

FLOOD WATCH

A PUBLICATION OF THE SACRAMENTO AREA FLOOD CONTROL AGENCY • FEBRUARY 2016

The purpose of this factsheet is to inform property owners of SAFCA's progress on levee improvements and the challenges we face to improve flood protection.

MILESTONES

- Folsom Dam auxiliary spillway with 6 gated outlets, an approach channel and a stilling basin
- Nearly 25 miles of improvements along the lower American River, including raised levees, river channel erosion control and new seepage cutoff walls up to 80 feet deep
- More than 6 miles of erosion control along the lower Sacramento River in the Pocket-Meadowview areas
- Almost 40 miles of height deficiency, erosion and underseepage improvements - around the Natomas basin and in North Sacramento
- Federal authorization to construct an additional 24 miles of levee improvements in Natomas
- More than 9 miles of levee, channel and floodwall improvements in South Sacramento
- American River Parkway and Natomas habitat and wildlife improvements
- Federal authorizations to raise the dam and surrounding structures by 3 feet and install water temperature shutters

SAFCA's Progress

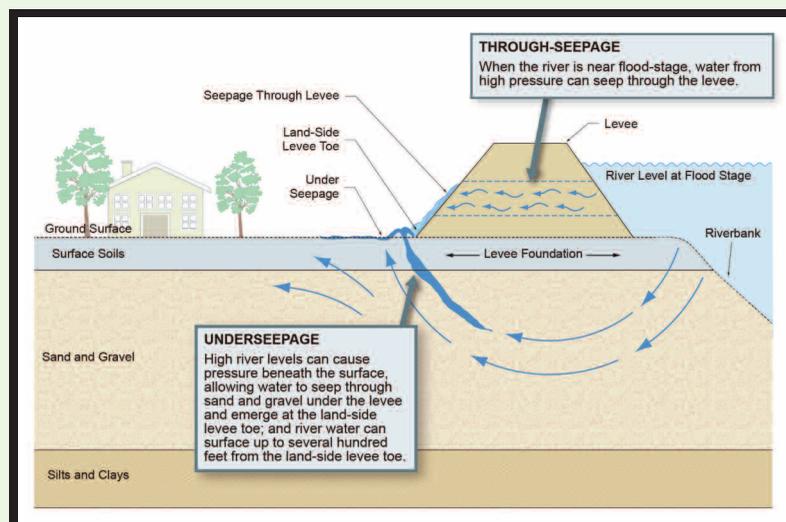
Since 1989, Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) has greatly improved Sacramento's levee system, securing nearly \$2 billion for flood risk reduction. About \$300 million of that amount (matched by state and federal funds) was generated by property owner assessments in 2000, 2007 and 2011. These funds substantially improved flood control along the American and Sacramento rivers (and their tributaries), sustaining Sacramento's economic growth and providing relief from high-cost mandatory flood insurance. While working to deliver a 100-year level of flood protection for Sacramento and southern Sutter County and to meet the state's new 200-year level of protection requirement by 2025, SAFCA has faced many unanticipated challenges.

Why the New Assessment

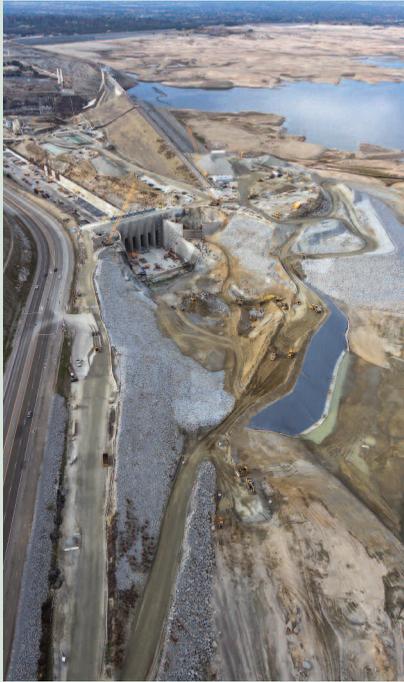
Since 2007, state and federal agencies have adopted new policies requiring substantial changes to Sacramento flood control projects:

- Levees along the Sacramento River in the Pocket area and along Arcade Creek in North Sacramento – once deemed adequate for a 100-year level of flood protection – are now considered inadequate to meet this level of protection.
- Channel erosion and underseepage issues are now being managed proactively.
- Project improvements now need to address access, visibility and stricter requirements (including removal of hazardous vegetation and encroachments).

These changes were not predictable when SAFCA formed the 2007 and 2011 assessment districts and can only be implemented by forming a new consolidated capital assessment district with majority support from property owners.



FOLSOM DAM UPGRADES



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Sacramento
Area Flood
Control
Agency

What Is Needed

The proposed assessment district would replace the 2007 assessment, encompassing 160,000 parcels. To meet current standards and policies, the cost to complete the flood control projects is \$1.2 billion more than what was anticipated. The new assessment district would generate \$250 million over 30 years to fund the local share of these costs. SAFCA anticipates receiving federal and state contributions for the balance of these project costs (\$900 million). The federal and state governments have committed money for ongoing work in Natomas. In addition, the state has committed to funding additional improvements outside Natomas. For system operation and maintenance costs, the new assessment district will generate an additional \$4 million a year or \$121 million over 30 years.

If approved by property owners, this assessment will allow SAFCA to achieve the following flood protection goals:

- Complete projects necessary for a 100-year level of flood protection as quickly as possible, minimizing the risk property owners in North Sacramento and areas outside Natomas (downtown, Land Park and Pocket) will pay mandatory, high-cost flood insurance
- In Natomas, complete pre-construction work necessary for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to continue constructing improvements to the remaining 24 miles of levees that require upgrades
- 200-year level of flood protection by 2025 and even more over time to reduce the risk for catastrophe

Without the New Assessment

A levee breach in Sacramento would affect a million people dependent on city services and facilities, cause substantial loss of life and cripple our economy. Floodwaters would reach one foot deep in less than two hours in the Pocket, Land Park, River Park and Natomas areas and over 20 feet deep in some parts of the city.

If the new assessment district is not formed as a means to protect Sacramento from extreme flooding, property owners would continue to be vulnerable to major flooding and mandatory, high-cost flood insurance.

- Levees along the lower American River would fail to safely contain sustained high velocity releases from Folsom Dam.
- Levee embankment and foundation stability deficiencies along the Sacramento River in the Pocket area would risk remapping back into the 100-year floodplain.
- Remaining levee underseepage and foundation instability around the Natomas basin could eventually compel homeowners to pay even higher insurance rates, unsubsidized by the federal government.
- Neighborhoods between the Sacramento and American rivers could be remapped with less than a 100-year level of flood protection and pay mandatory, high-cost flood insurance.

For these reasons, SAFCA is asking local property owners to vote on forming a new assessment district.