

September 30, 2008

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES

**FROM: Stein Buer, Executive Director
Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency
(916) 874-7606**

**SUBJECT: NATOMAS LEVEE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM,
PROPOSED JOINT USE AGREEMENT WITH RD 1000
FOR ENCROACHMENT SURVEY**

SUMMARY

On October 3, 2008, at its regularly scheduled meeting, Reclamation District 1000 (RD 1000) will consider granting SAFCA a joint use permit to access Natomas levees and adjacent ground for the purposes of mapping and evaluating vegetation and encroachments along the levee system (Agenda Attached).

SAFCA is currently in the process of mapping all levee encroachments, and can accomplish all of this work by either surveying from the existing roadways or through the process of obtaining rights-of-entry for individual properties. However, this work can be more efficiently and rapidly completed if SAFCA is granted the right to enter properties through a Joint Use Agreement with RD 1000. The collected data will assist SAFCA in the design process, when seeking Corps and State approval for the proposed levee improvement designs, and for levee certification purposes.

While SAFCA and RD 1000 seek to minimize the disturbance of the existing vegetation, homes, and landscaping along the levee alignment, some vegetation and encroachments will likely need to be removed as part of the Natomas Levee Improvement Program in order to comply with new federal standards.

BACKGROUND

The Natomas Levee Improvement Program is being designed to address a number of serious levee deficiencies, including underseepage, inadequate stability and freeboard, and ongoing erosion, while minimize impacts on

Notice: Natomas Levees Joint Use Agreement

Page 2 of 3

September 30, 2008

existing vegetation, homes, landscaping, and other improvements along the levees.

SAFCA initiated the Natomas Levee Evaluation Program in 2005, which led to a decision by the SAFCA Board of Directors to initiate the Natomas Levee Improvement Program in July 2006. In April 2007 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) distributed new levee vegetation and encroachment guidelines, which made it clear that the existing levees would need to be substantially cleared of woody vegetation and encroaching structures in order to be in compliance with these new standards.

In response, SAFCA shifted to a fundamentally new design concept: Rather than fix the existing levee in place, SAFCA would construct an adjacent setback levee, wherein the new levee cross section on the land side of the levee would be engineered to fully meet the new standards, including encroachments and vegetation. The intent of this re-design was to minimize the impacts on existing vegetation, homes, and landscaping.

However, this design shift has not yet been formally approved by the Corps and the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB), both of which have regulatory authority over the Natomas Levees. Furthermore, it does not mean that SAFCA and Reclamation District 1000 can cease to be concerned about the existing vegetation and structural encroachments on the water side of the levee. The existing levee and the new adjacent setback levee will function as a single structure, which must be treated as such for levee certification and operational purposes. During a flood event there will be a need to continuously inspect the water side and land side of the levee for signs of erosion, sloughing, tree falls, piping of water, and any other signs of potential distress.

Accordingly, SAFCA is in the process of conducting a detailed survey of all vegetation and encroachments on the existing levee system. A data base is being developed, which includes the specific location and nature of each bush, tree, or structure. Each entry will be carefully evaluated as part of the design process, with the goal of leaving as many in place as possible, but also identifying any that might need to be removed.

SAFCA will coordinate closely with the Corps, the CVFPB, RD 1000, and affected property owners before finalizing any decision regarding removal of encroachments.

Notice: Natomas Levees Joint Use Agreement
Page 3 of 3
September 30, 2008

RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 1000
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 3, 2008
8:00 A.M.
AGENDA
1633 Garden Highway
Sacramento, CA 95833

Any documents related to agenda items that are made available to the Board before the meeting will be available for review by the public at: 1633 Garden Highway, Sacramento, CA 95833

CALL TO ORDER

SET THE AGENDA

ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR ACTION

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (Action)
 - A. Regular Meeting, September 12, 2008
2. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS (Action)
 - A. Treasurer's Report for September 2008.
 - B. Expenditure Report for September 2008.
3. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Information)
 - A. SAFCA Representatives
 - B. Executive Committee (10/1)
 - C. Personnel Committee – (10/3)
4. BOARD BUSINESS (Action/Information)
 - A. Joint Use Agreement – SAFCA (RD 1000 – (RD 1000 easements for Natomas Levee Improvement Project)

ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

5. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT (Information)
 - A. RM 75.1 – Emergency Levee Repair - Update
 - B. Regional Flood Control Issues
 - C. Natomas Mutual Water Company Agreement
 - D. Encroachment Permits Endorsed
 - E. Security Patrol
 - F. Levee Inspection and Garden Hwy Survey Status
 - G. Central Valley Flood Protection Board – Proposed Indemnification for Future Projects
6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Information)

OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO DIRECTLY ADDRESS THE BOARD ON SUBJECT MATTER WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE BOARD.

7. Correspondence/News/Information
8. ADJOURN