

FALL 2008

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
 Suite 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

Maintaining Sacramento's

Urban Levees

Our year round maintenance activities are designed to prevent degradation of the levees' structural stability and to keep the surface of the levees accessible and clearly visible so problems can be detected and flood emergency equipment can be moved in when needed.

Early detection of a problem and a quick response are essential to saving a levee during a flood emergency.

Activities routinely done by our field crew include mowing levee slopes, trimming vegetation, and weed control, to insure adequate visibility during flood season and to reduce the fire hazard. Trees, shrubs, and other vegetation along the levee slopes and adjacent areas must be trimmed so our crew can monitor the levee for signs of distress. Early detection of a problem and a quick response are essential to saving a levee during a flood emergency. We perform erosion repairs, access road maintenance, repair access gates, inspect floodwalls, and perform equipment maintenance prior to flood season to "ready" the system for the winter rains. Equipment is repaired and flood fight materials are stockpiled for quick deployment to an emergency site.

In addition to levee safety, the District considers itself a steward of the American River Parkway and other floodways adjoining the levees. We are also good neighbors to adjacent property owners. We are constantly working on projects to improve the flood control system and make it safer for our constituents





RON SUNDBERG

Field Supervisor

Ron has been the Field Supervisor for the District since 2004 but his roots with the District are much deeper. Ron started at ARFCD in 1980. In his 28 years of service Ron has performed almost every task related to levee maintenance as well as servicing the District's old pump stations.

In 1980 the District was a bit different than today; we were responsible for the care and maintenance of 9 pump stations as well as 27 miles of levees. These tasks were performed by a total of 3 field employees. Much of the work was done by hand and often the pumps would require servicing in the middle of the night, in the pouring rain. The District no longer services these pumps.

Ron's constant positive attitude and willingness to go the extra mile were rewarded in 1991, when he became the foreman of a larger 40 mile levee system. Today Ron is responsible for 4 employees who maintain the District's 40 miles of levees. He is a hard working leader who continues to inspire all who work for him.

WATER: Our History and Our Future

is a publication of the Sacramento County Historical Society which outlines the relationship Sacramento has had with its sister rivers since John Sutter settled Sacramento in 1847. If you'd like

a copy of this intriguing publication contact the District office at 929-4006.



Creek Week

In April, the Sacramento Urban Creeks Council hosted the 18th Annual Creek Week. The event encourages members of the local community to gather together to celebrate Sacramento County's creeks and learn about their wildlife, habitat, and human influences.



Splash Off begins the week with the Creek Steward Award being presented to a local school in recognition of their actions that have benefited our local creeks and environment. Docents lead activities throughout the week, including a variety of nature tours. Adults and children can learn about the importance of plants and animals at our creeks and their roles in the ecosystem.

Creek Week culminates with families, students, and seniors assembled in teams to clean trash and other non-natural debris from creeks all over the county. These activities help to maintain and improve the environmental habitat along many stream and creek corridors and to reduce flood risk. The clean-up event is followed by a celebration of food, music, interactive exhibits and contests. To see how you can help or find out about the many activities scheduled annually, call the Urban Creeks Council at 454-4544 or visit www.creekweek.net



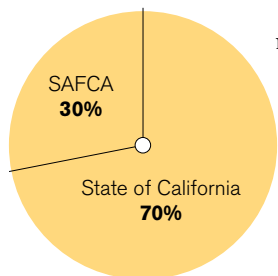
◀ District employees assist the clean-up effort with manpower and by hauling away collected debris.



▲ ARFCD staff pictured: Front row: Tim Kerr, Ross Kawamura, Ron Sundberg, Roger Unruh, Michelle Wilder Back row: Richard Marck, Sean O'Connor, Eric Maculak

Making Strides in Flood Protection

SENATE BILL 276 Last fall, Governor Schwarzenegger signed pivotal flood control legislation that makes great strides towards protecting the residents of Sacramento. Senate Bill 276, signed into law on October 13, 2007, guarantees the State of California's participation in crucial flood control projects supported by the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA). These projects include improvements at Folsom Dam, the American River Levee system, Natomas Levees, and levees throughout South Sacramento.



FUNDING PARTICIPATION

The importance of SB 276 is that the State will be contributing money as a non-federal sponsor for these projects. This guarantees the State's share of the non-federal cost of these important construction projects at 70% to match SAFCA's 30% local share. The funding and participation by the State of California is critical to insure completion of these long awaited features.

The ultimate goal of these combined projects is to achieve a 200-year level of flood protection from flows in the American River. The bill also declares that the proposed improvements will not have significant hydraulic impacts elsewhere in the system and do not require mitigation. The passage of SB 276 is an important indication of the State of California's commitment to protecting

residents in the Sacramento area from catastrophic flooding. With continued participation from the federal government and community leaders such as SAFCA, the residents of the Sacramento area can be confident that the partnerships needed for such large scale infrastructure improvements show a new commitment to the interests of public safety.

New Tools in the Levee Maintenance Arsenal

GROUT TRAILER AND WATER TRUCK

California Ground Squirrels are a risk to the levee because of the large burrows they dig in levee slopes. These squirrels are prevalent in our area and their burrows can remain largely undetected if vegetation is allowed to shroud their locations. Upon discovery of rodent burrows, the District acts quickly to repair the damage, and fill the hole with grout.

The District has recently added a grout trailer and water truck to the tools available year round to our maintenance crew. In the past we used a borrowed machine for a limited time each year to grout ground squirrel holes. Now we can respond immediately to rodent burrows as they are discovered.

The grouting system uses our 1000 gallon water truck mated to the grout mixing and pumping trailer. The two units are the innovation of a very talented member of our crew, **Ross Kawamura** who fabricated the system. Together the units make a portable platform that will be grouting squirrel holes efficiently and effectively for years to come.

▼ *Our new grout trailer (below left) and water truck (below right) let us respond immediately to rodent burrows as they are discovered.*



Flood Fight Training

Every fall there are the reminders that winter is coming. Leaves change colors and start to fall; clouds gather and sprinkle us with rain; and, if you are around Cal Expo, you'll see crews of levee maintenance personnel and flood fighters flock to the annual Flood Fight Training along the American River levee. You will see new recruits and old hands training to properly fill and install sand bags and practice other necessary tasks like applying plastic wave wash protection to levee slopes.

Each year the District's crew as well as the crew of the County of Sacramento and other local levee maintenance districts gather for training in Flood Fight Techniques. This training is provided by the State of California's Department of Water Resources and the trainers are veterans of flood fight situations all across the state.

These lessons learned may help us meet problems in the next inevitable high water event in Sacramento. We are truly fortunate to have them share their expertise with our staff and others in the flood control community.

▼ *At the request of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tim Kerr (General Manager), provided a tour of our District to Brigadier General McMahon to show him examples of well maintained urban levees.*



Welcome New General Manager, **Tim Kerr**



Tim aims to forge, strengthen, and maintain collaborative partnerships...

The American River Flood Control District welcomes our new General Manager, **Tim Kerr**, to the flood control team. Tim is a registered Professional Civil Engineer with the State of California and has a background in flood control engineering and levee repair. He comes to us after serving in the Division of Flood Management within the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for the past 9 years. This work took him up and down the Central Valley and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as a member of a collaborative team to diagnose and repair levee deficiencies.

Tim then advanced into Project Management to lead projects for the State in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and various local agencies. **Much of this work focused on development and implementation of flood control projects on the American and Sacramento Rivers.** In one such partnership, Tim became familiar with representatives from the American River Flood Control District and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency. They were working together to provide a 200-year level of protection for the communities next to the American River. Now, as the General Manger of the American River Flood Control District, Tim aims to forge, strengthen,

and maintain collaborative partnerships between all users of the American River Parkway and levee system to insure the levee safety and integrity of the adjacent communities and resources.

Tim lives near the American River in Rancho Cordova with his wife and 1-year old daughter. He enjoys camping, fishing, mountain biking, and cross-country skiing.

MEET MICHELLE

Michelle Wilder



Office Manager

Michelle has been serving at the District since 2006. She will almost always be your first point of contact and can answer many of your questions regarding assessment fees, maintenance concerns, permits and Board meetings.

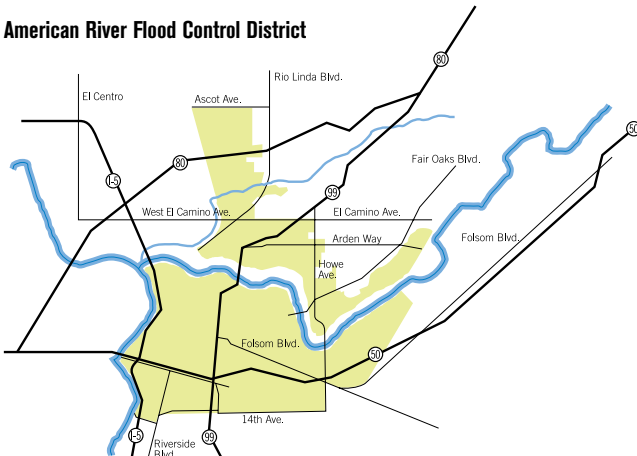
She will be glad to answer any questions you have or put you in contact with the right staff person.



165 Commerce Circle, Suite D
Sacramento, California 95815

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American River Flood Control District



EMERGENCY SUPPLY CHECKLIST

Essentials

- ▶ **Water:** 1 gallon per person per day
(a week's supply of water is recommended)
- ▶ **Food:** Ready to eat canned meats, fruits & vegetables, canned juices, milk, soup (if powdered, store extra water)
- ▶ Non-electric can opener
- ▶ Portable radio, flashlight, spare batteries
- ▶ Essential medications
- ▶ Candles, matches
- ▶ Cash and change
- ▶ **Baby supplies:** formula, bottle, pacifier, soap and baby powder, clothing, blankets, baby wipes, disposable diapers, canned food and juices
- ▶ **Important papers:** insurance policies, copies of social security cards, birth certificates in a waterproof container
- ▶ **Pet supplies:** food, carrier, leash

Cooking

- ▶ Eating utensils
- ▶ Disposable plates and cups
- ▶ Paper towels
- ▶ Heavy duty aluminum foil
- ▶ Camping stove and fuel for outdoor cooking
- ▶ Pots, pans, knife

Sanitation Supplies

- ▶ Household bleach
- ▶ Toilet paper
- ▶ Bar soap
- ▶ Large garbage bags

Safety and Comfort

- ▶ Change of clothing
- ▶ Sturdy shoes
- ▶ Blankets, sleeping bags, rain gear

Tools and Supplies

- ▶ Shovel, axe, broom
- ▶ Tool kit including screwdriver, pliers, hammer
- ▶ Plastic and/or duct tape

WHO DO I CALL?

American River Flood Control District (ARFCD)

(916) 929-4006

www.arfcd.org

The Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA)

(916) 874-7606

www.safca.org

County of Sacramento

(916) 875-7246

(Emergencies, Evenings, Weekends & Holidays)

www.saccounty.net

or

www.sacflood.org

(River, Creek, Stream Levels and Rainfall Amounts)

City of Sacramento

(916) 264-5011

(Emergencies, Evenings, Weekends & Holidays)

www.cityofsacramento.org

or

www.cityofsacramento.org/utilities

California Data Exchange Center (CDEC)

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov>

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

www.fema.gov

National Weather Service-Sacramento

www.wrh.noaa.gov/Sacramento

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

www.spk.usace.army.mil

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

www.usbr.gov/mp



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