

October 2017

# LeveeSafe RECLAMATION DISTRICT 1000

Your Flood Protection Team  
in the Natomas Basin.

## Paul Devereux, General Manager



After nearly five years of historic drought, we were reminded last flood season about what it means to be the “River City” and the need to always be prepared for what Mother Nature has in store. Our crew spent over 30 days last year patrolling around the clock making sure our levees and drainage system were performing as designed and protecting our residents and businesses. While we do not know what awaits us this flood season, the Natomas community can rest assured RD 1000 is ready and will continue to provide flood protection as it has for the past 106 years.

## Terrie Figueroa Retires

After almost 30 years of dedicated service, RD 1000 said farewell to its long time District Secretary and Administrative Service Manager, Terrie Figueroa. “I have enjoyed my tenure at Reclamation District 1000, and am grateful for the chance to work at something that is so important to our residents and the Natomas

community, noting in particular the extraordinary work by the entire staff during the flood emergencies in 1997, 2006 and again in 2017. The people in Natomas are in good hands.”

## Welcome Joleen!

RD1000 is happy to introduce Joleen Gutierrez, Administrative Service Manager. Joleen’s career has spanned several years work-



(above) Joleen in her office at the RD1000 headquarters on Garden Highway in Natomas.

ing for a large and complex state agency as a Senior Administrative professional.

## California Special Districts Association

In September, the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) created a video of Reclamation District 1000 to acknowledge the critical flood protection RD1000 provides to the Natomas Basin. The CSDA “Districts Make the Difference” campaign was designed to highlight districts, like RD1000, and increase awareness on how special dis-

tricts serve their communities. We want to thank Natomas resident, Melinda Bradbury, for her participation in the video and invite you to watch it on our website and Facebook.



Recent levee repair along Garden Highway

## A Bit of RD1000 History

The California State Legislature formed RD1000 as a Special District in 1911. The establishment of the District as part of a regional reclamation plan resulted in the social, economic and physical transformation of the region, from the original flood plain to a distinctly different open rural landscape consisting of levees, canals and roads intersecting to form large blocks of fields. The district was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in 1994.

Historically, the American River and the Sacramento River would flood their banks annually with winter rains and water runoff from the foothills. In the 1950’s and 1960’s urbanization of the Natomas

Basin began, predominantly because of its close proximity to downtown Sacramento and the construction of the interstate highway system. Through the decades, the Natomas

area has grown in population and infrastructure, including the Sacramento International Airport, commercial centers, industrial parks, and multiple residential communities.

Today, RD1000 protects families, businesses and farms within 55,000 acres through the operation and maintenance of 42.5 miles of levees that surround the perimeter of the Natomas Basin to keep flood-



The RD1000 offices along Garden Highway in Natomas.



RD1000 staff

## Natomas Levee Project Update

The levee improvements constructed by SAFCA along the Natomas Cross Canal and Sacramento River have significantly reduced our flood risk by addressing some of the most vulnerable reaches of our levee system. However, we need the Corps of Engineers to complete the remaining work to reach our goal of at least 200-year flood protection. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2018 along the American River north levee (Garden Highway between Gateway Oaks Drive and Northgate Blvd) as well as work on the Natomas East Main Drain Canal (NEMDC or Steelhead Creek) from the Arden Garden to just north of Main Avenue. While Natomas residents will feel the effects of traffic impacts as well as the typical noise and dust from the construction; it will represent progress towards the flood protection we need here in Natomas. The recent devastating floods in Houston and Florida are another reminder we must expedite these



## Jeff Harris, Councilman City of Sacramento District 3

Reclamation District 1000 is critical to the safety of our community. They provide flood protection on a 24/7 basis to the Natomas Basin. From maintenance to protecting habitat their crew work year round to ensure that our levees are in good shape.

waters from the Sacramento River, American River, Natomas East Main Drain Canal, Pleasant Grove Creek Canal, and Natomas Cross Canal out of the area. Additionally, RD1000 operates and maintains miles of canals and seven pump stations that collect and safely discharge rainwater back into the rivers and creeks.

## Superintendent Don Caldwell

2017 has been a challenging year with a total of 31 inches of rain from July 2016 to July 2017. Our plants pumped a historic amount of water. The rain did not harm the levees but did result in additional maintenance issues and vigorous vegetation growth. Our crew has performed pumping plant maintenance, interior drainage pipe replacements, road repairs and spent days mowing and addressing an overabundance of aquatic vegetation. The District is in good shape and as winter approaches, we stand ready to work 24/7 to provide flood protection to the Natomas Basin.

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