

Dear friends,

A picture is worth a thousand words, as they say, and I know the memory of the recent storms and floods are in all of our mind's eye as we pursue relief and support one another. As the storms have relented in recent days, local, state, and federal officials joined first responders and other stakeholders in Wilton on January 18, 2023 to tour the impact of the storms on Reclamation District (RD) 800 levees and surrounding farmland.



*Figure 1 - impact of the storms on Reclamation District (RD) 800 levees and surrounding farmland.*

With the help, hospitality, and pertinent commentary of RD 800 residents, Wilton Fire, and Cosumnes CSD Fire, we were able to gain valuable insight as we traversed the levee and explored the damages.

Surveying this destruction was an incredibly sobering experience and a painful reminder of the sheer magnitude of these recent storms.



*Figure 2- Surveying this destruction was an incredibly sobering experience and a painful reminder of the sheer magnitude of these recent storms.*

As we moved into the New Year, a Flash Flood Warning went into effect, a levee breached near Wilton, and residents of south Sacramento County needed to evacuate before roads became impassable or shelter in place. The ensuing rain and flooding resulted in unprecedented damage. The Cosumnes River level reached an all-time high, even shutting down Highway 99.

Despite these tragic events, members of the RD 800 and the residents of Wilton showcased steadfast determination in helping their fellow neighbors in any way they could and continue in these efforts today. We owe them a special debt of gratitude for their selfless contributions in recent weeks. Their heroism personifies what makes our community so special.

In our County, there are nearly two dozen active reclamation districts governed by locally elected Boards of Trustees. RD 800 is unique in maintaining levees on the last remaining wild river in California without a state or federal water project or funding, and a limited population to support financing for critical repairs. The Cosumnes River levees are designed to meet a 10-year flood standard to protect life, property and the environment.

RD 800 is the only governmental entity charged with flood control and maintenance for the nearly 34 miles of levees, protecting a vast swath of South Sacramento County and approximately 7,000 acres of residential and agricultural land.

While I am encouraged by the many levels of government that have come together to aid in recovery and find solutions, there is no denying that the recovery process will be difficult and extensive. As we pursue relief, recovery, and future sustainable adaptation, it will take a Herculean effort and close coordination between many jurisdictions and authorities to prevent more flooding in the future.



*Figure 3 - As we pursue relief, recovery, and future sustainable adaptation, it will take a Herculean effort and close coordination between many jurisdictions and authorities to prevent more flooding in the future.*

### **Local Assistance Center**

Whether you live near the Cosumnes River or elsewhere throughout Sacramento County, residents who were affected by the storms and suffering disaster-related losses or damages are encouraged to visit the recently opened Local Assistance Center (LAC) at the **Chabolla Community Center, 600 Chabolla Ave, Galt, CA 95632**. In partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and California Office of Emergency Services, this Center will support residents and businesses that have suffered disaster-related losses or damages. The Center will be open daily from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. to provide in-person assistance to victims of the flood.

Services include FEMA individual recovery assistance, the California Department of Insurance, DMV, Public Health, Economic Development and linkages to Behavioral Health Services.

Property owners and businesses in the County of Sacramento are welcome to visit the Center, but are still encouraged to report storm-related damage to their insurance providers and fill out the [Sacramento County Disaster Damage Report](#) for inspection assessments of properties. For losses not covered by insurance, residents can register for disaster assistance in four ways:

- Online through [disasterassistance.gov](https://disasterassistance.gov)
- Using the [FEMA App](#)
- Calling 800-621-3362 or 800-462-7585 (TTY)
- Visiting the Local Assistance Center in Galt



*Figure 4 – additional impact of the storms on Reclamation District (RD) 800 levees and surrounding farmland.*

### **Small Business Assistance**

For small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations, the U.S. Small Business Administration offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans.

Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property too. Interest rates can be as low as 3.305 percent for

businesses, 2.375 percent for private nonprofit organizations and 2.313 percent for homeowners and renters with terms up to 30 years.

To be considered for all forms of disaster assistance, those in need of help must first contact the Federal Emergency Management Agency at [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov).

## **Tax Relief**

Business owners and taxpayers impacted by California's winter storms are now eligible for emergency tax relief from the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration (CDTFA).

Small business owners affected by flooding, power outages, and other storm-related hardships may request up to an additional three months to file their tax returns. Taxpayers who face return deadlines between January 4, 2023 and January 31, 2023 and are granted relief will not have to pay interest and penalties if they are unable to file their returns and pay taxes and fees by the original due date.

To request a filing extension or relief from interest and penalties, or gain assistance updating account information, changing an address or contact information, requesting replacement copies of CDTFA tax records, or asking questions about your account, please see the information below.

- On the [CDTFA website](#)
- [By mail](#) at California Department of Tax and Fee Administration, PO Box 942879, MIC 35, Sacramento, CA 94279
- In person at a nearby [field offices](#)
- [By phone](#) at 1-800-400-7115 (CRS: 711), Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Pacific Time), except state holidays.

In addition to the [State of Emergency Tax Relief webpage](#), information regarding relief requests is available in [various languages online](#), via videos in [English](#) and [Spanish](#), and on [CDTFA's Online Services webpage](#).