

**SCTA POSITION RE
SPECIAL BENEFIT ASSESSMENT DISTRICT
TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR LEVEE DISTRICTS 1 AND 9**

The Sutter County Taxpayers Association is opposed to the formation of a Special Benefit Assessment District by LD 1 and LD 9 and strongly supports having the State Department of Water Resources maintain the entire West Feather River levee system for the following reasons.

- **Rivers belong to Federal government** which has delegated responsibility to the state.
- State is in the process of trying to put more **RESPONSIBILITY** and **LIABILITY** on local maintenance districts through the OMRR&Rs. If something tragic happens in any of the local maintenance districts, the financial and liability charge would fall on Sutter County taxpayers and not the state.
- The **STATE** built Oroville Dam to transport Feather River water from northern California to southern California and the **STATE** should be responsible for maintaining the conveyance including maintaining the levees and removing silt and vegetation from the water channel.
- The west levee of the Feather River is currently maintained by (starting at the Oroville After Bay and going south):
 - State Maintenance Areas 7 and 16 from Oroville After Bay south to just south of Bishop Avenue (south of Live Oak) – 16.76 miles
 - LD 9 from just south of Bishop Avenue to Pease Road – 6.2 miles
 - LD 1 from Pease Road to Marcuse Avenue – 16.11 miles
 - State Maintenance Area 3 from Marcuse Avenue to confluence of Sutter Bypass – 5.11 miles
 - Reclamation District 1001 in south part of the county near Nicolas – Feather River mileage unknown

- Much of the Feather River west levee system is currently maintained by State Maintenance Districts which, we believe, operate at less cost than LD 1 and LD 9.
- The boards of LD 1 and LD 9 are 3-person boards. The boards should be 5 to 7 **ELECTED** board members, not appointed and controlled by major landowners with little or no public input.
- **Over 20 feet of SILT** in Feather River bed as a result of the high-water levels in 2017. The silt needs to be removed by DWR. Fish don't spawn in silt!
- LD 1 owes CalPERS \$61,000 for Bill Hampton's mismanagement – where was the LD 1 board oversight of its manager?
- SBFCA has obligated \$250,000 of our assessment money to help LD 1 and LD 9 form a Special Benefit Assessment District to expand the benefit area of both districts and to hold a Prop. 218 election to raise property taxes with repayment to SBFCA only if the 218 assessment is successful!
- In 2010, property owners in Sutter and Butte Counties voted an assessment on themselves to fix the Feather River West Levee. We have paid on that assessment for almost nine years and will be paying on it for 24 more years. Property owners do not need to pay additional taxes for maintenance of the West Feather River levee.
- SCTA was supportive of the assessment in 2010 to repair and strengthen our levees in exchange for a promise that a citizens advisory committee would be formed -- which it was, initially. However, the **Citizens Assessment District Advisory Committee was shut down in 2017** by the SBFCA board. This action raises major trust concerns of government agencies.

Again, the Sutter County Taxpayers Association opposes formation of a Special Benefit Assessment District and strongly supports having the State Department of Water Resources maintain the entire West Feather River levee system.