

## Project Cost

Costs for the Feather River West Levee Rehabilitation Project are being refined, based upon the study of levee conditions. The most recent cost estimate of \$300 million is higher than originally anticipated, and will continue to change as the project design is finalized and funding agreements with the State are negotiated. However, the local cost share is not expected to change. The state is expected to pay for as much as 77 percent of the project costs, and assessment revenues will be used to pay the remaining share. Learn more about the assessment at [www.sutterbutteflood.org](http://www.sutterbutteflood.org).

## Environmental Scoping Meetings

As part of the required environmental review, public scoping meetings will be held in late May. Additional information will be posted on the Agency's website at [www.sutterbutteflood.org](http://www.sutterbutteflood.org).

## Who We Are

The Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency (SBFCA) was created in September 2007 by the Counties of Sutter and Butte, the Cities of Biggs, Gridley, Live Oak and Yuba City, and Levee Districts 1 and 9. SBFCA is responsible for financing and constructing levee improvements along the west bank of the Feather River in Butte and Sutter Counties.

## SBFCA Board

The board typically meets at 1:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at the Sutter County Superintendent of Schools Training Center, 1699 Sierra Avenue, Yuba City. For more information, visit [www.sutterbutteflood.org](http://www.sutterbutteflood.org).

### Butte County

Bill Connelly  
Steve Lambert

### Sutter County

James Gallagher  
Larry Montna

### City of Biggs

Mike Bottorff

### City of Gridley

Owen Stiles

### City of Live Oak

Gary Baland

### City of Yuba City

John Dukes

John Miller

### Levee District 1

Al Montna

Francis Silva

### Levee District 9

David Lamon

David Schmidl



## SUTTER BUTTE FLOOD CONTROL AGENCY

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## Learn More About Levee Repairs! Upcoming Public Meetings

### Monday, April 25 – 6 p.m.

Yuba Sutter Fairgrounds – Flower House  
442 Franklin Ave, Yuba City

### Wednesday, April 27 – 6 p.m.

Veteran's Hall  
1425 Veteran's Memorial Circle, Yuba City

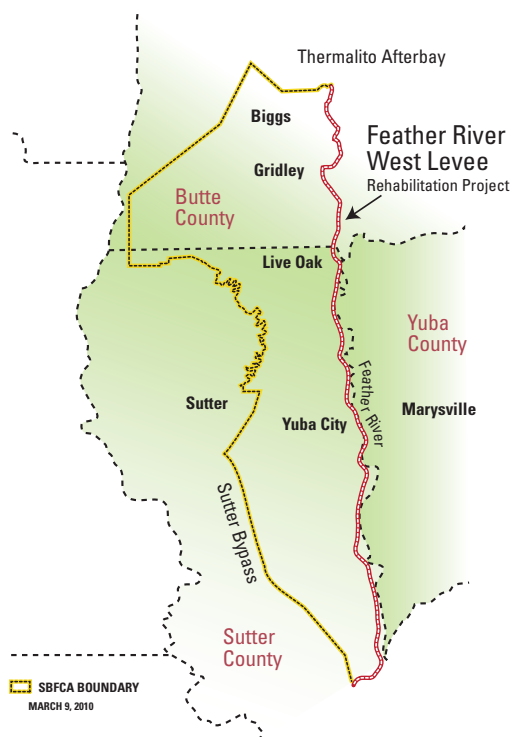
### Thursday, April 28 – 6 p.m.

Gridley High School  
300 E. Spruce Street, Gridley



# Feather River West Levee Rehabilitation Project

## The Project



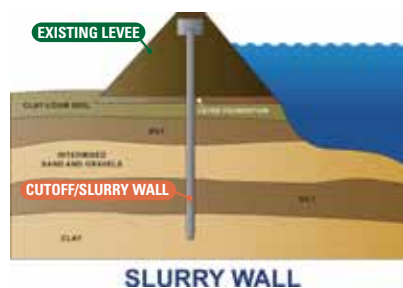
In June 2010, property owners in Sutter and Butte Counties approved a property assessment to pay the local cost share for major levee repairs along the west bank of the Feather River. These levees do not provide 100-year flood protection, because they suffer from potential underseepage and through-seepage (water pushing under and through levees). Similar problems caused major levee failures in Yuba City in 1955, Yuba County in 1986 and 1997, and more recently in New Orleans.

The Feather River West Levee Rehabilitation Project will improve 44-miles of levees from Thermalito Afterbay south to the Sutter Bypass. The goal of the project is to reduce flood risk and remove more than 34,000 properties from FEMA Special Flood Hazard Areas.

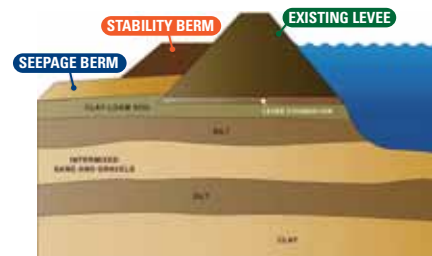
The levee repairs will be completed in two separate phases. Phase I will include work from Thermalito Afterbay to the area five miles south of Yuba City. Phase II will include the area just south of Yuba City to the confluence of the Feather River and the Sutter Bypass. Phase II work also includes repairs to the Sutter Bypass, which is the responsibility of the State.

### The detailed engineering, environmental, and levee repair design work for both Phases is underway.

Levees can be made stronger by building deeper cutoff walls (also known as slurry walls), stability berms and seepage berms. These levee improvements block or slow the flow of water through and underneath the levees. Not all 44 miles of levees will need each of these repairs.



SLURRY WALL



SEEPAGE & STABILITY BERMS

## What is 100-year and 200-year flood protection?

These terms refer to the probability of flooding in any given year. A 100-year flood has a 1 percent chance of happening in any year, while a 200-year flood has a .5 percent chance of occurring. These types of events can occur more than one time per year, however. Levees are designed to provide protection against varying levels of storm events. FEMA requires that levees provide a minimum of 100-year flood protection, while the State will require 200-year flood protection for urban communities, starting in 2015.



### The levee improvement project is expected to:

- **Increase public safety** by providing 200-year flood protection from Yuba City north to Thermalito Afterbay, and 100-year flood protection south of Yuba City (in conjunction with repairs to the Sutter Bypass, which are the responsibility of the state).
- **Save property owners tens of millions each year** in mandatory flood insurance costs by delaying, preventing, or cutting short FEMA floodplain mapping.
- **Allow cities and counties the freedom to implement general plans**, which will soon be severely restricted for any urban or urbanizing community without 200-year flood protection. This would not apply to rural communities.
- **Maintain the rights of property owners** to make substantial improvements to property without new state or federal land use restrictions.
- **Sustain and grow the local economy** by creating construction jobs, protecting property values, and allowing for responsible residential, commercial and industrial development.

## Project Timeline

Detailed engineering and environmental work is underway. In fall 2010, engineering crews collected soil samples from within and next to the levees (this is known as Geotechnical Subsurface Investigation) using large drilling rigs.

The soil samples have been analyzed to evaluate the condition of the levees. The results are being used by engineers to develop the levee project design, and prepare requests for necessary permits from state and federal agencies. Environmental specialists are also collecting information that is needed for later environmental permit approvals.

Design and environmental work is expected to be completed in 2012. Construction will take three years and could begin as early as 2012.



Photo courtesy of the California Department of Water Resources