



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200
Oakland, CA 94607-4052

FEMA

January 21, 2011

Mr. James B. Giottonini
Executive Director
San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency
22 E. Weber Avenue, Room 301
Stockton, CA 95202-2317

Dear Mr. Giottonini:

This letter is in reference to the review of the levee certification package originally submitted on March 24, 2010 and the updated information that was submitted on September 7, 2010 and December 20, 2010 by the San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency (SJAFCA) for the levee system along Lower Calaveras River, the San Joaquin River, and Walker Slough. The levee segments of this system, found on the enclosed map, have been previously identified as follows:

- the levee segments along Lower Calaveras River on the north bank (segment P454) and south bank (segments P1401, P140, P356, and P357);
- the levee segment along the right bank of the San Joaquin River (segment P359);
- the levee segment along Walker Slough on the north bank (segment P268).

After a review of the documentation and data submitted, it has been determined that the minimum criteria outlined in Title 44, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 65.10 (44 CFR 65.10), have been met for the levees listed above. Therefore, FEMA plans to fully accredit these levee segments. Levee segment P454, which is a part of a previously accredited levee system on Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) panels 06077C0320F, 06077C0455F, and 06077C0460F, dated October 16, 2009, will be mapped as providing protection from the 1-percent annual chance (base) flood. The area protected from the base flood by fully accredited levee systems will continue to be mapped as shaded Zone X and an updated note reflecting the new levee status will be placed in that area. Areas impacted by internal drainage may be mapped as a special flood hazard area.

Although levee segments P1401, P140, P356, P357, P359, and P268 meet the minimum criteria outlined in 44 CFR 65.10, other levee segments in corresponding levee systems do not meet 44 CFR 65.10 requirements. As a result, the areas protected from the base flood by levee systems depicted as provisionally accredited on the October 16, 2009 effective FIRM with identified deficiencies will be de-accredited in a future FEMA mapping action. If additional, new, or updated information regarding the performance or condition of these levees become available, FEMA may re-evaluate the flood hazard depicted on the effective FIRM, and incorporate that information as warranted.

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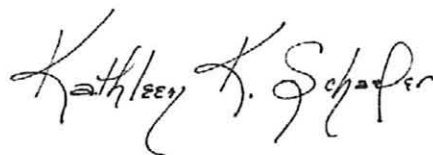
Map revisions in the future may require that data and documentation be submitted to demonstrate compliance with the 44 CFR 65.10 criteria at that time. Design, construction, operation, and/or maintenance documents may be requested at any time. Deviations from the documentation and data submitted to FEMA could result in the levee system no longer being mapped as providing protection from the base flood on a future FIRM. If at any point, additional information is provided to FEMA that shows the levee system no longer meets the criteria outlined in 44 CFR 65.10, FEMA will contact the levee owner and community about possibly de-accrediting the levee system.

While FEMA may map the referenced levee system as providing protection from the base flood, it is important to note that levees are only designed to provide a specific level of protection. They can be overtopped or fail in larger flood events. Levee systems require regular maintenance and periodic upgrades to retain their level of protection. When levees do fail, they fail catastrophically, and damage may be more significant than if the levee was not there.

Everyone should understand the risk to life and property that resides behind levees – risk that even the best flood-control system cannot completely eliminate. For these reasons, FEMA encourages people to understand their risk. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) was created to reduce flood damages by identifying flood risks, encouraging sound community floodplain management practices, and providing flood insurance to lessen the financial impact of flood damage. Through the NFIP, property owners in participating communities are able to insure against flood losses.

If you have any questions regarding this matter or flood hazard mapping in general, please contact me by telephone at (510) 627-7129 or by email at kathleen.schaefer@dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen K. Schaefer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Kathleen Schaefer, P.E., CFM
FEMA Region IX
Mitigation Division

Enclosure: Levee Status Map

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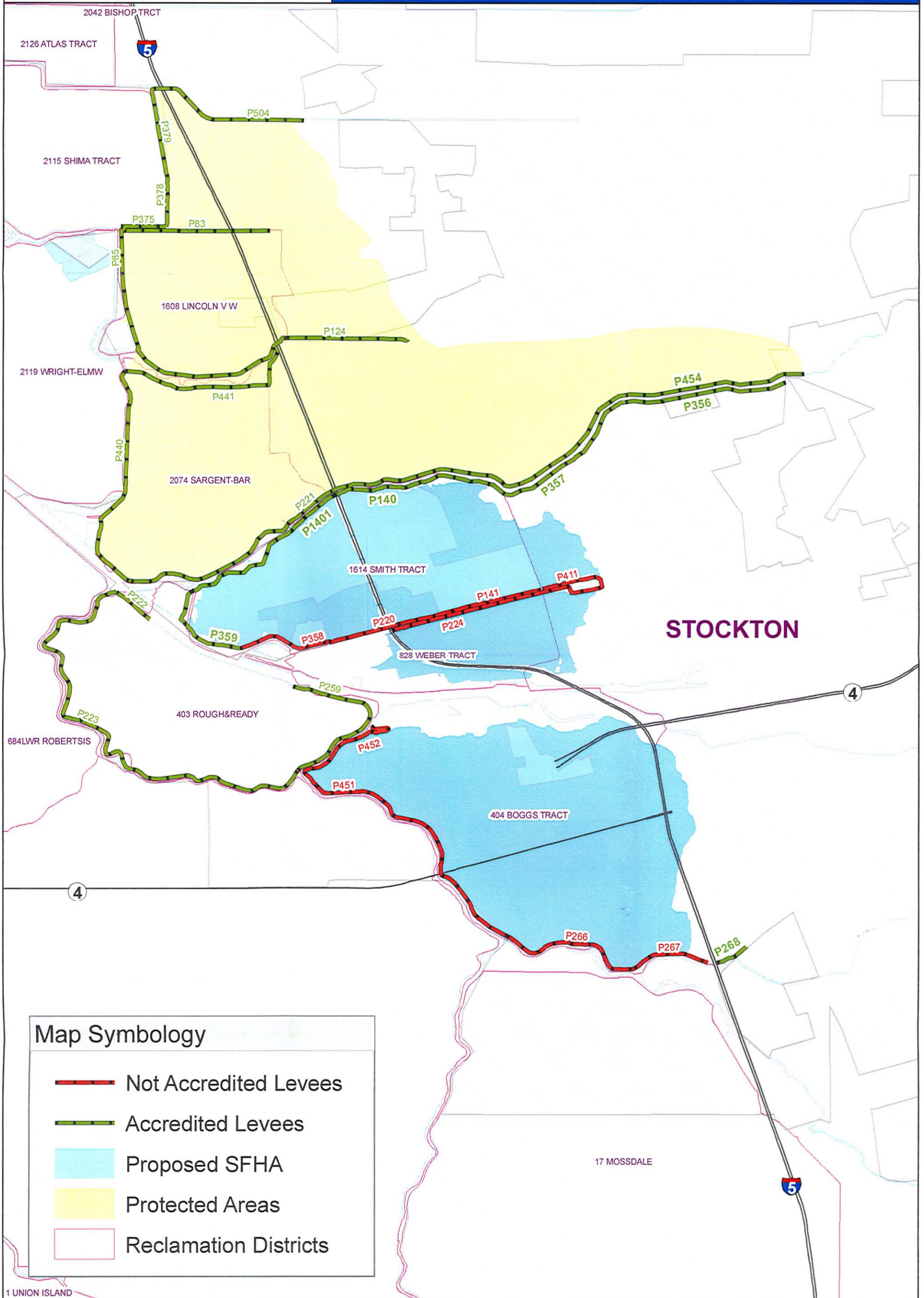
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cc: Mr. Roger Churchwell, Deputy Executive Director, SJAFCA
Mr. Bob Deis, City Manager, City of Stockton
Mr. Mike Niblock, Director, Community Development Department, City of Stockton
Mr. Thomas Gau, Chief Deputy Director, Public Works Department, San Joaquin County
Mr. Mike Connelly, Engineering Services Manager, San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation Board
Mr. William Dunning, Reclamation District 1614



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Levee Status Map - San Joaquin County, CA



Map Symbology

-  Not Accredited Levees
-  Accredited Levees
-  Proposed SFHA
-  Protected Areas
-  Reclamation Districts



0 0.5 1 2 Miles

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