

CITY OF YUBA CITY  
STAFF REPORT

**Date:** May 1, 2007  
**To:** Honorable Mayor & Members of the City Council  
**From:** Administration  
**Presentation By:** Steven R. Jepsen, City Manager

---

**Summary**

**Subject:** Flood Protection: Quarterly Update  
**Recommendation:** For information only  
**Fiscal Impact:** None

---

**Background**

The City and County are aggressively working in many directions to improve flood protection in Sutter County. It is a complex issue with many elements that must be addressed in concert. While this issue has historically been a high priority for both the City and County, and much has been done to improve our levees over the past decade, perhaps never has there been more activity on several related fronts than at present. This brief update is intended to keep Councilmembers and Board members, our partners in flood protection, and the public informed of significant activities.

**Update**

The following are key efforts currently underway:

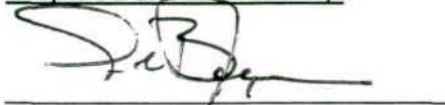
1. Core sampling by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continues along our levees to test stability and identify weak spots. The Corps expects to complete the sampling sometime during the Fall of this year.
2. The State Dept. of Water Resources conducted a survey of our levees on March 30, using a helicopter equipped with satellite equipment that provides very precise measurements of the levees. This technology allowed the State to complete a survey of the levees in a few hours, when traditional ground surveys with crews and manual equipment would have taken weeks.
3. Yuba City and Sutter County officials conducted a marathon lobbying visit to Washington, D.C., in late March. In back-to-back meetings over two days, we met with our Congressional contingent and their staff, representatives of key funding committees and administration staffers who are in positions to help us achieve funding. Our team clearly laid out the need and demonstrated that we are ready to begin work on critical projects to address some of the weakest areas. As a result, funding has been included in the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill that passed in the Senate March 29. Since the bill also contains Iraq war funding, it still faces challenges and negotiations, but we believe our funding will be part of a final supplemental spending bill.

Included in that bill is funding for the long-ready Wadsworth Canal project.

4. We also continue to lobby non-stop for our fair share of California's Propositions 1E and 84 infrastructure bond money. Again, we are optimistic. The State Department of Water Resources has placed two of our most critical projects to reduce flood risk on its ready-to-go list for the first round of funding. If approved, we could begin construction by early Summer. The projects south of Yuba City and Marysville are:
  - The Yuba City/Feather River West Bank Setback Levee
  - The Linda-Olivehurst-Arboga/Feather River East Bank Setback Levee.
5. We are in the process of developing a new Joint Powers Authority dedicated to managing flood protection issues and meeting requirements to apply for Proposition 1E and 84 funds. We expect to have the new agency up and running by July 1, 2007.
6. We also have several public outreach and public participation activities underway:
  - The Citizens' Advisory Committee has been appointed, including representatives from Live Oak, Yuba City, and the County. The Committee will advise the Board and City Councils about our limited options for raising the local funding needed to match federal and state funding. The first meeting will be May 3.
  - Both Yuba City and the County's website now feature a main menu item dedicated to flood protection information. It is up and running, and features concise informational items. More useful information will be added as available.
  - We have also formed a Speakers' Bureau which will be making presentations and answer questions at various civic organizations throughout the county. Several dates have been set beginning in early May. We hope to add more.
  - Additional outreach materials are being planned, and we continue to provide updates to our local media – especially the Appeal-Democrat, which has been covering flood-protection issues regularly.

These represent just a few of the various efforts ongoing related to flood protection. We will bring issues to you as needed and provide another quarterly update in the Summer.

Prepared & Submitted By:



Steven R. Jepsen  
City Manager