



# Central Valley Flood Protection Board

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Work begins to remove final encroachments into flood protection levees along Bear Creek.**

*Stockton, CA*—The State of California, Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Board), is pleased to announce that work will begin next week to remove the last of the encroachments along the stretch of Bear Creek west of I-5 in Stockton. The Bear Creek levees are part of the larger State Plan of Flood Control, which encompasses 1,600 miles of levees, bypasses, weirs and other facilities, designed to keep Central Valley residents safe from floods due to rising water levels along the Sacramento and San Joaquin river systems, their tributaries and distributaries.

“The safety of residents is of paramount importance to the State of California, and levee safety is a priority of the Brown Administration, as exemplified in the California Water Action Plan as well as the historic Central Valley Flood Protection Plan, adopted by the Board in 2012,” stated Michael C. Wright, PE, Acting Chief of the Operations Branch, Central Valley Flood Protection Board. “The Central Valley Flood Protection Board is pleased to mark this milestone and looks forward to completing the encroachment removal and levee repair work in the coming weeks.”

Several structures, including staircases, retaining walls, irrigation lines, vegetation and a swimming pool had been built through the years by adjacent homeowners that encroached into the State easements and threatened the stability of the flood protection levee along Bear Creek. The Board worked with the landowners and the local levee maintaining agency, the San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, to make significant progress in removing those encroachments earlier this year. Completing these removals makes the levee system safer for residents and will greatly assist in returning this part of the system to compliance with State and federal safety standards. Work is scheduled to continue through September, 2016.

For more information, contact Michael Wright at [michael.wright@water.ca.gov](mailto:michael.wright@water.ca.gov); 916-574-0698  
California Water Action Plan can be found  
here: [http://resources.ca.gov/docs/california\\_water\\_action\\_plan/Final\\_California\\_Water\\_Action\\_Plan.pdf](http://resources.ca.gov/docs/california_water_action_plan/Final_California_Water_Action_Plan.pdf)

Central Valley Flood Protection Plan can be found  
here: <http://www.water.ca.gov/cvfmp/docs/2012%20CVFPP%20FINAL%20lowres.pdf>