



JULY 2023

Smith Canal Gate Project

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The project is part of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Lower San Joaquin River Project and will be part of the State Plan of Flood Control. It includes a floodwall along the San Joaquin River between Dad's Point and the eastern boundary of the Stockton Golf & Country Club, tying into the existing Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) accredited levee. The floodwall will feature a gate for tidal exchange and boat access to Atherton Cove and Smith Canal. The gate will remain open, except during high water and tide events and for periodic testing. Dad's Point will be raised and strengthened to allow certification as a levee. The Smith Canal Gate Project will meet State and Federal standards for flood protection by isolating Smith Canal from the San Joaquin River during high water and tide events.



Project History

The San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency (SJAFA) partnered with Reclamation Districts 1614 and 828 to design, finance and construct a project to provide 100-year flood protection for approximately 8,000 properties protected by Smith Canal levees. Once completed, approximately 5,000 properties will be removed from the current Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Special Flood Hazard Area, ending mandatory flood insurance requirements (properties with mortgages) and FEMA-related building restrictions (all properties). The project history dates back to 2005.



2005

Reclamation Districts 1614 and 828 (RDs 1614 & 828), the maintaining agencies for Smith Canal levees, cannot provide FEMA with proof that levees meet requirements for 100-year flood protection.

2009

FEMA issues new Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). Approximately 5,000 properties protected by Smith Canal levees are placed into a Special Flood Hazard Area. Sometime later, FEMA also proposes - based on new topographical data - to expand the Special Flood Hazard Area to include 3,000 additional parcels. RDs 1614 & 828 request help from SJAFA.

2011

SJAFA and RDs 1614 & 828 meet with FEMA to discuss potential options. FEMA agrees that a gate structure to prevent high water in Smith Canal would meet federal standards for providing at least 100-year flood protection. FEMA issues a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) to confirm its decision.

2012

The State authorizes a \$2.4 million grant to SJAFA to pay 50 percent of the project design and environmental analysis costs.

2013

Based on the FEMA CLOMR and approval of State funding, SJAFA and RDs 1614 & 828 form an assessment district to finance the local share of project design, construction, and operations and maintenance costs. SJAFA selects a consultant team for design, environmental and public outreach.

2015

In May, the California Department of Water Resources conditionally approves up to \$22.3 million in construction funding. The project's Environmental Impact Report, a requirement of the California Environmental Quality Act, was approved by SJAFA. A preferred project is also approved. A panel comprised of representatives from the California Department of Water Resources, San Joaquin County, and SJAFA unanimously selects Peterson Brustad, Inc. to design the project. Design work begins.

2015 CONTINUED

In December, two lawsuits are filed against SJAFA challenging approval of the project.

CASE #1: Filed by the Atherton Cove Property Owners Association (ACPOA).

CASE #2: Filed by Dominick Gulli. Mr. Gulli, owner of Green Mountain Engineering, previously submitted a proposal to SJAFA for the design of the Smith Canal project. Mr. Gulli's petition originally included claims under CEQA, Proposition 218, and laws related to public contracting.

CASE #3: Also filed by Dominick Gulli. After the Court issued an order requiring Mr. Gulli to pay for the costs to prepare the administrative record in this action, as required by law, Mr. Gulli voluntarily dismisses the case.

2016

Project design is approximately 65 percent complete. Permitting and acquisition of easements are underway. Lawsuits are ongoing.

Project History Continued

2017

In February, the Board authorizes the Executive Director to seek proposals from engineering firms to provide construction management and inspection services for the project. Four firms submitted SOQs, including Green Mountain Engineering. In April, interviews were conducted by a selection panel comprised of representatives from San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, City of Stockton Public Works, California Department of Water Resources, and SJAFCA. The panel unanimously selects AECOM Technical Services, Inc. to provide construction management services. SJAFCA later sought new construction management proposals and a contract was awarded to KSN, Inc. of Stockton.

The lawsuit filed by the ACPOA is resolved in SJAFCA's favor.

2018

In July 2018, Judge Elizabeth Humphreys issued an order denying all of Mr. Gulli's claims in his CEQA lawsuit, resolving the case in favor of SJAFCA. Total cost to date for defending against Mr. Gulli's multiple lawsuits: \$1.6 million. The source of funding for SJAFCA's share of legal defense costs is property assessment revenues.

2020

Construction is underway. Work began on July 15. Environmental permits only allow for three months of in-water work each year, July 15 through October 15. Due to environmental and other permit conditions, the project will take multiple years to complete.

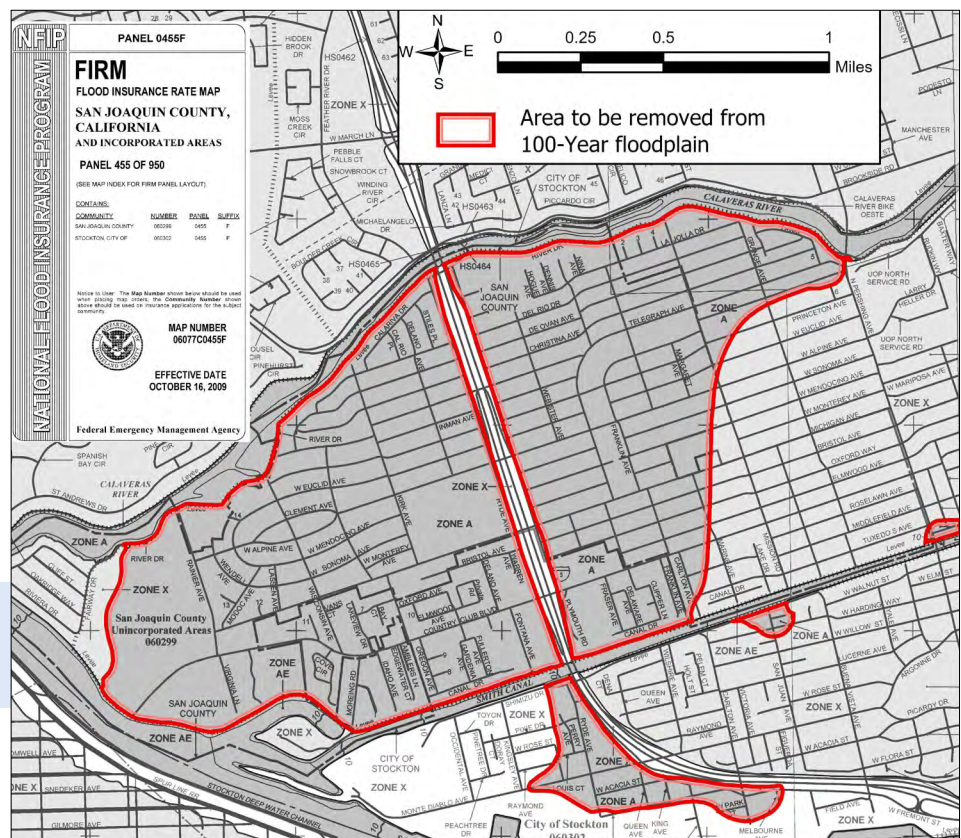
2021-2023

Construction schedules are delayed intermittently due to supply chain logistics and restrictions related to environmental permitting. Project is on track for completion in 2023.

PROJECT WILL END MANDATORY FLOOD INSURANCE

Once SJAFCA completes construction of the Smith Canal Gate, FEMA will "re-map" the Smith Canal area to remove the "high risk" flood zone designation (see map below). This will eliminate mandatory flood insurance requirements and FEMA-related restrictions for approximately 5,000 properties, and prevent approximately 3,000 additional properties from being mapped into a high-risk zone. Property owners will be able to purchase flood insurance at low-risk rates.

Current FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area to be removed once Smith Canal Gate and Wisconsin Pump Station Projects are complete.



Stay Connected

Learn more about SJAFCA's projects and programs by visiting www.sjafca.com, attending Board and community meetings, and contact us with questions and for more information.



SAN JOAQUIN AREA
 FLOOD CONTROL AGENCY

22 East Weber Avenue, Suite 301
 Stockton, CA 95202-2317
 (209) 937-7900

sjafca.com

