

Lower San Joaquin Levee District

11704 West Henry Miller Avenue, Dos Palos, CA 93620

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Directors

Roy Catania, Chairman

George Park, Vice Ch.

Sean Howard

Robert D. Kelley, Jr.

Case Vlot

Stephen Shehadey

Secretary-Manager

Shane Swartz

Superintendent

Jody McClellon

February 29, 2024

Dear Landowners within the Lower San Joaquin Levee District Benefit Assessment:

As you may know, the Lower San Joaquin Levee District's Board of Directors recently initiated a process to adopt proposed increases to the land-based assessments pursuant to Proposition 218. The District will be mailing notices on March 29th to landowners that provide additional detail on this process. There will be an envelope enclosed with the notice and ballot for you to return. Please pay close attention to the key deadlines for returning ballots and the date of the public hearing.

Overall, the District's current assessments have been in place and unchanged since 2005. In the past five years, the District's operating expenses have increased approximately 28% due to higher labor costs, increased premiums for health insurance and worker's compensation insurance, and general price inflation for services and supplies. Revenue has also decreased due to the exemptions for lands acquired by the federal government. The increasing disparity between operating expenses and revenue has made it necessary for the District to consider increased assessments.

To provide additional context on the proposed assessments, I've attached a link to the Engineer's Report that describes the need for the proposed assessment increases, explains how the Engineer developed these numbers and describes how the revenue generated from the proposed assessment increases will be used. The factors described above are all discussed in more detail in the Engineer's Report.

Engineers Report *(scan QR code with cell phone camera)*



The District will be having three public workshops to go over the Engineers' Report and discuss the operation of the Flood Bypass system. You are encouraged to join us for one of the workshops.

Public Workshop 1

Monday, 3/18, at 11 am, at Road 4 and the Flood Bypass in Madera Co: *(scan QR code with cell phone camera for pin drop)*



Public Workshop 2

Tuesday, 3/19, at 10 am, the Bifurcation on the San Joaquin River. Enter through this gate off Chowchilla Canal Rd, south of Ave 7 in Madera Co: *(scan QR code with cell phone camera for pin drop)*



Public Workshop 3

Wednesday, 3/20, at 10 a.m. at the East Side Bypass Control Structures in Merced County. Enter through the gate off of Sandy Mush Rd, left bank: *(scan QR code with cell phone camera for pin drop)*



Lower San Joaquin River Flood Control Project – Dedication Program October 6, 1966



Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions (559) 554-5414

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shane Swartz'.

Shane Swartz, Secretary-Manager
Lower San Joaquin Levee District