



FLOOD PROTECTION ASSESSMENT WINS PROPERTY OWNER SUPPORT

STOCKTON, CA – Following an initial and secondary tabulation, the San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency (SJAFCA) announced today that its proposed annual assessment for Levee Construction and Maintenance Services won support from property owners with 58 percent of the weighted vote.

Assessment revenues will be used to adequately fund the maintenance of 112 miles of urban levees managed by the San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Zone 9 (Zone 9) and provide the local cost share for the \$1.4 billion Lower San Joaquin River Project, a US Army Corps of Engineers-led effort to strengthen 23 miles of levees along the Calaveras and San Joaquin Rivers.

Assessment ballots were sent on April 21 to owners of 94,000 properties that benefit from Zone 9 levee maintenance and proposed levee improvements. The balloting period closed on June 8, and ballot tabulation was completed on June 12.

SJAFCA and Zone 9 jointly proposed the Levee Construction and Maintenance Assessment to: 1) fund the local cost share (10%) for the \$1.4B Lower San Joaquin River Project (\$140M); 2) ensure continued FEMA accreditation of the levees protecting North and Central Stockton; and 3) address a \$1.5M annual shortfall between existing and needed revenues for the proper maintenance of Zone 9 levees.

Ninety percent – approximately \$1.2B – of all Lower San Joaquin River Project costs will be paid by state and federal agencies. Construction will start next year on the first leg of the project, which involves improvements to the dryland levee on Tenmile Slough adjacent to the Brookside community.

Following a final data validation, the official balloting results will be transmitted to the SJAFCA Board at its June 15 meeting, at which time the Board is expected to take action to adopt the assessment. If the benefit assessment is adopted, assessments will first appear on property tax bills this fall. Property owners with questions can contact SJAFCA's Assessment District Hotline at 209-475-7010, or email at LCMA@sjgov.org.

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The San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency (SJAFCA) is responsible for reducing flood risk for the greater-Stockton metropolitan region through planning, financing and implementing projects and programs to improve flood protection.

The San Joaquin County Flood Control & Water Conservation District Zone 9 (Zone 9), a division of San Joaquin County, maintains urban levees that protect approximately 90,000 Stockton properties.