

By Kevin King & Karen Wilson

RECLAMATION DISTRICT 1000

Your Flood Protection Team
in the Natomas Basin.



Building for Our Flood Protection

Reclamation District No. 1000's mission is flood protection for the Natomas Basin, providing for the public's health and safety by operating and maintaining the levees, and the District's canals and pump stations in a safe, efficient and responsible manner.

Kevin L. King serves as the General Manager of Reclamation District No. 1000 (RD1000), a California Special District and one of the largest reclamation districts in California.

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Reclamation District 1000 was formed on May 1, 1911, by the state legislature after decades of flood control by trial and error following a series of catastrophic



The classic pump house on Garden Highway with pumps originally cast by Macaulay Foundry nearly 100 year ago. These pumps are very efficient and still used by RD 1000.

floods in the Sacramento area. The best technology available at the time went into construction of a system of levees, canals and pumps that took Natomas from "swamp and overflow" land on local maps, to an agricultural powerhouse, and then to the thriving

regional leader it is today. The system those early engineers built provided a foundation that has held back the floodwaters of the Sacramento River for more

than 100 years. That initial investment in flood control infrastructure in Natomas has turned out to be a wise one, and one that that's due for an upgrade. Natomas' population, still growing past initial estimates of 100,000 residents, has outpaced

anything those pioneers could have imagined, and the community has shifted from agricultural to a more urban form. RD1000 is part of a web of agencies that work together on flood protection. Its responsibilities, though, remain the same: to protect lives and property in the Natomas Basin from flooding. To accomplish that job, the District maintains 42 miles of levees surrounding Natomas that prevent exterior floodwaters from entering the Basin; more than 30 miles of large drainage canals to collect stormwater runoff and agricultural drainage from within the Basin; and seven pump stations that safely discharge interior stormwater and agricultural drainage back into the Sacramento River. You may have seen some of the RD1000 infrastructure that keeps Natomas safe. The first pump station installed in the system between 1912 and 1917 was at the site of the District's current offices on the Garden Highway. Canals channeling surface water are often used as walking and biking paths, as are the levees. RD1000 works with the City of Sacramento and the City Police Department to ensure safe use of its right of way and avoid erosion



The RD 1000 office is a repurposed classic Natomas house on Garden Highway across from the original pump house.

of the levee. District staff patrol the levee regularly to check for erosion, and maintain canals to ensure they clear of debris.

The District cooperates with both private entities and public agencies to keep pace with growth and improve the flood control system as a whole in the Natomas region. Developers must meet RD1000's requirements to ensure that paved surfaces, which create more runoff, are safely mitigated. Investments in flood control are more than offset by the cost of failing to provide flood protection. Congress authorized the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to improve the system of levees throughout the greater Sacramento area in 1996. Since then, high water events in 1997 and 2006 revealed underseepage in the levees. While the levees did not break, significant resources



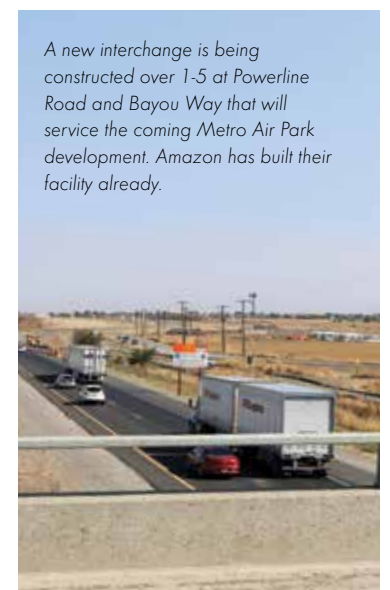
One of the canals at Fishermans Lake on Del Paso Road just west of I-5.

There are many drainage canals and levees that RD 1000 takes care of in the Natomas Region. Check the maps on the Website.

went into stopping and repairing the spots where the seepage occurred. Flood insurance for residents and businesses was determined to be at risk and in 2008, a federal moratorium was imposed on new building, as well as on substantial improvements on existing structures in Natomas, until the region could demonstrate that its flood control system provided 100-year flood protection. The moratorium was lifted in 2015. Development began again immediately. Work continues on the Natomas Levee Project so that Natomas meets a new standard of 200-year flood protection. The Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency completed the first 18 miles of levee improvements, and the Corps is working on the remaining 24 miles of levees surrounding the Natomas Basin. Sacramento area representatives have been

united for the long term in seeking and securing federal funding for levee improvements.

RD1000 and its flood control partners are looking to the future, to make sure that once all Natomas' levees are strengthened to 200-year flood protection, RD1000's facilities will be up to the challenge of maintaining flood protection for the extraordinary growth planned or already happening here. The District's seven-member



A new interchange is being constructed over I-5 at Powerline Road and Bayou Way that will service the coming Metro Air Park development. Amazon has built their facility already.

Board of Trustees, elected by the property owners within the Natomas Basin, has approved a Capital Improvement Plan to upgrade or replace equipment. The District's General Manager, Kevin King, is charged with implementing the plan at the same time that growth is happening. "These projects will be critical and necessary," he says.

"We will be replacing what we have not upgraded for 30 years. Mechanical systems are like our cars. They need regular maintenance and replacement. Our CIP will help us do that within the next 10 years, and then we will be on a routine maintenance schedule."

Next month we will take a look at RD1000's Capital Improvement Plan - what's in it and how it will help ensure that the District's flood control infrastructure in the Natomas Basin can withstand another 200 years of whatever storms bring.



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