



Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency

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sutterbutteflood.org

COUNTIES

Butte County
Sutter County

CITIES

City of Biggs
City of Gridley
City of Live Oak
City of Yuba City

LEVEE DISTRICTS

Levee District 1
Levee District 9

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SBFCA and State Sign Agreement to Tackle Critical Repairs on Sutter Bypass East Levee

YUBA CITY – The recent onslaught of storms is a harsh reminder that despite lengthy periods of drought, flooding remains a significant threat in California. Since 2010, more than \$300 million has been invested by local, state and federal agencies in repairs to the west Feather River levee, meaning flood protection for urban areas in Sutter County is among the state’s best. But properties south of Yuba City are still vulnerable to potential flooding from other sources, namely the Sutter Bypass.

That may change with the signing of a partnership agreement between the Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency (SBFCA) and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for design, environmental and permitting work for critical repairs to four areas of the Sutter Bypass east levee. Construction is expected to begin in 2025. Once completed, the project is expected to significantly decrease flood risk for properties south of Yuba City and strengthen flood protection until a total repair of the Sutter Bypass is implemented. The levee is owned and maintained by the state.

“This partnership is a perfect example of how the state works with local agencies to support flood protection improvements and leverage local expertise and knowledge to lead the design and permitting work,” said Gary Lippner, Deputy Director of DWR’s Division of Flood Management. “DWR has allocated up to \$4 million to this project and we look forward to working with SBFCA as the project progresses.”

The project includes the installation of about 5.2 miles of cutoff wall to address known and critical underseepage deficiencies along the Sutter Bypass East Levee near O’banion Road. The project will improve flood protection for hundreds of millions of damageable property within the floodplain, reduce flood risk to the disadvantaged community of Tudor, help protect State Route 99 -- a critical evacuation route, and provide added levee system resiliency in response to future climate change conditions.

“The Sutter Bypass plays a critical role in protecting our region from catastrophic flood events. I’m proud of our collective efforts to help ensure that the integrity of the bypass levees is bolstered,” said CA Assembly Republican Leader James Gallagher (Yuba City). “Flood control and infrastructure has been and will continue to be one of my top areas of focus as a representative for this community.”

(more)

In 2010, the Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency launched its mission to reduce flood risk for more than 34,000 properties in the Yuba-Sutter Basin. Levee repairs to date have addressed some of the most dangerous sites on the west Feather River, the strength of which was tested and proven during the 2016-17 storm season. In October 2021, SBFCA achieved its goal of providing 200-year flood protection to urban areas. The Agency has also initiated work on a 1.65 mile stretch from Highway 99 to the confluence of the Feather River and Sutter Bypass, the only repair remaining on the west Feather River levee system.

“Throughout it all, the state has been an excellent partner in our mission to reduce flood risk,” said Wade Kirchner, SBFCA Board Chair and Yuba City Councilmember. “We’re pleased they’re trusting us to leverage the expertise we’ve developed through our levee repair program to identify and address levee deficiencies in a timely and cost-effective manner.”

For more information, please contact SBFCA’s Executive Director Michael Bessette at (530) 415-0983, or m.bessette@sutterbutteflood.org.

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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 finance and construct regional levee improvement projects. The Agency is governed by a 13-member board of directors comprised of elected officials from each of the member agencies.