

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.
- Construction near a levee must be permitted by the State Reclamation Board.
- Debris or overgrown vegetation around levees can dangerously impede flood fighting.
- Your local district is ready to answer any questions you may have about your nearby levee.



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

ABOUT US

In the late 1800s to the mid 1960s, faced with repeated floods, local flood management agencies (reclamation districts, levee maintenance districts, drainage districts, flood control districts and the 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 State Reclamation Board.

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

GUIDE FOR LIVING BY A LEVEE



SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN RIVER
FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS

Prepared by:
Flood Project Inspection Section —
Department of Water Resources
Flood Management

CONTACT:



Department of Water Resources
Division of Flood Management
3310 El Camino Avenue, LL 30
Sacramento, CA 95821

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 from floodwaters that could damage your property and dramatically interrupt your life. Like any structure, levees require routine maintenance to prevent failure from occurring. By knowing what to look for and whom to call, you can play a vital role in keeping your community safe.

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 on construction done near a levee.

- Any work to be performed on or within ten feet of a levee must first be approved by the local maintaining agency referenced on the front of this guide.
- The local maintaining agency will work with you to try to find a mutually satisfactory solution or provide information on how to obtain a State Reclamation Board Encroachment Permit.
- Any work that affects the structural integrity of a levee or impedes flood fighting must be permitted by the State Reclamation Board.

Strict maintenance of the area around the levee is the only way to reduce the risk of failure and is vital to protecting your property and potentially your life.

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 the view for inspection, and makes a flood fight impossible.



A sack ring around a boil

A boil is a condition under which water passes through or under a levee. If this water has sufficient velocity to carry earthen material to the landward side it becomes critical. A clear slope allows inspectors and local agencies to view its condition. The ability to detect a boil early will reduce the risk of property damage and allows us to take appropriate action to protect your property.