

Who Will Operate and Maintain Sutter County's Rehabilitated Feather River Levees?

Since the 1986 flood scare, the Sutter County Taxpayers Association (SCTA) has been at the forefront in pushing to fix our levees to protect citizens and property.

The Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency (SBFCA) was formed in 2007 comprised of Sutter and Butte counties, the cities of Biggs, Gridley, Live Oak and Yuba City, and Levee Districts 1 and 9.

SCTA supported the 2010 assessment to increase flood protection in return for assurance that a citizens oversight committee be formed to monitor SBFCA's financial actions and provide citizens information on the project. The Citizens Assessment District Advisory Committee (CADAC) was formed in 2010 with each of the 13 SBFCA board members appointing one person.

Recently it has become apparent that SBFCA staff would like to reduce CADAC's ability to obtain information concerning SBFCA actions by falsifying information on CADAC's activities resulting in the removal of two active CADAC members and supporting an illegal vote to elect an ineligible CADAC chairman at an improperly noticed meeting.

SCTA has heard and believes that SBFCA staff are working behind the scenes to give Levee District 1 the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) responsibility for the entire Sutter County stretch of rehabilitated levee once work is complete.

Levee District 1 Board members are Al Montna, Francis Silva and Charlie Hoppin. Jon Munger works for Al Montna and is the person illegally elected chair of CADAC at its illegal April meeting.

Another indicator is LD 1's plan to enroll in a 457 plan where employees can put extra money for retirement presented at the March and April LD 1 Board meetings. The district currently has only three workers, so why the need for a 457 plan unless they will be hiring more employees?

Past LD 1 actions of concern:

- LD 1 violated CalPERS rules by not requiring its former general manager, Bill Hampton, to be reinstated to CalPERS while employed by LD 1 from 1996 to 2015.
- LD 1 did not fix an extremely dangerous situation near Boyd's Pump south of Yuba City for over a year and a half.
- High assessment costs charged by LD 1 when other levee agencies charge far less.
- Liability -- are Sutter County property owners required to accept liability for future flooding?

The public deserves an open and thorough discussion, addressing options, costs and liability of the Operation and Maintenance plan.

Pat Miller, President
Sutter County Taxpayers Association