



FEMA

December 30, 2009

Mr. Mark Connelly
Assistant District Engineer
San Joaquin Area Flood Control and
Water Conservation District
1810 E. Hazelton Ave
Stockton, California 95205

Dear Mr. Connelly:

This is in reference to the May 1, 2009, letter and data submission to the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regarding certification of levees within San Joaquin County in order to meet the criteria of the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Section 65.10 (44 CFR 65.10). The pertinent information regarding the specific levees is listed below.

Identifier:	Shima Tract Levee Segments (Levee ID No. P379, P378, and P375)
Flooding Source:	San Joaquin Delta
FIRM panel(s) affected:	San Joaquin County 06077C0295F dated October 16, 2009 and the City of Stockton 06077C0315F dated October 16, 2009.

In support of the Shima Tract levee segments certifications the following information was submitted:

1. A community acknowledgement letter signed by James B. Giottonini, Executive Director, San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency, Stockton, California.
2. A report prepared by Kjeldsen, Sinnock and Neudeck Civil Engineers signed by Chistopher Neudeck, P.E., titled: *LOMR Submittal, Reclamation District No. 2115, Shima Tract*.
3. A report prepared by Kleinfelder signed by Carl Henderson, P.E., and Ronald Heinzen, P.E., titled: *Geotechnical Services Report, Levee Evaluation, Shima Tract East and South Levees, San Joaquin County, California*.
4. A report prepared by Kjeldsen, Sinnock and Neudeck Civil Engineers signed by Michael Conrad, P.E., titled: *Interior Drainage Analysis, Reclamation District No. 2115, Shima Tract East*.
5. An Operations and Maintenance Manual prepared by the San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, for the *Reclamation District 2115 (Shima Tract) Dry Land Levee Traversing North to South Between Mosher Slough and Five Mile Slough Just West of Interstate 5*.
6. An Operations and Maintenance Manual prepared by Kjeldsen, Sinnock and Neudeck Civil Engineers, for the *Reclamation District 2115 (Shima Tract) Levee Traversing West to East Between Five Mile Slough Pump Station and the Dry Land Levee Just West of Interstate 5*.

The reports by Kjeldsen, Sinnock and Neudeck were reviewed to verify that FEMA's 44 CFR 65.10 requirements were met. The following is a summary of the review:

1. Freeboard: Analysis and Supporting Documentation was reviewed and found to be in compliance with 44 CFR 65.10(b)(1).
2. Closures: Analysis and Supporting Documentation was reviewed and found to be in compliance with 44 CFR 65.10(b)(2).

The report by Kleinfelder was reviewed to verify that FEMA's 44 CFR 65.10 requirements were met. The following is a summary of the review:

1. Embankment Protection: Analysis and Supporting Documentation was reviewed and found to be in compliance with 44 CFR 65.10(b)(3).
2. Embankment and Foundation Stability: Analysis and Supporting Documentation was reviewed and found to be in compliance with 44 CFR 65.10(b)(4).
3. Settlement: Analysis and Supporting Documentation was reviewed and found to be in compliance with 44 CFR 65.10(b)(5).

The Operation and Maintenance Manuals prepared by the San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and by Kjeldsen, Sinnock and Neudeck Civil Engineers were reviewed to verify that the information required under 44 CFR 65.10 was included as well as the and the maintenance records. The following is a summary of the review:

1. Maintenance Plans and Criteria: Supporting Documentation was reviewed and found to be in compliance with 44 CFR 65.10(d).

All of the above documentation and data, along with the previously submitted documentation, have been reviewed and based on receipt of this information it appears that Shima Tract levee segments P379, P378, and P375, as shown on the enclosed San Joaquin County Levee Status Map, meet the minimum certification criteria outlined in Title 44, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 65.10. Therefore, we plan to continue to accredit this levee system on the new Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) as providing protection from the base flood. The area protected from the base flood by this levee will be mapped as a shaded Zone X and a note will be placed in that area warning of the flood risk that still exists.

Please be advised that levee systems and the estimated level of protection provided by these systems can and do change with time. Future map updates may require the levee system to be certified again at the time of update. Also, design, construction, operation, and/or maintenance documents may be requested at any time. Deviations from the documentation and data submitted to FEMA could result in the levee system no longer being mapped as providing protection from the base flood on future FIRMs. If at any point additional information is provided to FEMA that shows the levee system no longer meets certification criteria as outlined in Title 44, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 65.10, we will contact the levee owner and community about the possibility of de-accrediting the levee system.

Even though we have mapped the referenced levees as providing protection from the 1-percent-annual-chance flood, it is important to note that levees are only designed to provide a specific level of protection.

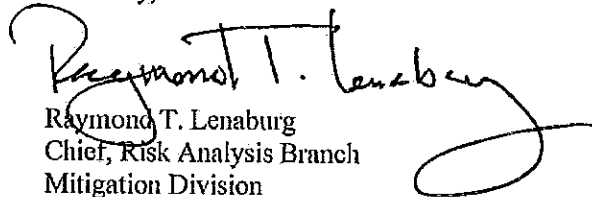
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They can be overtopped or fail in larger flood events. Levee systems require regular maintenance and periodic upgrades to retain their level of protection. When levees do fail, they fail catastrophically, and damage may be more significant than if the levee was not there. Therefore, we encourage you to annually discuss the status and condition of your levees with your governing body.

Everyone should understand the risk to life and property that resides behind levees—risk that even the best flood-control system can not completely eliminate. For these reasons, FEMA encourages people to understand their risk. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) was created to reduce flood damages by identifying flood risks, encouraging sound community floodplain management practices, and providing flood insurance to lessen the financial impact of flooding. Through the NFIP, property owners in participating communities are able to purchase flood insurance that will insure against flood losses. We hope that you will encourage property owners to purchase flood insurance.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Kathleen Schaefer, Senior Engineer by telephone at (510) 627-7129 or by email at kathleen.schaefer@dhs.gov.

Sincerely,


Raymond T. Lenaburg
Chief, Risk Analysis Branch
Mitigation Division

Enclosure: San Joaquin Levee Status Map

Copies Furnished:

Kathleen Schaefer, P.E., CFM, Senior Engineer, Risk Analysis Division, FEMA Region IX
Lisa Messano, Michael Baker Jr., Inc.
Michael Niblock, Community Development Director, City of Stockton
Mark Connelly, Engineering Services Manager, San Joaquin County
Ricardo Pineda, Chief, CA DWR NFIP State Coordinator, Floodplain Management Branch
Judy Soutiere, USACE, Sacramento District
Senator Barbara Boxer, State Office
Representative Jim Costa, District Office
Senator Dianne Feinstein, State Office

