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.

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.

GUIDE FOR LIVING BY A LEVEE

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

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SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN RIVER FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS
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.