

West Sacramento Flood Protection

Do You Have Flood Insurance?

The city of West Sacramento is concerned about the safety and well being of its citizens and the property they own. This includes providing information about emergency planning measures. Because West Sacramento is surrounded on three sides by water it is only prudent to plan for a water-related emergency such as a flood. Therefore, those who live and/or own property in West Sacramento should plan accordingly. This should include the purchase of flood insurance. The city's levees have proven to be strong and a process is in place to make them stronger. However, no matter what level of flood protection is built, there could be a storm some day that could cause a flood. **BE PREPARED!!!**

The federal government is reevaluating all Flood Insurance Rate Maps in the country and applying more rigorous and conservative criteria and assumptions than were used when the city was certified as having 100+ year protection in 1995. Most levees in the Sacramento Valley will have problems meeting these criteria and assumptions. There is the potential for West Sacramento to be re-mapped into a flood plain designation within the next two years. If remapped into a flood plain, you may be **REQUIRED** to get flood insurance. Although the rules may change, **if you buy flood insurance now, before it is required, you will likely get it for less money than if you are required to have it.**

The city's levees have provided flood protection for nearly 100 years, and have survived two significant high water events within the last 20 years. The levees are in the best condition they have ever been. The city of West Sacramento and its flood protection partners have begun design of significant improvement work to take West Sacramento to a 200 year level of flood protection, taking into account the more conservative assumptions now being applied.

Buying flood insurance now not only protects you in the event of a flood but could save many people money if the city is re-mapped as not having 100 year protection and mandatory flood insurance is required. Living near water has its advantages and its risks. You can lessen any impacts by having flood insurance.

For further information, contact your property insurance agent or the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), (888) 379-9531. Residents can also watch cable channel 20 for an NFIP presentation on the impact of flood insurance rate map changes and the importance of flood insurance to local property owners, Sundays, 5 p.m. or Mondays, 7 p.m.

West Sacramento Levee Improvements Program

Environmental Impacts—How Are They Evaluated?

Under state law, every major project has to have its impacts on the environment evaluated. If possible, measures have to be taken to lessen those impacts. This also applies to projects that are designed to improve the safety and well being of the community, as are the levee improvement projects. Therefore, as part of improving the levees and increasing the city's flood protection, the West Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (WSAFCA) and the city of West Sacramento (City) are working together to comply with environmental laws for the West Sacramento Levee Improvements Program (Program).

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) sets the standards for environmental review. If the federal government is providing any financial assistance, then a federal governmental review is also required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The City, WSAFCA and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) will collaborate on the project, thereby requiring environmental review. For a project of this magnitude, the highest level of review under state and federal standards is required. This is a full Environmental Impact Report and Statement which complies with both state and federal government requirements. In the near future, a draft of this document will be completed and all interested parties, including the public, will be asked to review and submit comments.

The environmental review will take into consideration how constructing levee improvements will affect the full range of environmental resources, including soils and minerals, transportation, air quality and noise, wildlife, housing, public health, environmental hazards, and socio-economic impacts. In areas where impacts to these resources may be significant, the report will propose measures to lessen impacts. The report would ultimately assist in determining which type of treatment is best for each levee segment needing improvement.

For the latest information on the West Sacramento Levee Improvements Program, go to www.westsacfloodingprotection.com.

Flood Protection: West Sacramento Levee Erosion Repairs

As part of an ongoing repair program, the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the State Department of Water Resources have identified two sites in West Sacramento to be repaired under the Sacramento Bank Protection Program.



One site (site A) for repair is located on the right bank of the Sacramento River just downstream from the start of the deep water ship channel. There are no structures or utilities in the area. The repairs will be on the toe and lower bank of the site on the inside of a bend in the river. This site was added to the site repair inventory in 2007 due to the steep levee slope and cobble slippage.

The repair alternatives for this site are still being evaluated. Options include a setback levee, or a large stability berm just above the average summer water level for stability. Habitat mitigation and soil filled armor up the slope will also be included to prevent bank erosion.

The second site is located on the right bank of the Sacramento River south of Davis Road in West Sacramento (site B). This site was added to the inventory of sites to repair in 2001 due to the presence of large trees located on a minimal berm and concern with erosion. This is a site located on the inside of a sharp bend in the river. It is an area of heavy recreational boating. There are no structures or utilities in the area. The repairs will take place along the bank and toe this summer.

The repairs are needed to counter erosion that occurs as a result of strong currents during high water conditions. This is more of an issue here because the river narrows at this location. The work on this site will consist of building a low stability berm (riparian bench) along the lower slope.