

## **RD 1614.**

**Annual Town Hall Meeting 9/20/17**

**Public Comments Agenda Item 3 Wisconsin Pump Station**

**Posted on Savedads.org, Downloads RD 1614**

It is my professional opinion that the flood plain in the Country Club area is due to the Wisconsin Pump Station. NOT the levees. If the power were to go out during a 100 year flood it is not a question of if the area will flood it is a question of how far will the flood waters travel? The answer depends on how long it takes to get the pumps running again.

Being a Tract like an Island, there is one, and only one "low spot on the island" which is at the Wisconsin Pump. If the entire area were to lose power, Say all the Way to UOP, ALL the pump stations that back up would also flow toward the Wisconsin Pump Station, including the MEGA Pump Station at Yosemite Lake, which is outside of the District. In fact, this scenario is what is likely reflected on the FEMA Flood Map. SJAFCA has been told this.

The problem is further complicated by the Fact that if the water starts to back up you will not be able to readily access the site and must use the Calaveras River Levee. It is possible that the pumps become inundated and will not be capable of operating even with backup power.

This RD is attempting, with very little success, to obtain "free" money to pay for their responsibility. Why should my tax dollars be spent on pumping your water? They have enough money in the bank to Fix the problem. Hopefully they don't have to use it to pay off damages for flooding. A Reclamation District has an obligation to spend money when it is needed, having a surplus of funds that could have been used to avoid a flood is just NEGLIGENT.

The Wisconsin Pump Station needs to be fixed ASAP, with backup power onsite and ready to go. A Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) then can be submitted to FEMA. The Data to Certify the levees to CFR 65.10 is available if FEMA request such.

My company submitted a proposal to fix or replace the pumps. It was ignored because the District "wants to build a brand-new pump station" with free money. The proposal is available for viewing on my website "SAVEDADSPPOINT.ORG"

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under the RD 1614 downloads tab. If your District cannot get it done I CAN. By Christmas.

The District is neglecting their Reclamation Duties by not providing a reliable pumping Plant. These are people's homes that are at Risk, not corn or silage.

The District is waiting for SJAFCA to get the Smith Canal Gate built and then fix the Wisconsin pump station under the premise that they can get the area completely out of the flood plain. I have told them that fixing the pump station, with backup power on site, alone can get the area remapped. See comments to SJAFCA on 9/11/17 meeting video described below.

Your flood insurance rates are extremely high because of the "community determine flood stage" that is required in Box B9 of the Flood Certificate. SJAFCA provided the INCORRECT Determination as Elevation 9.6 ft. which results in very deep flooding and high insurance rates. I provided an elevation certificate based on the contour of the line of Demarcation of the flood plain on the FEMA Map as Elevation 4.8. The elevation certificate, and subsequent Letter of Map Revision likely greatly reduced Stefanie Garcia's Insurance Rates.

The Smith Canal Gate is a boondoggle, exactly like The Twin Tunnels. As the Paper today revealed after spending over \$200,000,000 on planning and studies, finally when asked to pay for it The FARMERS at Westland's Water District OVERWHELMING opposed funding the project (7-1) because as one Trustee stated "once we commit to the project the only sure thing is that we have to pay the bonds"

SJAFCA is spending \$1,500,000, of your money, per year, planning and designing the Gate. They have hired a consultant who is currently shopping for a \$20,000,000 bond to fund the Gate for you to Pay off. I doubt you will vote for when you completely understand my side of the story.

Who am I? I am a District Engineer for 7 Reclamation Districts in the Delta and an expert in Marine Construction. I was the engineer for RD 828 on the south side of the Smith Canal. When I started pointing out the issues with the Gate I was replaced. Since that point I feel compelled to stick up for the public and have done everything possible to provide a better solution, including an alternate design that would provide ULDC levee compliance, CEQA comments, Value Engineering proposals for certification of the levees and even a lawsuit representing myself for



the benefit of you all. If any of you feel that you want the Gate and I should drop my lawsuit, please call me and tell me why.

I did not pick this Battle it Picked Me.

they have yet to apply for permits, obtain any Right of Way and begin the o through the Federal National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). They have a long way to go and more funding WILL be needed.

Please don't be angry at these people. We all make mistakes. Chris Neudeck is an Excellent Engineer who provided unfathomable amounts of work to appease FEMA in 2009. We need him in San Joaquin County. Mr. Schroeder is a good attorney who knows water and levee law and you want people like that running your District. They are not a dime a dozen.

The ones that should be held accountable are SJAFCA. They are plagued with misinformation and have taken on the alter ego of unqualified consultants. They have yet to apply for permits, obtain any Right of Way and begin the go through the Federal National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) process. They have a long way to go and more funding WILL be needed. They will be back for another Prop 218 election to get into your pockets.

Thankfully SJAFCA needs a new Executive Director. Ben Carson, who was in my opinion the best candidate for president, says in his books that we need doctors, engineers, teachers etc. to start getting into public office. That is why I am trying to become the next Executive Director of SJAFCA.

What can you do? Complain to the right people and provide solutions.

### SJAFCA Meeting on 9/11/17.

The San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency (SJAFCA) was informed at the public meeting on 9/11/17 that the Smith Canal Gate will not remove the Country Club Area from the FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area. To do so the Wisconsin Pump Station deficiencies must be addressed. The relevant portion of the video is on SJAFCA's website at "meetings 9/11/17" at minutes 54:39 to 59:15 of the video.

SJAFCA will be hiring a new Executive Director soon and a local levee Engineer informed SJAFCA that he would like to be given a fair opportunity to be considered. This portion of the video is shown at 2:20 to 3:50. It is interesting to see the reaction of the Engineers sitting behind and to the right of the local levee Engineer who seem to think it is rather amusing for him to be considered. It is sad that they are also the ones who made the mistake about needing the Smith Canal Gate. They don't appear to be amused at the comments made about the Flood Plane and Water Quality issues at minutes 54:39 to 59:15.

Enclosed are the comments I submitted to SJAFCA on 9/11/17. They will not take any action or address the issues so stated. They are under the misconception that the Smith Canal Gate is the only solution to flood control. It is not a solution at all and will cause the water level in the Smith Canal to become higher than the San Joaquin River because of all the storm water that is pumped in and the restricted-out flow caused by the Dam and Gate.

*Dan Gulli*





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Attn: Board of Directors  
Written Public Comments for Public meeting

### Flood mapping

The Current FEMA Flood map for the Smith Canal Levees shows the area as **protected by provisionally accredited levees**. One might ask, why then is the area shown a special flood hazard? The answer is that the storm drainage pump stations cannot pump the 100-year storm fast enough and street flooding can occur as reflected on the map.

Building a Gate to provide levee accreditation will not fix this issue and doing so will mean that the flood hazard zone will stay the same once the levees are officially reaccredited.

Our county uses a SJAFCA study for the Base Flood Elevation of the 100-year storm stage in the San Joaquin River. This is based, as if the levees are Disaccredited, yet they are accredited at this time. The people of Stockton are required to pay much higher flood insurance based on deep flood depths compared to shallow street flooding.

It has been 7 years since FEMA threatened to disaccredit the levees. One might ask themselves, why haven't they? The answer could be that they do not have the right to do so. Why should a private levee owner have to resubmit data they already submitted? What is wrong with the information they have. Do we know what information FEMA has on file for the levees?

### Water Quality

The inlet of the San Joaquin River at Atherton Cove is 800 ft. across and will be reduced by 1/16 to 50ft by the Smith Canal Gate. The Environmental Impact Report, that SJAFCA approved, stated that there would be absolutely no impact to the amount of water that flows into and out of Smith Canal and hence there would be no impact to water quality or storm discharges.

The 65% plans for the Smith Canal Gate indicate that 5 each 48 inch "tidal culverts" will be installed through the Dam.

One should ask themselves why put in culverts if there is no effect on water flow?  
Are these culverts large enough to maintain the original amount of flow?  
What effect does this have on water quality and storm discharges?  
Was there something incorrect with the EIR hydrodynamic data?

Executive Director Position

Recruitment process.

The last recruitment process for an executive director was non-existent. Please do not do it again. Further any recruitment process should be clearly specified and approved by the board before any decision is made for the next Executive Director Position.

With the City of Manteca and Lathrop likely joining into the SJAFCA and the complex issues of flood control the Executive Director of the San Joaquin Area Flood Control District will be the most critical public works position in the county.

I Dominick Gulli would like to be given a fair opportunity to be considered for this position and demonstrate that I am the best candidate.

Respectfully

Dominick Gulli,

FEMA FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP  
SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY PANEL 455 OF 950  
OCTOBER 16 2009

NOTE: **THIS AREA** IS SHOWN AS BEING PROTECTED FROM THE 1-PERCENT-ANNUAL-CHANCE OR GREATER FLOOD HAZARD BY A LEVEE SYSTEM THAT **HAS BEEN PROVISIONALLY ACCREDITED**. OVERTOPPING OR FAILURE OF ANY LEVEE SYSTEM IS POSSIBLE. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, SEE THE PROVISIONALLY ACCREDITED LEVEE NOTE IN NOTES TO USERS.

PROVISIONALLY ACCREDITED LEVEE NOTES TO USERS (CHECK WITH YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION SUCH AS THE ESTIMATED LEVEL OF PROTECTION PROVIDED (WHICH MAY EXCEED THE 1-PERCENT-ANNUAL-CHANCE LEVEL) AND EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN ON THE LEVEE SYSTEM(S) SHOWN AS PROVIDING PROTECTION FOR AREAS ON THIS PANEL). TO MAINTAIN ACCREDITATION, THE LEVEE OWNER OR COMMUNITY IS REQUIRED TO SUBMIT THE DATA AND DOCUMENTATION NECESSARY TO COMPLY WITH SECTION 65.10 OF THE NFIP REGULATIONS BY AUGUST 23, 2009 FOR THE FOURTEENMILE SLOUGH LEVEE (EAST OF INTERSTATE 5) AND THE ROUGH AND READY ISLAND LEVEE AUGUST 23, 2010 FOR LEVEE P452 (ALONG THE NORTHWEST BOUNDARY OF RECLAMATION DISTRICT 404); AND MARCH 30, 2010 FOR ALL OTHER LEVEES. IF THE COMMUNITY OR OWNER DOES NOT PROVIDE THE NECESSARY DATA AND DOCUMENTATION OR IF THE DATA AND DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED INDICATE THE LEVEE SYSTEM DOES NOT COMPLY WITH SECTION 65.10 REQUIREMENTS, FEMA WILL REVISE THE FLOOD HAZARD AND RISK INFORMATION FOR THIS AREA TO REFLECT DEACCREDITATION OF THE LEVEE SYSTEM. TO MITIGATE FLOOD RISK IN RESIDUAL RISK AREAS, PROPERTY OWNERS AND RESIDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONSIDER FLOOD INSURANCE AND FLOODPROOFING OR OTHER PROTECTIVE MEASURES. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON FLOOD INSURANCE, INTERESTED PARTIES SHOULD VISIT THE FEMA WEBSITE.