



NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2007

P.O. Box 4807, Stockton, CA 95204

Dear Homeowners and Businesses:

Well, here you are—the second issue of the Reclamation District 1614 newsletter as we continue our efforts to keep you updated on the activities of the District and the issues that impact us within our jurisdiction. In this issue, you'll find a report on our recent repair activities, information on the many governing agencies working on post-Katrina flood regulations, and our role in those developments. Also included is very important flood insurance information for those within our District with mortgages—what is available now and what will be available when the insurance is required.

First and most important, here is the update on the Smith Canal levee rehabilitation project. The joint program with SJAFCA that we proposed to you, and you approved, more than a year ago will probably not happen. At least, it won't happen within the scope that was outlined and not in the timeframe that it needs to happen. With that, our goal to avert being placed in a flood zone will not be met. Shortly, FEMA will finalize its revised flood plain maps; and our reclamation district does not have the documentation required to certify the Smith Canal levee or the Calaveras levee, and thus exempt the District from being classified in a flood zone.

Now, on a more positive note, we are happy to tell you that work completed in this last fiscal year on the levees and the pump stations has the District in a better "state of ready" than we have been in many years. We are also happy to report that with all the work we accomplished this year, we stayed within budget.

Is there levee work still to do? Yes. Is there work still to be done on the pump stations? Yes. Is there work to do to prepare the District for the requirements of the future? Yes. But we are also happy to report that we have an approved budget for Fiscal Year 2007-2008 that will continue to address these issues, and we have the funds to support it.

As stated in the last newsletter issue, we will continue to update you on the state of the District, and we invite your oversight of this board in maintaining the commitments we have made to you. Also, feel free to leave a message, along with your phone number, on the District's Hotline at (209) 469-3133. Your call will be returned.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Bill Dunning in black ink.

Bill Dunning
RD 1614 Board of Trustees

Handwritten signature of Randy Norman in black ink.

Randy Norman, President
RD 1614 Board of Trustees

Handwritten signature of Felix Lopez in black ink.

Felix Lopez
RD 1614 Board of Trustees

CONTACT INFORMATION

DISTRICT TRUSTEES

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Bill Dunning
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DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

William M. Gallegos

DISTRICT HOTLINE

(209) 469-3133

DISTRICT ENGINEER

Kjeldsen, Sinnock & Neudeck, Inc.
Christopher H. Neudeck
(209) 946-0268

STAYING CURRENT

Our District Engineer, Christopher H. Neudeck of Kjeldsen, Sinnock & Neudeck, Inc. works on our behalf with several groups involved with the developments from FEMA, the State Board of Reclamation, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In our last newsletter, we reported on the objectives, membership and responsibilities of the San Joaquin County Flood Protection Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Chris serves on the TAC, which is a subcommittee of the San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Advisory Water Commission.

FLOOD INSURANCE—SHOULD YOU BUY IT?

If you have a mortgage backed by any federal funds, you may be required to purchase flood insurance if Reclamation District 1614 is included in FEMA's final flood plain maps for this area. You may want to consider purchasing flood insurance that would become effective at least thirty days before final maps are issued by FEMA in October 2008. Buying flood insurance before it is required will result in a lower rate than if you wait until after it is required

PROGRESS REPORT

Following is a list of work that has been done since the last newsletter published in January.

Plymouth at Smith Canal Pump Station #4

A broken pump assembly that could not be repaired was replaced on Pump #1. Also, after vandals cut the lock and removed the steel cover, the cover was replaced and new locking devices were welded into place.

Franklin Avenue Pump Station #3

The depth of Pump #3 was reset to result in improved efficiency. A gravel road will be constructed to allow road access into the station. Also, the storage container was relocated at this station.

Riverwalk Pump Station #11

A new pump station was installed to support new housing development by Kimball Hill Homes.

Programmable Controllers Fixed

New starters have been installed at pumps #1, #2, and #3 at Pump Station #4 at Plymouth and Smith Canal; and electrical controls and wiring have been repaired. The remaining pumps are also being upgraded with programmable controllers and to bring wiring into compliance with national electrical code standards.

Beaver Damage Repaired

Superintendent Max Gallegos investigated a report of beaver activity on Smith Canal; and indeed, found that beavers had burrowed into the levee. The board reacted assertively; and to restore the levee's structural integrity, the areas of damage were dug out and the levee rebuilt.



Inside beaver den



Den goes to within 5 feet of house



New riprap on levee

If you notice activity by beavers or other rodents, please call the Hotline at (209) 469-3133.

