



THREE RIVERS LEVEE IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY

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FEMA WILL ACCREDIT 29 MILES OF URBAN LEVEES IMPROVED BY TRLIA

MARYSVILLE, CA – Some very good news arrived today for residents in Linda, Arboga, Olivehurst and Plumas Lake in the form of a letter from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Sent to officials from the Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority (TRLIA) and the County, the letter confirms that 29 miles of levees improved by TRLIA meet FEMA’s certification criteria. As a result, FEMA will accredit the levee system as providing 100-year flood protection.

Levee accreditation by FEMA means that areas in Linda, Olivehurst, Arboga and Plumas Lake – except those affected by internal drainage issues – will not be “mapped” into a Special Flood Hazard Area when FEMA’s new Flood Insurance Rate Maps take effect in February 2011. It also means that Yuba County will maintain its ability to implement its General Plan for these areas, and property owners with mortgages will not be required to purchase flood insurance.

Since 2004, more than \$405 million has been invested to improve the levees, which failed catastrophically in 1986 and 1997. Of the total project cost, approximately \$265 million was funded by the State through Early Implementation Program (EIP) and Proposition 13 funds. Funding has also been provided by the State Department of Fish & Game, Yuba County, the Yuba County Water Agency, Reclamation District 784, and local development interests.

While FEMA only certifies levees for 100-year protection, the levees have been designed to withstand a 200-year flood event. Strong levees are the first line of defense against flooding. However, FEMA, the Department of Water Resources, Yuba County and TRLIA strongly encourage property owners to consider purchasing flood insurance as additional protection for their structures and contents. Lowest-cost flood insurance is available through FEMA’s National Flood Insurance Program (www.floodsmart.gov).

For more information about TRLIA’s levee certification and accreditation, please contact Paul Brunner, TRLIA Executive Director, at (530) 749-5679.

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The 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. Four work phases were identified with the goal of achieving 200-year flood protection for areas protected by Reclamation District 784 levees. www.trlia.org