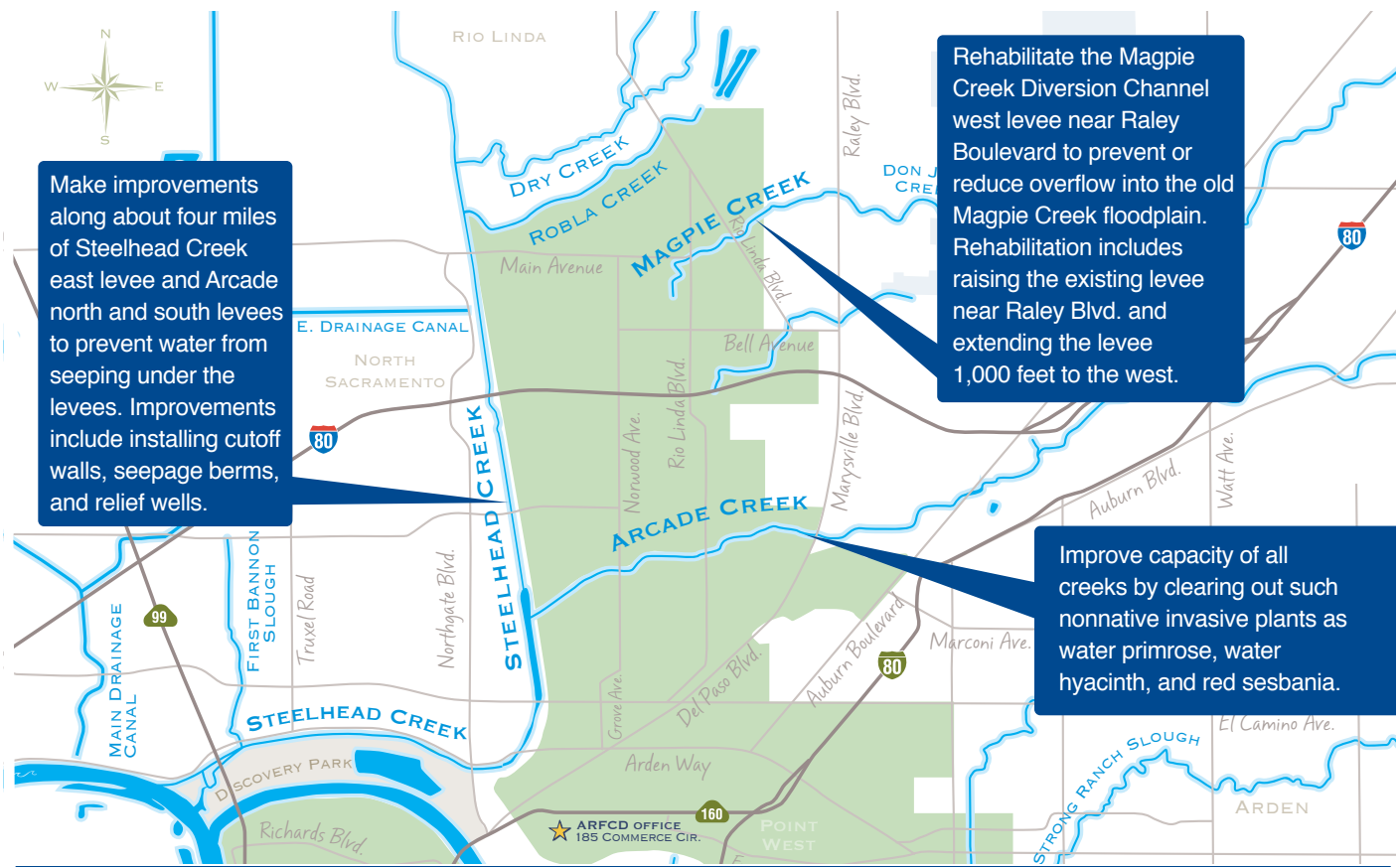


## North Sacramento Streams Flood Control Project

NOW THAT REINFORCEMENT WORK ON THE AMERICAN RIVER LEVEES IS COMPLETE, the focus is turning to the levees along five North Sacramento creeks: Steelhead, Dry, Robla, Arcade, and Magpie. The creeks run through populated urban areas and flow together at Steelhead Creek. During flood conditions, Steelhead Creek feeds into the American River at Discovery Park. The joint project of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, State of California, and Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency is based on engineering studies that evaluated how well the creek levees would contain flood waters.

The North Sacramento Streams flood control improvements will bring the levees up to the more stringent federal levee accreditation standards enacted after the Hurricane Katrina levee failures. Once the project is complete, the American River Flood Control District will maintain the improved levees. In addition to offering better flood protection, accredited levees make it possible for property owners in flood-risk zones to purchase less expensive flood insurance.

### Levee improvements include



## Help us keep flood insurance rates low

Flood insurance rates depend on levees being maintained to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) accreditation standards.

We're asking for your help in meeting the tougher FEMA-accreditation standards that came about after Hurricane Katrina levee failures exposed vulnerabilities. Specifically, we need your help to meet requirements to keep the levee tops, side slopes, and footings free of obstructions, which means:

- Levee tops, side slopes, and footings must be left undisturbed and kept clear for inspection and maintenance.
- Levees should not contain any residential or commercial structures, including buildings, fences, retaining walls, steps, or other structures.
- Levees should not contain landscaping plants or gardens.

We recognize that federal standards have changed and that some levee obstructions have been in place for years. That's why we're asking for your help in returning the levees to the safe condition required.

### For more information

Contact us at (916) 929-4006 or [info@arfed.org](mailto:info@arfed.org) to learn more.

# Why flood insurance makes smart sense

January's massive storms took many by surprise, especially after years of drought. The record-breaking rainfall also brought back memories of historic floods. Past floods include the January 1997 flood that came about after our area received as much 24 inches of rain in less than a week.

## 100-Year flood myth

Levees are built to protect against a "100-year flood," a term many people think refers to a big flood that will happen no more than once every 100 years. What the term really means is that every year there's a 1-in-100 chance of experiencing the type of flood FEMA-accredited levees are built to withstand. It's worth noting that parts of Illinois were hit by five 100-year floods between 2004 and 2013, including two in one year. And between April and August 2016, the U.S. experienced four massive 1000-year floods—or floods with only a 1-in-1000 chance of happening each year.

## What you can do

Extreme rain events are on the rise around the world, and the amount of rain they bring is also increasing. You can't stop the rain, but you can buy flood insurance. Since most policies include a 30-day waiting period before insurance becomes effective, it's wise to buy long before you think you might need it.

## Learn more

Flood insurance is available through the government-sponsored National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Visit our website at [arfed.org/flood\\_insurance.php](http://arfed.org/flood_insurance.php) to see a Sacramento flood-risk map and [floodsmart.gov](http://floodsmart.gov) for information on lower rates available through the NFIP.



*This image shows the H Street bridge near CSU Sacramento during a 1940 flood. The aerial photo looks east along Fair Oaks Boulevard to Howe Avenue.*

Courtesy of the Center for Sacramento History, Sacramento Bee Collection, SBPM5657

# American River Flood Control District





## New facility improves efficiency

We recently moved into our own warehouse-style building, bringing all operations—equipment garage, repair shop, warehouse, and offices—under one roof. The new headquarters is designed with functionality in mind and located less than a quarter of a mile from one of the levees we maintain.



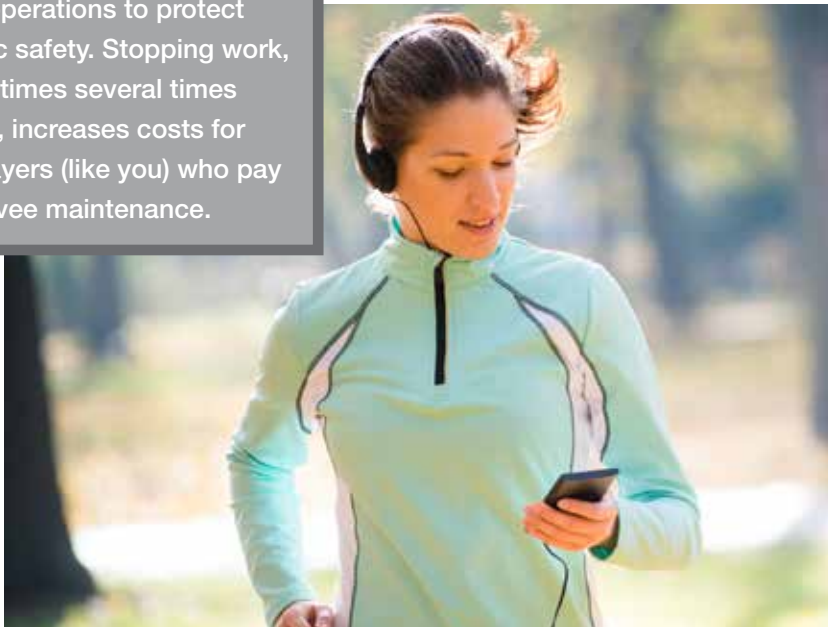
# If you use the levees, please read this

Maintaining the levees' steep slopes and narrow roadways requires us to use heavy equipment that could pose serious dangers to people and pets. In recent years, we've noticed an alarming increase in people disregarding their personal safety by getting too close to mowers and other equipment.

**REMEMBER**, operators of large, noisy equipment can't always see or hear what's happening around them. When they become aware of pedestrians, cyclists, or pets in potential danger, operators have to halt operations to protect public safety. Stopping work, sometimes several times a day, increases costs for taxpayers (like you) who pay for levee maintenance.

*Please help us by remembering a few simple courtesies that will also protect you from moving equipment and flying debris:*

- Be aware of your surroundings when walking or cycling on or near levees.
- Stay back or signal equipment operators.
- Never cross under the extended mower arm.
- Never sneak by when a tractor or dump truck is backing up.
- Keep pets leashed and well away from equipment.
- Cyclists, please do not exceed the 15 mph speed limit.



**Be alert. Stay safe.** Stop walking or riding before you look at your cell phone. And listen to what's happening around you.

## Why you received this newsletter

We understand that you may not know why this newsletter appeared in your mailbox. Here are some quick answers:

### Background

The Sacramento Valley has an especially notorious history of flooding, including an 1862 megaflood that turned the valley into an inland sea for several months. That's why Sacramento's early residents raised the downtown area and built levees along area rivers and creeks.

### Who we are

Unmaintained levees eventually sink, crumble, or otherwise fail, putting lives and properties at risk. To monitor and maintain the levees along the American River and its tributary creeks, the 1927 California Legislature created a special district called the American River Flood Control District. Today, we maintain 40 miles of levees along the American River and Arcade, Dry, Robla, Magpie, and Steelhead Creeks.

### What that has to do with you

The flood control act and more modern engineering studies determined which properties required levee protection. Your property lies within one of those flood-risk areas. To fund levee maintenance, an assessment appears on your annual Sacramento County tax bill as American River Flood Zone A, Zone B, or Zone C. Because your property tax assessment supports our work, we provide this annual newsletter to keep you informed.



**FloodWise:** A publication of the American River Flood Control District.

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## Employee Spotlight

### Richard Marck

Richard was hired as a levee maintenance worker in 1991. He was promoted to foreman in 1996 and to field operations manager in 2004. In 2009, Richard became our superintendent. It's a job he clearly enjoys. "I love that I work in the beautiful American River Parkway," says Richard. "And I have the opportunity to engage with our neighbors along the levee."

### Ross Kawamura

Ross started working with us as a levee maintenance worker in 1997 and was promoted to field supervisor in 2016. When asked what he likes best about his job, Ross says that he enjoys "working in the most scenic area of Sacramento."



*Front row (l to r): Ross Kawamura, Erich Quiring, Richard Marck, Tim Kerr, Malane Chapman, Gilbert Gutierrez. Behind: Jose Ramirez Jr., Elvin Diaz, David Diaz.*

It's been a year of change, with a new facility and four new employees – three to replace longtime employees who retired. We thank our retired employees Eric Maculak, Sean O'Connor, and Roger Unruh for their many years of service. And we welcome our new employees Malane Chapman, Erich Quiring, Jose Ramirez, Jr., and Gilbert Gutierrez.