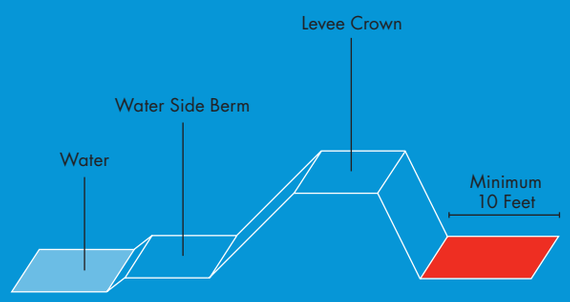
WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT YOUR LOCAL LEVEE

- A levee is an important flood control structure.
- It is maintained for your protection.
- It is under the control of your local maintaining agency (LMA).
- Any work done near a "project" levee or stream may require a permit from the Central Valley Flood Protection Board.
- Debris or overgrown vegetation around levees can dangerously impede flood fighting.
- Your LMA is ready to answer any questions you may have about your nearby levee.



Anatomy of a levee:
Levee cross-section depicting the minimum 10 foot maintenance and flood fighting easement.

ABOUT US

In the late 1800s to the mid 1960s, faced with repeated floods, flood management agencies (reclamation districts, levee maintenance districts, drainage districts, flood control districts, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built a network of levees to direct water away from people and property. Since 1914, these "project" levees have been regulated by the Central Valley Flood Protection Board.

The Division of Flood Management works with the Central Valley Flood Protection Board and your local maintaining agency (LMA) to prevent loss of life, reduce property damage caused by floods and to assist in recovery efforts following any natural disaster.

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LIVING NEXT TO A LEVEE

SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN RIVER
FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS

CONTACT:

SAFETY

The levee near your property may seem fairly mundane. It's an easy thing to take for granted, but take a moment to think about the protection that it gives you and your community from floodwaters that could damage neighborhood property and dramatically interrupt your lives. Like any structure, levees require routine maintenance to help prevent failure from occurring. Even though you are protected by a levee, there is always a risk. However, by knowing what to look for and whom to call, you play a vital role in keeping your community safe.

MAINTENANCE

Because your property is by a levee, it is a significant piece of a local system of flood control. As a landowner it is important that you understand the restrictions and work to be done on or near a levee.

- Any work being proposed (e.g. plants, fences, stairs, etc.) that will occur a minimum of 10 feet from the levee toe must be endorsed by the local maintaining agency referenced on the front of this pamphlet and subsequently permitted by the Central Valley Flood Protection Board.
- The local maintaining agency will work with you to try to find a mutually satisfactory solution or provide information on how to apply for a Central Valley Flood Protection Board Encroachment Permit.
- Any work that could affect the structural integrity of a levee or impedes flood fighting will not be permitted by the Central Valley Flood Protection Board.

INSPECTION

Strict maintenance of the area around the levee reduces the risk of failure and is vital to protecting your life and property.

Inspectors from the Department of Water Resources and local levee maintaining agency staff verify that your levee is in compliance with standards set by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Owners of properties posing a hazard to levee maintenance will be notified and allowed to resolve the situation with their local agency.

THE LEVEE NEAR YOUR PROPERTY IS IMPORTANT FOR YOUR SAFETY. PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO THINK ABOUT THE PROTECTION THAT IT GIVES YOU.

A levee slope free of obstructions
An unobstructed view allows flood fighters to work quickly, effectively and safely to protect private property and the lives of those living behind the levee.

An unauthorized encroachment
Vegetation blocks visual inspection of the levee and may hinder a flood fight. Such vegetation should be removed.

A sack ring around a boil
A boil occurs when water passes through or under a levee. If this water has sufficient velocity to carry earthen material to the landward side, the condition of the levee becomes critical. A clear levee slope allows inspectors and local agencies to detect and monitor boils. The ability to detect a boil early will reduce the risk of property damage and allows those responding to take appropriate action to protect your property.