

Reclamation District No. 1607

VAN SICKLE ISLAND-SOLANO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

12.19.2023

To All Landowners:
Here is the latest information.

Our levee project to place the balance of offloaded material into our worst spots has been stalled by the ongoing rain. It is too wet and slippery for the equipment to continue until we get a few days of break in the rain to allow the levee to dry out a bit. Most of the worst spots on the east end of the Sacramento River levee have been raised. Unfortunately, we need one more day of dry working weather to finish there. Once that is done our hope is to move some of the stockpiled rip rap to the western breaksite repair but that will depend on how dry the levee gets. All of the known beaver dens on the Sacramento were filled and there were at least 8. Also, we were able to patch the damage on the honker bay levee and we will have to cover the outer face with plastic and sandbags before the winds come from the west.

We are certainly not out of the woods. We still have several narrow stretches of levee on the Sacramento River. The western break site has settled since the breach was sealed back in September. There is about 300 feet that needs plastic and sandbags before we start getting higher tides. We were hoping to place the rip rap first because the equipment cannot move over the plastic. If we are not able to move the rip rap soon I will reach out to the landowners for another sandbagging event with volunteer labor. Our first round of high tides will be this holiday weekend and they will be increasing each day this week until peaking on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The next high tide series will peak around January 10. I will start placing plastic before this weekend If we are not going to be moving the rip rap. Most likely we would do a major sandbagging party during the last week of December or the first week of January. We will use material on the back side of the levee crown to fill the bags so we won't have to move them too far but we will need to fill a lot of them in a short amount of time.

We still have not heard from FEMA regarding our request for funding but we haven't heard that our request has been denied either. We have again requested further funding from the State of California.

I will be mailing out the first quarter assessments on December 27. Please pay them asap as we are extremely short of cash. We are close to reaching (or we have reached) our budgeted pumping amount so additional rain will continue to cause our ponds to start rising again. From Monday to Tuesday the ponds on the south side of the island went up about 1 inch. I expect that last night's rain raised them another inch. Our levee repairs are more important than our pumping so if you would like to donate to additional pumping let a board member know. Otherwise please don't ask me to turn on the pumps because I don't have the funds to do that and it is not my decision.

As always, this time of year I am warning that the dirt levees are unsafe to drive on so please don't try driving on them with anything other than a lightweight atv. You are responsible for your own decisions on where you drive and where you park. The island repairs are not completed and not tested so a levee failure can occur at any time. There may not be time to warn you of a failure if one occurs so plan for the worst and I will do my best to reach out if there is a failure.