



FEMA

December 10, 2009

Jeffrey D. Conway
Reclamation District No. 800
P.O. Box 262
Byron, CA 94514

Dear Mr. Conway:

This letter is in reference to the review of the certification package submitted July 23, 2009, for the Byron Tract levee system around Reclamation District No. 800. This levee system has been previously identified with the following numbers: P107, P108, P109, P110, P480, P481, P504, P507, P69, and P413.

This documentation and data have been reviewed and based on receipt of this information the minimum certification criteria outlined in Title 44, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 65.10, have been met for the levee system within the Byron Tract. Therefore, we plan to fully accredit this levee system on FIRM numbers 06013C0386F, 06013C0388F, 06013C0390F, and 06013C0530F, dated June 16, 2009, as providing protection from the 1-percent annual chance (base) flood. The area provided protection from the base flood by the levee will continue to be mapped as a shaded Zone X and an updated note will be placed in that area warning of the flood risk that exists. Areas impacted by internal drainage may be mapped as a special flood hazard area. Please be advised that if additional, new, or updated information regarding the performance or condition of this levee becomes available, FEMA may re-evaluate the hazard depicted on the effective FIRM.

Map updates in the future may require the levee system to be certified at that time. Design, construction, operation, and/or maintenance documents may be requested at any time. Deviations from the documentation and data submitted to FEMA could result in the levee system no longer being mapped as providing protection from the base flood on a future FIRM. If at any point additional information is provided to FEMA that shows the levee system no longer meets certification criteria as outlined in Title 44, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 65.10, FEMA will contact the levee owner and community about possibly de-accrediting the levee.

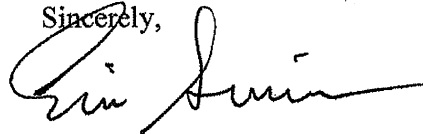
While FEMA may map the referenced levee as providing protection from the 1-percent-annual-chance flood, it is important to note that levees are only designed to provide a specific level of protection. They can be overtopped or fail in larger flood events. Levee systems require regular maintenance and periodic upgrades to retain their level of protection. When levees do fail, they fail catastrophically, and damage may be more significant than if the levee was not there.

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Everyone should understand the risk to life and property that resides behind levees – risk that even the best flood-control system cannot completely eliminate. For these reasons, FEMA encourages people to understand their risk. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) was created to reduce flood damages by identifying flood risks, encouraging sound community floodplain management practices, and providing flood insurance to lessen the financial impact of flood damage. Through the NFIP, property owners in participating communities are able to insure against flood losses.

If you have any questions regarding this matter or flood hazard mapping in general, please contact me by telephone at (510) 627-7029 or by email at eric.simmons@dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Simmons", written over a horizontal line.

Eric Simmons, Senior Engineer
Mitigation Division

cc: Rich Lierly, Floodplain/Watershed Manager, Contra Costa County Public Works
Jason Tokheim, Kjeldsen, Sinnock & Neudeck, Inc.
Ricardo Pineda, CA Department of Water Resources, NFIP State Coordinator