

Natomas Region Lift Pumps Keep Our Community Above Water



Above Water

(top)
New Pumping Plant No. 4 is located at the northern end of District 1000. This plant utilizes 3 lift pumps to discharge over 100,000 gallons of water per minute into the Natomas Cross Canal at full capacity

(right)
6 lift pumps, at Pumping Plant 1B, reconstructed in 2003, which is adjacent to the main office. At full capacity, this plant discharges 264,000 gallons of water per minute into the Sacramento River.

Note: This is an ongoing N magazine series about RD1000's 4Natomas flood control education program about repairing and upgrading the flood-prevention infrastructure in the Natomas Region.



Nothing is more important to Reclamation District No. 1000 than the safety of the Natomas Region and the Sacramento residents' homes, businesses, and families. Because of this, the District has provided essential flood prevention services to protect our community from catastrophic floods since 1911.

When thinking about flood prevention, it's very easy to narrow the conversation into "fix the levees, and everything will be ok." While strong levees are a necessary part of flood prevention infrastructure, they are not the only component. Among other elements like drainage systems, lift pumps are crucial to maintaining our community free from the dangers of flooding.

What are lift pumps, and how are they used to keep us safe? When roads or other areas get flooded, drainage systems (storm drains) collect the water from the impacted area and convey it via interior canals to lift pump stations. The lift pumps

transport the collected storm water back into appropriate locations such as the surrounding rivers. In short, lift pumps move



the water from a potentially hazardous area to a safer location.

RD 1000 Flood Operation Specialists must be very deliberate when operating the pumps, as sometimes pushing more water back into the rivers (from specific interior canal locations) can result in flooding on major roadways like Interstate 80 or Interstate 5. This excess water can even end up at our airport! Thankfully, we are blessed with a

dedicated and disciplined Operations Staff who carefully balance this delicate system and ensure the water is pumped to the correct locations at the correct times.

However, there are some factors out of their control. These issues have the potential for tremendous damage to the Natomas Region if not addressed now.

Although we need robust levees, we must not forget the importance of ensuring all elements of our flood control system are strong enough to withstand potential disasters. For example, our infrastructure is completely outdated—one lift pump is over 100 years old, and another has been repaired with duct tape. Nearly all our other pumps are old and running on borrowed time.

The time has come. We have hung on long enough—we cannot use tools from over 100 years ago to protect our citizens today. We need more funding to repair existing infrastructure and prepare ourselves for the future. Learn more about our plan to address the infrastructure needs at 4Natomas.org



Learn More

Reclamation District 1000
1633 Garden Highway
p: 916. 922. 1449 rd1000.org

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4natomas.org