




January 12, 2010

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES

FROM: 
Stein Buer, Executive Director
Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency

RE: **U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS LEVEE SAFETY PROGRAM**

In 2008, representatives from SAFCA and Reclamation District No. 1000, performed levee inspections on the entire 42-mile levee perimeter system in the Natomas Basin. These are the levees that protect residents in the basin from flooding by the Sacramento and American Rivers, Pleasant Grove Creek and Natomas East Main Drain Canals. These inspections were conducted primarily to gather information for levee improvement design and certification considerations for the Natomas Levee Improvement Program as well as for monitoring current levee conditions prior to the 2008/2009 Winter storm season.

Presently, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is conducting additional and distinctly separate levee inspections for the entire Sacramento region. The Corps is making these inspections at the direction of the U.S. Congress in order to develop a more robust national Levee Safety Program. In order to gather information for this effort, the Corps has initiated a Periodic Inspection program for the levee systems in the United States to, among other things; verify proper operation and maintenance, evaluate operational adequacy and identify features to monitor over-time.

The Corps' inspections are part of a national effort that is being funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The Corps plans to complete the entire federal system inspection by the end of 2012. Architect Engineering (AE) firms currently under contract with the Corps will conduct most of the work. This week, contractors have begun the inspection process at Verona, and will be working clockwise around the basin: east along the Natomas Cross Canal levee, south along the Natomas East Main Drainage Canal, west along the American River Levee, and then north along the Sacramento River Levee. The inspection includes engineers walking along both the landside and waterside levee slopes and adjacent area as well as monitors on the levee crown.

If you have any questions regarding the Corps' Periodic Inspection program, please contact Corps Sacramento District Public Affairs Office representatives Warren Byrd at (916) 557-5145 or Katrina Natividad at (916) 557-5105. If you would like additional information regarding Reclamation District No. 1000, please contact Paul Devereux at (916) 922-1449. For information regarding SAFCA's Natomas Levee Improvement Program, please contact Jay Davis, project Ombudsman at (916) 351-0600 or visit the SAFCA website at www.safca.org.