

# Reclamation District No. 1607

VAN SICKLE ISLAND-SOLANO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

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January 5, 2022

To All Landowners, members and Guests on Van Sickle Island

The last round of King Tides starting on New Year's Eve and running through Monday were about all we could handle on our Sacramento Levee. The highest tide only reached 7.13 on Monday and we were lucky it wasn't higher. As I was out on the levee on each of the king tide days, it is my opinion that we were lucky that the barometer went up before the Saturday and Sunday high tides occurred. If the barometer had dropped instead, we could have had severe levee problems. I am fearful that we will be facing more and higher tides along with more significant wind events as the winter progresses.



After the cyclone-atmospheric rain storm hit us back on October 24 with a 7.41 tide, we did our best to protect the damaged spots east of the sheet pile with plastic and fabric as we waited for Dutra to come out with enough rip rap to seal off our summer repairs. Unfortunately, that storm did damage to our recently repaired sections which hadn't had a chance to harden before the rain came. After the October event, we identified 5 areas on the Sacramento River levee that had suffered damage. Knowing that we would likely get higher tides in December through January, we placed plastic and fabric on the most severely damaged spot to protect it.

In addition, with donated dirt material from the Concord Club, I also had Wetland construction create a 150foot berm to protect the levee east of channel buoy 33. Water was leaking through the rip rap there and was causing the inside edge of the levee to diminish. Unfortunately, because of wet conditions, we could not bring equipment out to work on the other spots.

Dutra finally arrived by barge to place rip rap on our unprotected repairs on Tuesday December 28. Unfortunately, there was no dirt material available at the time and we proceeded to have rip rap placed at our most vulnerable spots. The process went slowly and approximately 40 tons of the 224ton load had to be offloaded on a stockpile site due to the inability of the crane to offload the balance of material before low tide made it impossible to reach. We will have to haul that rip rap with land-based equipment when the levees dry out next spring or summer.



After surveying the worst spots after December 31st's high tide, I was able to determine the best places to lay 300 feet of aqua dams for protection. These dams were very effective in reducing the amount of water running over the levee on the next three high tides that occurred. However, the aquadams are only capable of holding back about 13 inches of water before they become buoyant. At the 7.13 high tide on Monday, we were

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just about at our max on the worst spot. For reference, the high tide during the 2017 floods peaked around 8.4 and continually hovered around 8 feet at each high tide for over a month. My concern is that if and when we get a tide at 7.3 or above, water could pass over and under the aquadams; If this should occur the aquadams could roll off of the levee and we could suffer a break.

It is clear to me that we have a lot of work to do to get our levees to a safe condition but there is not much we can do now in the winter season and with our budget depleted.

Every year I warn landowners to keep an eye on the tides and storms since our fragile levees could break at any time; This notice satisfies that obligation. If a failure should occur, the District will do its best to notify a contact from each club of an emergency but it is not always possible to do so in to save lives or property. By looking at a tide book you can identify the upcoming high tides but that isn't a guarantee that damaging high tides won't occur on other dates. Therefore, be warned. Those of you who have equipment, quads, trailers, and RV's should be aware that a flood could occur at any time and that the District may not be able to warn you in advance of a flood. If you lease blinds to tenants with RV's or trailers, it is YOUR responsibility to warn them that they are storing their equipment below river water levels and that there is ALWAYS a risk of flooding. Your safety and the safety of your guests and property are your responsibility.



As the roads are becoming muddy with each rain storm, please do not drive street vehicles on them. Those of you who have large and heavy quads, please be mindful that your machine may do as much damage as a pickup truck when the earthen levees are wet. The levee on the Sacramento River is impassible so please stay off. I am hoping we will get through the winter without further damage or flooding but we are now at the mercy of the tides and the weather.

I am posting some pictures and videos in a folder on my dropbox account which you can view by clicking on the link below.

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/omy0hro7f61hkm3/AABQ10ogMjkAm4a2AfHtG0C\\_a?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/omy0hro7f61hkm3/AABQ10ogMjkAm4a2AfHtG0C_a?dl=0)

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