



News for Immediate Release
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DWR Marks One Year Since Governor's Call-To- Action:
On Eve of First Anniversary, 100 Year Flood Protection for
Pocket and Meadowview Neighborhoods

Sacramento -- On the eve of Governor Schwarzenegger's first anniversary call-to-action, state and federal officials today announced 100-year flood protection for Sacramento's Pocket and Meadowview neighborhoods. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) joined with local and federal flood agencies to announce that the flood protection has been achieved in keeping with the Governor's directive.

"One year ago, Governor Schwarzenegger stood on these same Sacramento River levees and called for action to improve flood protection and public safety," said DWR Director Lester Snow. "Since then, state and federal agencies have worked cooperatively and with record speed to repair damaged sites where repairs were needed to protect lives and property."

The remapping of these heavily populated neighborhoods by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) brings the areas out of the 100-year regulatory floodplain and eliminates mandatory flood insurance coverage for about 26,000 property owners. Property owners who wish to maintain flood insurance will have the option to convert to a lower cost, preferred risk insurance policy.

"While people living in these areas are no doubt safer than before our levee repairs, floods are still a real risk in times of extreme weather," said Snow. "Homeowners can and should protect themselves from financial loss with the low cost flood insurance that is now available to them."

In February 2006, Governor Schwarzenegger declared a state of emergency for California's levee system, launching a massive effort to improve the state's flood control system. Repairs to 33 sites were completed with tremendous cooperation by state and federal agencies and the hard work of DWR's levee repair team. Five of the sites are located along the Sacramento River adjacent to the Pocket area. Repair work is now underway on 71 additional urban sites that were identified following the 2006 flood season.

In addition, DWR is currently undertaking a multi-year, \$35 million levee evaluation project to examine more than 350 miles of urban levees for deep underground seepage or other structural problems. Many levees have hidden, but serious defects. As information from these examinations is learned, additional damaged sites will need to be repaired.

Further essential improvements and repair to the state's flood control facilities will be funded through the passage of Propositions IE and Proposition 84, supported by the Governor and approved by voters in November 2006. These bonds will provide a record \$5 billion in new funding for further essential improvements and repairs to the state's flood control facilities.

The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.

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