

Marysville residents approve new levee fees

By Nancy Pasternack/Appeal-Democrat

2009-07-16 00:13:48

Marysville Levee District's new assessment proposal passed muster with property owners by a 74 percent majority, according to district officials.

The base rate for single family home owners will be \$49.58. Levee improvement fees will appear on property tax bills issued in the fall.

Fees raised through the assessment over the next ten years are expected to total \$220,000 annually. Those funds will make up roughly five percent of a \$40 to \$50 million, three-year levee improvement project to Marysville's 7.5-mile ring levee.

The project is expected to raise the level of flood protection in the city to a 200-year flood level or higher.

A 200-year flood is classified as a flood event with a one-half of one percent chance of occurring during any given year. "When Katrina happened, the rules all changed," said District Commissioner Patrick Ajuria.

In the wake of that 2005 disaster, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Army Corps of Engineers reassessed levees in the Sacramento Delta Region and determined them to be insufficient.

Of the 1,025 ballots cast, 713 voted yes, 274 no with 38 invalid ballots.

"The citizens of Marysville understood the necessity," said Commission President Jerry Crippen of the assessment ballot's success, which was announced Wednesday

"It shows in the numbers," said Ajuria.

Initial stages of the improvement project are expected to start next summer.

Design work for the project will start on the north end of the city, between Marysville High School and Jack Slough Road, according to City Services Administrator Dave Lamon.

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