

## THREE RIVERS LEVEE IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY

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## SOUTH YUBA COUNTY "FLOODED" WITH BULK OF PROP 1E FUNDS

200-year flood protection may become a reality for Plumas Lake, Olivehurst and surrounding areas

The vast majority of the State's Prop 1E Early Implementation Project (EIP) funds may flow toward South Yuba County per a decision late last week by the State Department of Water Resources. In total, more than \$138.5 million could be awarded to the Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority (TRLIA) to fund 200-year flood protection for residents of Plumas Lake, Olivehurst and surrounding areas. The award represents more than 67 percent of this fiscal year's EIP allocations.

"The substantial funding offer from DWR is a reward of sorts, validating the hard work and effort we've invested in addressing vital infrastructure and safety needs for our community," said Dan Logue, Yuba County Supervisor and vice-chair of TRLIA's Board of Directors.

While talk of plans for levee improvements in neighboring cities has captured the spotlight in recent months, TRLIA quietly implemented an aggressive program to achieve unparalleled levels of flood protection in an area twice devastated by flooding in recent years, once in 1986 and again in 1997. To date, TRLIA has successfully completed three phases of a four-part construction project, amounting to \$133 million in flood protection improvements benefiting southern Yuba County. Of that amount, \$78 million was raised through an innovative, one-of-a-kind program that facilitates private-sector contributions from area developers. The remaining \$55.6 million was funded through a combination of Department of Water Resources and Department of Fish and Game Proposition 13 funds.

"We've been tireless in our efforts to provide increased levels of flood protection for our residents," said Yuba County Supervisor and TRLIA Board Member Mary Jane Griego. "The EIP funding will move us closer to project completion and to realizing our goal of improving public safety."

DWR's offer to fund the majority of flood control improvements in southern Yuba County is contingent upon a financial plan TRLIA is developing to demonstrate provisions for a local cost share. "Private financing from area developers and a benefit assessment may be the foundation for that plan," said TRLIA Executive Director Paul Brunner. "But, we still have a lot of work to do to determine the best mix of local funding options," he said. In the meantime, TRLIA will meet with DWR to ensure a mutual understanding of EIP funding requirements and to gain clarification on timelines for final approvals.

Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority, a joint powers agency, was established in May 2004 by the County of Yuba and Reclamation District 784 to finance and construct levee improvements surrounding the south Yuba County Area. Four work phases have been identified with the goal of achieving 200-year flood protection. The first construction work was initiated in September 2004 and final phase is scheduled to be completed by October 2008.