



THREE RIVERS LEVEE IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY

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SOUTH YUBA LEVEE PROJECT NAMED BEST OF 2009 BY CIVIL ENGINEERS

MARYSVILLE, CA – For the second year in a row, the best flood project in the Sacramento region can be found in South Yuba County. The Sacramento Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) announced late last week that it will award its “2009 Outstanding Engineering Award” for Flood Control to the Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority for its Feather River Setback Levee. The award will be presented at ASCE’s annual dinner in Sacramento on February 17. Last year, the Authority’s Bear River Setback Levee was named ASCE’s Flood Control Project of the Year for the state of California.

The Feather River Setback Levee – the biggest in the state at six miles in length -- was developed and implemented to provide 200-year flood protection to more than 40,000 residents in South Yuba County. The project opened approximately 1,600 acres of additional land for expanded floodway and ecological habitat. Regionally, the project is expected to lower water elevations by more than a foot during significant flood events, easing pressure on both the Yuba and Feather River Levees and providing increased flood protection to South Yuba County, as well as the cities of Marysville and Yuba. Construction of the levee improvements took place between June 2008 and November 2009, and the new levee and expanded floodway are now fully operational.

“We’ve always said that we have the best professionals in the business working on this project,” said Yuba County Supervisor Mary Jane Griego, chair of the TRLIA Board. “As a result, we also have the strongest flood protection in Northern California. We appreciate acknowledgement for a job well done.”

The Feather River Setback Levee is part of the Authority’s \$405 million levee program to improve 29 miles of levees to 200-year flood protection. Improvements to the Upper Yuba River Levee, the final phase of the project, will begin this year. When completed, Yuba County will be the first urban area in the Central Valley to offer a 200-year level of flood protection.

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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 in South Yuba County. Four work phases were identified with the goal of achieving 200-year flood protection for more than 40,000 residents and nearly \$1 billion in property and structures. www.trlia.org