CITY, CA – A much anticipated project to repair the west Feather River Levee in Butte and Sutter Counties will officially commence with a groundbreaking ceremony at 10 a.m. on August 7, just upriver from the site of a 1955 levee failure that killed 38 people. That site, Shanghai Bend, is included in the Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency's (SBFCA) initial construction contract to repair 15 miles of levee that provide protection to the cities of Yuba City Live Oak and Sutter County. Construction is expected to be completed by 2015.

"We promised our communities we would begin construction this year, and despite challenges along the way, we are making good on that promise," said SBFCA Board Chair and Sutter County Supervisor James Gallagher. "This first stage of work will address high-risk points along the levee that provide protection to our most heavily populated areas, and we will be working around the clock to get the project done on time and on budget."

The project is a part of SBFCA's larger \$312 million program to repair 44 miles of west Feather River levee from Thermalito Afterbay south to the Sutter Bypass. The cost to repair the 15 miles of levee is approximately \$88 million. The bulk of that cost, \$57 million, is to be paid by the California Department of Water Resources with Prop 1E bond funds. The remaining cost is to be funded through local assessments that were overwhelmingly approved by property owners in 2010. Assessment revenues are also funding design and pre-construction activities for another 20 miles of levee repairs that will begin in 2014, along with plans to improve the remaining segments of levee.

More than 200 people are expected to attend the August 7 groundbreaking ceremony, and will feature comments from Congressmen John Garamendi and Doug LaMalfa, state Senator Jim Nielsen, and Central Valley Flood Protection Board President Bill Edgar. These dignitaries will also recognize community members who have dedicated themselves to reducing flood risk through work and public awareness activities.

For more information about the event, please contact SBFCA Public Outreach Manager Kim Floyd at (916) 409-0426, or DWR Public Information Officer Elizabeth Scott at (916) 712-3904.

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