

## Dear Property Owner:

Your property is located behind a State-Federal project levee. According to our records, your property located at \_\_\_\_\_ may be exposed to potential flood risk from the \_\_\_\_\_. Your property may also be at risk for flooding from other sources not identified in this notice, such as creeks and local storm drains.

Visit [www.water.ca.gov/myfloodrisk](http://www.water.ca.gov/myfloodrisk) and enter your property address to find the areas subject to flooding if State-Federal project levees should fail, and to get information on the condition of the levees.

**Be aware of your flood risk and be prepared.** Read this notice for important information about purchasing flood insurance, emergency planning, and protecting your property.

### Consider these facts:

- Local, state, and federal agencies are continuing to improve the State-Federal project levee system. But there will always be some flood risk.
- Levees may reduce, but do not eliminate, the risk of flooding.
- When levees break or overtop, the flooding can be catastrophic.
- One foot of flooding could cause more than \$54,000 in damages to a \$150,000 single family home and its contents; three feet of flooding could cause more than \$93,000 in damages, (Source: CA Department of Water Resources).
- Flood damage is not covered by most standard home and business owners insurance policies.

Please share this important notice with your tenants. If necessary, have it translated.

*Esta notificación contiene información importante. Por favor compártala con sus inquilinos, o tradúzcala si es necesario.*

Para preguntas llame al: **1.877.769.7475**

O visite: [www.water.ca.gov/myfloodrisk](http://www.water.ca.gov/myfloodrisk)



Flood Risk Notification Program  
California Department of Water Resources  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, California 94236-0001



# FLOOD RISK NOTICE 2011

## Living With Levees: Know Your Flood Risk

Be Aware. Be Prepared.  
[www.water.ca.gov/myfloodrisk](http://www.water.ca.gov/myfloodrisk)



Partners with:



FEMA



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

Under State law, DWR is notifying you each year that  
your property is at risk for flooding.



# TAKE ACTION - REDUCE YOUR FLOOD RISK



## BE PREPARED

- Prepare an emergency kit that includes a flashlight, battery-operated radio, extra batteries, candles, matches, first-aid kit, medication, blankets, water, and food.
- Keep important documents and priceless possessions on an upper level of the structure or as high as possible.
- Ask your local officials if they have a flood warning system, evacuation routes, and designated shelters. Many local agency links are available at [www.water.ca.gov/myfloodrisk](http://www.water.ca.gov/myfloodrisk).
- Make a list of items to take with you and have a plan for your pets.
- Know how to shut off your gas and electricity if instructed to do so. Contact your local utility company for detailed instructions.
- Be sure to take your emergency kit and copies of your important documents with you when you evacuate.
- Always listen to authorities for emergency instructions.
- Pick a safe place on high ground where your family can meet and have a telephone call-in number in case you are separated.
- Never try to escape rising floodwater by going into the attic unless you have roof access.
- Never drive through flooded streets or roads; more people die in their vehicles during a flood than anywhere else.<sup>1</sup>
- Stay away from power and electrical lines; electrocution is the second most frequent cause of death during flooding.

# 13

The number of people who died in the 1986 floods.<sup>1</sup>

## BUY FLOOD INSURANCE

- Contact your insurance agent or call the National Flood Insurance Program at 1-888-435-6637; you can also visit [www.water.ca.gov/myfloodrisk](http://www.water.ca.gov/myfloodrisk)
- Flood insurance is a wise investment. Ask your insurance agent if you qualify for a low cost Preferred Risk Policy (PRP) or a Community Rating System (CRS) discount.
- Review your insurance policies annually to be certain that you have the right type and amount of coverage you need.
- Renters can purchase coverage for contents.
- Don't delay! There is usually a 30-day waiting period before flood insurance becomes effective.

## PREVENT PROBLEMS

- Never fill, excavate, landscape, plant, irrigate, modify, or place any improvement on any levee or flood control easement without permits from the appropriate local, state, and federal agencies.
- Always check with your local building, zoning, or permit department to see if a permit is required before you build on, fill, alter, or re-grade your property.
- Keep trash, branches, and grass clippings away from levees, channels, basins, ditches, gutters, and storm drain inlets. A blockage can back up water onto your property.
- Contact your local officials if you see unauthorized dumping, filling, construction, or debris in your ditches or basins.

## PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY

- Order FEMA's free Homeowner Guide to Retrofitting: *Six Ways to Protect your House from Flooding (FEMA P-312)* by calling 1-800-480-2520 or visiting [www.water.ca.gov/myfloodrisk](http://www.water.ca.gov/myfloodrisk).
- If your building has a crawlspace or is built on foundation piers or pilings, elevate the building so the first floor is above potential flood levels.
- If your existing building is on a slab foundation and subject to less than three feet of flooding, consider a low floodwall, berm or "dry floodproofing" (example: make the walls water tight and close all openings when a flood comes).
- For a garage or crawlspace, consider "wet floodproofing" (example: move all items out of harm's way, so water can flow in without causing damage).
- If you cannot protect the building, protect valuable contents. Relocate your furnace, water heater, and electric panel above the potential flood level.
- Financial assistance may be available for retrofitting. To get more information on sources of financial assistance for which you may be eligible go to [www.water.ca.gov/myfloodrisk](http://www.water.ca.gov/myfloodrisk).

### For More Information/Questions

[www.water.ca.gov/myfloodrisk](http://www.water.ca.gov/myfloodrisk)

[myfloodrisk@water.ca.gov](mailto:myfloodrisk@water.ca.gov)

1-877-7MY-RISK (1-877-769-7475)

TTY: 711 (Contact 1-877-769-7475)

# 70+

The number of times Central Valley State-Federal project levees have been breached or overtopped since 1983.<sup>1</sup>

# \$2.6

Billion in damages caused by the 1997 floods.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Sources = Office of Emergency Services (OES), Origins and Development – A Chronology 1917 – 2010 and OES After Action Reports; FEMA: California Disaster History, State of California Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, October 2010; USGS Earthquake Hazards Program, Deaths from US Earthquakes; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) Storm Data Annual Summaries; Geotechnical Assessment Report, North Non-Urban Levee Evaluations (NULE) Project, Final Report of the Flood Emergency Action Team (FEAT), Post-Flood Assessment for 1983, 1986, 1995, and 1997; CA DWR

1. True 2. True 3. True



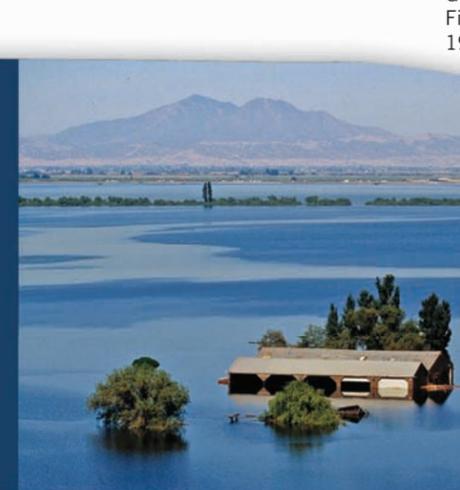
### 1. True or False?

Even if a levee is designed for the FEMA standard of a 1% annual chance flood, there is a 1-in-4 chance of a larger flood occurring within any 30-year period.<sup>1</sup>



### 2. True or False?

From 1960 to 2005, more Californians died during flood disasters than during earthquakes.<sup>1</sup>



### 3. True or False?

For many Central Valley homes, the risk of flood damage is greater than the risk of fire damage over the life of a 30-year mortgage.<sup>1</sup>

