

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
Central Valley Flood Protection Board**

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-10

WHEREAS, Levee District #1, located along the west bank of the Feather River at Yuba City, is the oldest continuously operating levee district in California, having been authorized by special Legislation, created by the Sutter County Board of Supervisors, and funded by a popular vote of property owners in the spring of 1868; and

WHEREAS, prior to the formation of California's first local government levee district, levee construction was carried out almost exclusively by individual property owners, at their own cost, to protect only their own land, with little success, pitting neighbor against neighbor in a contest of who could shove the river where; and

WHEREAS, as of 1867, only Sacramento and Marysville had small levee systems funded by taxpayers, and

WHEREAS, on May 18, 1867, at a time of great flooding, residents of Sutter County gathered at the Sutter County Courthouse to plan a levee system paid for by voluntary subscriptions, a method of raising capital for public works projects that proved highly inadequate; and

WHEREAS, on March 25, 1868, California's 10th governor, Henry Huntly Haight, signed a bill which authorized and required the Sutter County Board of Supervisors to protect certain lands in the County from overflow by the establishment of a new local government agency, Levee District #1, which would become the first levee district in California established to provide flood control at public expense for the benefit of a wide region; and

WHEREAS, on March 30, 1868, the Sutter County Board of Supervisors formally created Levee District #1 and set a special election seeking property owner approval of the creation of the district and the funding of the district by property taxes; and

WHEREAS, on April 13, 1868, property owners in Sutter County voted in favor of forming the district and, on April 17, the Sutter County Board of Supervisors sent County Surveyor John Pennington out to establish the alignment for a 17-mile route for a new levee; and

WHEREAS, for 150 years since Levee District #1 has been providing flood protection for Sutter County, building and maintaining levees, and conducting flood fights, such as placing more than 175,000 sandbags at one river location in the 1997 emergency alone; and

WHEREAS, today Levee District #1 protects more than \$7 billion in property and 70,000 residents from flooding, and has partnered with the Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency on state-of-the-art slurry wall armoring of the district's levees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Central Valley Flood Protection Board would like to recognize and commend Levee District #1 on reaching the 150th anniversary of its establishment, and for the distinction of becoming California's oldest levee district.

DATED: October 12, 2018

By: _____
William H. Edgar, President



**The Central Valley Flood Protection Board
The State of California**

By: _____
Jane Dolan, Secretary