

## City Flood Control Strategy

Last year's Hurricane Katrina underscored the vulnerability of urban areas protected by levees. Long before Katrina, the city of West Sacramento recognized the need for strong flood control. The city has a record of activities over the years to study and improve our levee system and plan for coordinated strong response to high water events. The levee system is stronger today than it was when the city incorporated in 1987 and stronger than it was five years ago. And while levees protecting the city have performed well in past years, a strong levee program requires continual vigilance.

Levees are regularly exposed to numerous physical elements, from boat activity to people climbing levee slopes to high, fast-flowing waters. Hydrology, the science of predicting rainfall and run-off flows that the river must accommodate, changes with new information on weather patterns. This, in turn, can affect levee analysis and design theory.

Analysis and criteria for evaluating levee integrity have only recently become very conservative. Levees must now be evaluated against these new standards. Consequently, West Sacramento's flood protection, while still one of the highest in the region, is not at the level the city had hoped to achieve with the last major project.

This past winter, the city adopted a comprehensive flood control strategy, consisting of the following components:

- Evaluation of selected levee segments this summer.
- Re-evaluation of the city's overall level of flood protection.
- Aggressive pursuit of state and federal funding.
- Close coordination with Reclamation Districts 900 and 537, the Army Corps of Engineers and the state Department of Water Resources.
- Actions to provide on-going funding from local sources, such as RD900 assessments and West Sac flood control Joint Powers Authority (JPA) assessments (which address larger capital improvements).
- Consideration of flood control in land use decisions.

Updates will be provided as city staff works on these issues.

What is being done to address local funding? Residents will vote this summer on a relatively modest assessment increase proposed by RD 900 to provide a higher level of preventative maintenance. The West Sac JPA for Flood Control plans a review of its assessment next year, after preliminary evaluation work is completed.

**For more information on flood control issues, please contact the Assistant Director of Public Works and Community Development Caroline Quinn at (916) 617-4645.**

## First Fire Station in Over 35 Years Breaks Ground

The city of West Sacramento has begun construction of a new \$6.9 million fire station near Jefferson and Lake Washington Boulevards. It will become the first fire facility constructed in West Sacramento since 1970. Over 27,000 square feet, the two-story Fire Station 45 will accommodate up to nine firefighters and contain fire administration offices, a police services annex, and a training facility. To facilitate speedy response by firefighters, the station will be equipped with three poles. Construction is expected to be completed by summer 2007.

## Last Call for Home Improvement Holiday

The Home Improvement Holiday has been extended to July 30. For homeowners interested in making home improvements, the program waives building permit fees for a limited time. A long list of improvements is covered by the program. Homeowners receiving the special Home Improvement Holiday permit have 180 days to complete their projects. Permit-holders also qualify for discounts on supplies and materials from Hollywood Hardware, Sacramento Redwood Lumber Company, and Supply Hardware. For more information, visit the city of West Sacramento Building Division, 1110 West Capitol Ave. or call (916) 617-4683.

## The Future of West Capitol Avenue

The city invites public comment on the preliminary draft of the West Capitol streetscape master plan, which includes wider sidewalks, tree-lined medians, and a "multi-way boulevard" on some portions of the avenue. Details are at [www.WestCapitolAvenue.org](http://www.WestCapitolAvenue.org).

A series of public presentations on the draft master plan have also been scheduled:

- Planning Commission, July 20, 6 p.m., Council Chambers;
- Economic Development Advisory Commission, July 26, 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers;
- Public Open House, Aug. 21, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., Civic Center Galleria;
- City Council, Sept. 6, 7 p.m., Council Chambers.

**For more information about public presentations and other opportunities to review and comment on the streetscape master plan, contact staff project manager, Maureen Pascoe, (916) 617-4535.**

## If You Visit the River, Wear a Life Jacket

Rapid water flows and cold temperatures on local rivers require this "safety first" measure: wear a life jacket! Remember, the West Sacramento Fire Department stocks a supply of life jackets, available for loan at no charge. Visit Fire Station 41, 132 15th St., or call the WSFD, (916) 617-4600.

## Port Sees \$ Savings in SMUD Switch

The Port of Sacramento would save \$109,411 per year having SMUD as its electric provider, according to a recent SMUD rate analysis requested by the Port. The analysis indicates that after the costs of annexation are paid off, the Port's electric bill would be reduced by 42.9 percent. The Port, as well as the rest of West Sacramento, is currently served by PG&E. It is anticipated it will take 5-8 years to pay the costs associated with purchasing the poles and wires from PG&E. Until then, the Port and other West Sacramento customers would receive a 2 percent discount off their PG&E bills. Yolo County and the cities of West Sacramento, Woodland, and Davis have each requested that SMUD become its electric provider. The change requires voter approval, and the measure is scheduled for the West Sacramento ballot this November.

## Measure K Road Rehab Projects FUNDED by

Thanks to funding generated by the voter-approved Measure K sales tax, the city's Road Rehabilitation Program has improved over 34 miles of city streets at a cost of approximately \$6.75 million since 2003. Areas where road rehabilitation work is expected this summer and fall include: the Bryte, Newport Estates, and Bridgeway Island neighborhoods; West Capitol Avenue east; and the Port of Sacramento Industrial Park area.

Check out Measure K-funded road activity on the city's Web page—click "Measure K Street Rehabilitation Project," under engineering: [www.cityofwestsacramento.org/cityhall/departments/comdev/news.cfm](http://www.cityofwestsacramento.org/cityhall/departments/comdev/news.cfm).

## First Five Yolo Partnership is UP 4 WS

Since "First 5 Yolo" began funding programs in 2001 aimed at benefiting families with children 5 years and younger, West Sacramento has received a healthy share of the state tobacco tax money distributed. Funds have been allocated to local child care providers, a fire department car seat inspection project, School Readiness programs and the upcoming pilot program, Universal Preschool for West Sacramento (UP 4 WS).

The goal of UP 4 WS is to offer quality, free and voluntary preschool to every pre-kindergartener in the area. The city is providing two-fifths of the funding, with First 5 Yolo and First 5 California each providing a fifth and the remainder coming from fund development. Fifty percent of the Yolo County families who earn at or below the federal poverty level reside in West Sacramento.