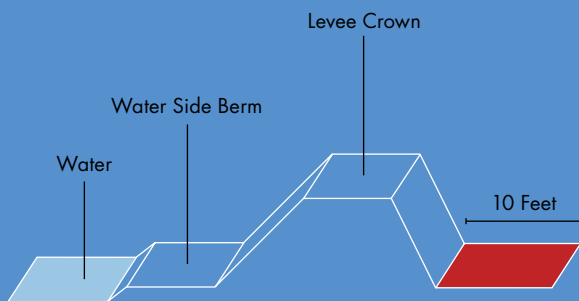


## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT YOUR LOCAL LEVEE

- A levee is an important flood control structure.
- It is maintained for your protection.
- These levees are so important that they are under control of local, state, and federal agencies.
- Construction near a levee must be permitted by the State Reclamation Board.
- Debris or overgrown vegetation around levees can dangerously impede flood fighting.
- Your local district is ready to answer any questions you may have about your nearby levee.



**Anatomy of a levee:**  
Levee cross-section depicting the 10 foot  
maintenance and flood fighting easement.

## ABOUT US

In the late 1800s to the mid 1960s, faced with repeated floods, flood management agencies (reclamation districts, levee maintenance districts, drainage districts, flood control districts, State Reclamation Board, and the Corps of Engineers) built a network of levees to direct water away from people and property. Since 1914, these federal levees have been regulated by the State Reclamation Board.

The Division of Flood Management works with the State Reclamation Board and your local maintaining agency to prevent loss of life, reduce property damage caused by floods and to assist in recovery efforts following any natural disaster.

Prepared by:  
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# LIVING NEXT TO A LEVEE



SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN RIVER  
FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS

CONTACT:

LOCAL MAINTAINING AGENCY  
INFORMATION HERE

## SAFETY

The levee near your property may seem fairly mundane. It's an easy thing to take for granted, but take a moment to think about the protection that it gives you and your community from floodwaters that could damage neighborhood property and dramatically interrupt your lives. Like any structure, levees require routine maintenance to help prevent failure from occurring. Even though you are protected by a levee, there is always a risk. However, by knowing what to look for and whom to call, you play a vital role in keeping your community safe.

## MAINTENANCE

Because your property is by a levee, it is a significant piece of a local system of flood control. As a landowner it is important that you understand the restrictions and work to be done on or near a levee.

- Any work to be performed (plants, fences, stairs, etc.) on or within ten feet of a levee must be endorsed by the local maintaining agency, referenced on the front of this pamphlet and permitted by the State Reclamation Board.
- The local maintaining agency will work with you to try to find a mutually satisfactory solution or provide information on how to apply for a State Reclamation Board Encroachment Permit.
- Any work that could affect the structural integrity of a levee or impedes flood fighting will not be permitted by the State Reclamation Board.

Strict maintenance of the area around the levee reduces the risk of failure and is vital to protecting your life and property.

## INSPECTION

Inspectors from the Department of Water Resources and local levee maintaining agency staff verify that your levee is in compliance with standards set by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Owners of properties posing a hazard to levee maintenance will be notified and allowed to resolve the situation with their local agency.

**THE LEVEE NEAR YOUR PROPERTY IS IMPORTANT FOR YOUR SAFETY. PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO THINK ABOUT THE PROTECTION THAT IT GIVES YOU AND YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.**



### **A levee slope free of obstructions**

An unobstructed view allows flood fighters to work quickly, effectively and safely — to protect private property and the lives of those living behind the levee.



### **An unauthorized encroachment**

Vegetation blocks the view for inspection, and makes a flood fight impossible. Such vegetation needs to be removed.



### **A sack ring around a boil**

A boil is a condition under which water passes through or under a levee. If this water has sufficient velocity to carry earthen material to the landward side the levee could fail. A clear levee slope allows inspectors and local agencies to detect and monitor boils. The ability to detect a boil early will reduce the risk of property damage and allows those responding to take appropriate action to protect your property.