



# Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency

*A Partnership for Flood Safety*

## Update on Feather River West Levee Project & Levee Safety

SBFCA is constructing the FRWLP over three construction seasons between 2013 and 2015. During construction, flood protection is reduced only during the dry period of the year when there is little risk of high water events and flooding. The dry construction season typically extends from April 15 to November 1. Before November 1 (beginning of the wet period), major construction operations are halted and the levee is put back together for flood protection until the following dry season. It is important to note that Feather River levees protect against river flooding, not the localized flooding that occurs when heavy rains overwhelm stormdrains, gutters and drainpipes.

- The State's Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) regulates construction activities on Feather River levees.
- Due to the current drought situation and considerable room for flood storage in Oroville Reservoir (currently at only 25% of total capacity), the CVFPB granted a one-time extension to allow construction until December 23, 2014.
- The length of the project from Gridley to Star Bend is an active construction site with areas of bare earth and near-completed grading.
- Even those levees that may look bare or incomplete (as a result of ongoing construction) are much safer than they were previously due to completed slurry wall work that is not visible.
- All areas of construction have been improved with slurry walls and have been rebuilt to a level that would withstand a 200-year flood, or a flood that has a .5 percent chance of happening in any given year. This is twice the 100-year protection required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.
- While the levee is under construction there will continue to be temporary access restrictions, muddy water, ponding, surficial erosion, and other consequences of work in progress. These conditions do not reduce flood protection. Upon completion of the project in late 2015 or early 2016, these conditions will be addressed.
- SBFCA will have construction crews on standby to take care of any construction-related issues during the wet period.
- The contractor has prepared a contingency action plan that will be enacted if, for some unlikely reason, an imminent risk of flooding occurs during the construction period.
- If the public has any concerns about public safety or construction impacts, please contact Kim Floyd at (530) 870-4425 or Michael Bessette at (530) 415-0983.