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Natomas Profile  
By Joleane King

Reclamation District No. 1000 cannot control floods. Floods happen. What we aim to do is manage the risk and associated impacts of floods.

## Kevin King



Winter rains and the annual flood insurance premiums that most Natomas residents carry, remind us that the basin we call home requires levees to keep us safe and dry. If you have wondered about who operates and maintains the miles of earthen

berms to the North, South, East and West of us, it is the Reclamation District No. 1000. RD1000 for short.

N magazine caught up with RD1000 General Manager Kevin King to learn more about him and his responsibilities. Prior to his appointment at RD1000, King served as a Resource Specialist in

the Patterson Irrigation District; and Water Operations Manager at both the Oakdale and Solano Irrigation Districts.

**N mag:** How did you get interested in water management?

King: Having grown up in town, I never imagined I would have the opportunity to farm and ranch. However, that start to change in high school after I became involved with the Future

Farmers of America (FFA) raising and showing hogs and sheep. I then attended Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, and majored in Animal Science, then I changed my major to Agricultural Systems Management, where I fell in love with the Water Science Program.

**N mag:** Water is the lifeblood to a rancher, did this spur your career with reclamation districts?

King: I married into a farming and ranching family in 2002, and my son Aubrey (15) and daughter Payton (13) are being raised on the ranch as the sixth generation of ranchers, as the ranch was established in Solano County in 1862. The ranch is still running strong today with approximately 450 pairs.

**N mag:** What do you like to do outside of work?

King: Most weekends are spent between kids sports (competitive soccer) and junior livestock jackpot shows. Both kids started showing hogs when they were nine and they are currently showing cattle up and down the state and will be participating in the California State Fair this year.

**N mag:** What should Natomas residents know about flood risks and the levee improvements?

**King:** Natomas residents should know a few things about flood risks within the basin. Primary among them is that Reclamation District No. 1000 cannot control floods. Floods happen. What we aim to do is manage the risk and associated impacts of floods. In order to manage that risk, we rely on our exterior levee system, internal drainage system, and pumping plants within the Basin.

The exterior levee system is currently undergoing a major upgrade which when complete is designed to provide 200-year flood protection. This is a massive undertaking on a levee system which was constructed in 1911.



(above) Kevin King, General Manager and Joleen Gutierrez, Administrative Service Manager and Secretary to the Board of Trustees at a recent board meeting.

**Publisher's Note:**

Many of the links on levee repair and progress have not been updated of late. Contact the Corps of Engineers at the link with Tyler Stalker in the learn-More block.

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| Learn More                       |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Kevin King   RD1000              | <a href="http://rd1000.org">rd1000.org</a>   |
| Natomas Levee Project            | <a href="http://rd1000.org/natomas-levee-project">rd1000.org/natomas-levee-project</a>                           |
| Garden Hwy Levee Improvements    | <a href="http://spk.usace.army.mil/natomas/">spk.usace.army.mil/natomas/</a>                                     |
| U.S. Army Corps of Engineers     | Levees 916-557-5100  |
| SAFCA Sac Area Flood Control     | <a href="http://safca.org/Programs_Natomas.html">safca.org/Programs_Natomas.html</a>                             |
| Updates: Army Corps of Engineers | Tyler Stalker 916-557-5107<br><a href="mailto:tyler.m.stalker@usace.army.mil">tyler.m.stalker@usace.army.mil</a> |