



FLOODWISE

PROTECTING LIVES AND PROPERTY IN OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1927. | FALL 2009

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Karolyn W. Simon
Brian F. Holloway
Bettina C. Redway
Virginia G. Moose
Derek W. Minnema, P.E.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING WHEN

Second Friday of every month at 11:00 a.m.

WHERE

Our District office:
165 Commerce Circle, Ste. D
Sacramento CA 95815

GENERAL MANAGER/ENGINEER

Timothy R. Kerr, P.E.

OFFICE MANAGER

Michelle M. Wilder

For more information please call Michelle at 916-929-4006.

Visit us at www.arfcd.org

Improving the River Park Levee Slope

In the past, some residents whose property is next to the River Park levee obtained permits to install landscaping and vegetation terraces at the bottom of the levee, also known as the levee toe. For some, these features were even permitted on the levee slope. Over time many of these landscape features were not maintained and eventually became overgrown or deteriorated. Many sites became a mysterious lump on the side of the levee or a mound at the levee toe. These encroachments interfere with our ability to mow and traverse the levees on foot. They also limit our ability to inspect the levees and identify new problem areas during a flood event.

KEEPING LEVEES ACCESSIBLE AND SAFE

In an ongoing effort to keep our levees accessible and safe, the American River Flood Control District developed a collaborative project with River Park residents to improve the condition of their levee slope. To maintain a clean and uniform levee slope and a levee toe with clear access for maintenance and flood inspection, in 2008 the District began working with numerous landowners to remove abandoned encroachments. We used a long-reach excavator positioned at the top of the levee to remove deteriorating retaining walls, debris, and mounds of dirt. The result was a clean levee slope free of obstructions that will no longer compromise levee safety. We then restored each site with a grass seed mix and erosion control straw and wattles (a tube of straw used to slow water run-off). With the help of participating landowners, we placed timed watering systems at each site to provide the optimum amount of watering for healthy germination. These sites now have a lush mat of grass to help the slope resist erosion.

REQUESTING SERVICE IN YOUR AREA

This successful effort was a great opportunity to connect with the community and provide information on the importance of uncluttered, well-maintained levees. Numerous residents approached us during the work to ask what we were doing. We are happy to offer these services to anyone expressing interest in seeing a cleaner levee behind his or her home. Based on these contacts, we added numerous sites to the 2008 and 2009 schedule. We welcome the continued support and interest of our neighbors in River Park. If you live next to the levee anywhere in the District and want to request these services, call (916) 929-4006.



▲ District crews clear and upgrade levee slopes.



916-929-4006

A publication of the American River Flood Control District

Do I Need Flood Insurance?

The Sacramento area has a long history of catastrophic flooding. A system of levees and bypasses keeps high flows contained in the river channel. While this system reduces the risk of flood, there is always a threat of a storm exceeding flood control defense capabilities.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and others have accomplished numerous reconstruction projects to improve our levees. In 2005 after calculating their cumulative effects, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) declared many Sacramento area levees able to withstand a 100-year flood. This means that the areas behind the levees have less than a 1 percent (one in 100) chance of being flooded in any given year. As a result of this study, large sections of the Sacramento area were removed from the FEMA 100-year floodplain map and many residents were subsequently released from the federal requirement to carry flood insurance.

Although our Sacramento levees are in better shape than ever, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has projects under way to bring even better flood protection to our region, there is always a chance that a flood will exceed the protection our levees provide. For this reason, we suggest that all of our residents still carry flood insurance.

LOW-COST INSURANCE AVAILABLE

Sacramento property owners who have been released from the federal flood insurance requirement may be eligible for low-cost preferred risk flood insurance. Preferred Risk Policies (PRPs) are guaranteed by the federal government and provide full flood insurance protection for roughly half the price of standard coverage. For information about preferred risk flood insurance, visit the National Flood Insurance Program's Web site at www.floodsmart.gov or contact your insurance agent. For more information about locating your property on the floodplain map go to www.arfcd.org/flood_insurance.php.

Partnering With the CCC

We recently had the privilege of working with crews from the Sacramento satellite of the California Conservation Corps to remove difficult vegetation on our levees. Corps members hauled brush and debris up the steep levee slopes. This debris was later chipped and spread as mulch. This cooperative effort demonstrated that CCC supervisors and Corps members have tremendous experience and dedication to a job well done.

From this positive experience, we also learned that the CCC bids competitively on a variety of projects. The CCC strives to develop the job skills of its Corps members and teaches them how to inspect job sites, consider logistical challenges, and calculate the time and resource needs to form a price for a contract bid. Our District requested a bid from the CCC for line-trimming (using weed whackers) at many difficult locations on our levees. At our June 2009 Board of Trustees' meeting, members reviewed the CCC bid and had the opportunity to meet the Corps members who developed it and ask questions about the work and team member roles. The Board awarded the bid to the CCC at that meeting.

We are very pleased that the contract was performed expertly and completed on schedule in July 2009. The work was very thorough and the CCC crews took special care to avoid sensitive species and residents' permitted vegetation. CCC leaders maintained excellent communication with their crews and with District staff during the contract. **It was a pleasure to work with the dedicated members of the CCC and we look forward to a long working relationship with them in the future. Together we will keep Sacramento levees clean and clear.**



Find Answers on Our New Web Site

To keep the public informed and to provide more resources, we have redesigned our Web site with a fresh new look.

Our easy-to-use site includes:

- Frequently asked questions
- Useful links to other flood-related agencies
- Contact information for key District employees
- Updates and comments from the General Manager
- Current and seasonal levee maintenance schedules so you will know when we will be in your neighborhood
- A map of the District
- Information and forms for permits

When you want to know how to report a levee problem, learn what to do during a flood, and keep up-to-date on levee maintenance in your area, rely on us for the details. Visit our Web site at www.arfcd.org.

American River Flood Control District Crew Receive Safety Awards

The Association of California Water Agencies once again recognized the crew of the American River Flood Control District for innovations which improve safety on the job.

Ross Kawamura received the Safety Award for his catwalk modification to our Peterbilt dump truck. His design allows an operator to inspect and remove debris while standing on the catwalk of the dump bed. Also recognized was **Sean O'Connor** for adding access steps to our Peterbilt dump truck to allow easier and safer inspection of the truck bed. **Eric Maculak** identified a possible danger in the operation of our grout trailer and added emergency shut-off switches to protect the operators. **Roger Unruh** modified the system that covers the dump truck bed to alert the driver when the tarp is fully retracted, reducing the possibility of burning out the tarp operation motor.

Each award winner received a check from ACWA for \$100 for his effort to keep the District safe and ultimately protect the community through more efficient work practices. **Our experienced team members are innovative problem solvers and they all continue to look for ways to improve our already outstanding safety record. Way to go guys.**



Meet Our Staff

ERIC MACULAK

SENIOR FLOOD MAINTENANCE WORKER

In 1989, Eric joined the District as a levee maintenance worker. He quickly demonstrated knowledge in the areas of herbicide application, tree and brush control, and heavy equipment operation. He is also a highly skilled mechanic with training in electrical and plumbing work.

Eric has held the position of senior levee maintenance worker since 2001. From 2001 to 2006 he also managed the District's herbicide program. He has received several safety awards from the Association of California Water Agencies.

In his spare time, Eric enjoys camping and jeeping in the Sierras with his family. His 20 years of service make him a valued team member of the District's Levee Maintenance Crew.



▲ ARFCD staff from left: Tim Kerr, Richard Marck, Ron Sundberg, Ross Kawamura, Sean O'Connor, Michelle Wilder, Eric Maculak, Roger Unruh



Tim Kerr, General Manager

We always want to hear if you notice any changes in the appearance of a levee.

We Value Your Input

In our daily activities to maintain and inspect the levees of the American River Flood Control District, we are fortunate to meet and talk with many homeowners, residents, and recreationists. **We see our role as more than a public agency – we always strive to be a good neighbor in your community.**

SHARING INFORMATION

We value all input from the community and need to gather up-to-date information from residents or groups with special interests. Conversations with residents offer a great opportunity to address your concerns and to share information on the need for safe, strong levees and the role regular maintenance plays to improve them. Clear access to all points on the levee and the ability to inspect the levee during a flood are paramount to the safety of your community – and you play an important role in keeping us informed.

COMMUNICATING CHANGES

We always want to hear if you notice any changes in the appearance of a levee. This includes water “boiling” near the toe of the levee or in your backyard, water seepage, or any erosion on a levee slope. Communication makes us all better neighbors and we look forward to talking with you or answering any questions you may have regarding our maintenance practices and long-term goals for levee safety. **You can reach us at (916) 929-4006.**



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