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

FEMA

May 27, 2010

RECEIVED

JUN 0 1 2010

TRLIA

Paul G. Brunner, P.E.
Executive Director
Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority
1114 Yuba Street, Suite 218
Marysville, California 95901

Dear Mr. Brunner:

This is in response to the letter and data submission to the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) dated May 5, 2010, regarding certification of Reclamation District 784 (RD 784) levee system within Yuba County. The pertinent information regarding this levee system is listed below.

Identifiers:	Yuba River South Levee (UPRR to Simpson Lake, WPRR to UPRR); Feather River East Levee Segments 1 – 3; Bear River North Setback Levee; and Upper Bear North Levee (Setback levee to WPIC) and WPIC West Levee, including Olivehurst Detention Basin Ring Levee
Flooding Sources:	The Yuba River, Feather River, Bear River, and Western Pacific Interceptor Canal
FIRM panels affected:	Yuba County, California, and Incorporated Areas preliminary FIRM panels 06115C340D, 0345D, 0375D, 0405D, 0415D, 0420D, 0480D, 0485D, dated September 30, 2008

In support of the RD784 levee system certification the following information was submitted:

1. A cover letter summarizing the levee certification submission for FEMA accreditation and acknowledging the team of engineering consultants that contributed to this submission under Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority's management.
2. A Supporting Documents Index Certification Summary, dated April 30, 2010.
3. A Certification Summary Report prepared by Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority titled, "FEMA Accreditation Project, RD 784 Levee System, Yuba County, California" and dated May 2010.
4. A two volume interior drainage study Report prepared by MHM Engineering, Incorporated titled, "Interior Drainage Study, RD784 Levee and Flood Control System," and dated March 12, 2010.
5. Eight boxes of supporting certification data as summarized by the document titled "Supporting Documents Index Certification Summary April 30, 2010."

The above documentation and data have been reviewed and based on receipt of this information the RD784 levee system as shown on the attached Yuba County Levee Status map and table, meet the minimum certification criteria outlined in Title 44, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 65.10 (44 CFR 65.10). Therefore, we plan to continue to accredit this levee system on the new Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) scheduled to become effective in February 2011 as providing protection from the base flood.

The Yuba County Revised Unofficial Draft Map Panels distributed on April 30, 2010, depict the area protected from the base flood by this levee system. The base flood is also referred to as the flood that has a 1-percent-chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. The levee system's interior drainage area will be mapped based on the March 12, 2010, MHM report (aforementioned item 4 above) and notes will be placed on the new Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map panels providing notice of the flood risk that still exists.

Even though we plan to map the referenced levee system as providing protection from the 1-percent-annual-chance 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.

Future map updates may require the levee system to be certified again at the time of update. Also, 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 certification criteria as outlined in 44 CFR 65.10, we will contact the levee owner and community about the possibly de-accrediting the levee system.

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 losses. Through the NFIP, property owners in participating communities are able to purchase flood insurance that will insure against flood losses. We hope that you will encourage property owners to purchase flood insurance.

If you have any questions regarding this matter or flood hazard mapping in general, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone at (510) 627-7029 or by email at eric.simmons@dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Eric Simmons, Senior Engineer
Mitigation Division

List of Enclosures:

- Yuba County Levee Status Table
- Yuba County Levee Status Map

cc: Mary Jane Griego, Chair, Yuba County Board of Supervisors
Robert Bendorf, County Administrator, Yuba County
Randy Margo, Assistant County Administrator, Yuba County
Steve Fordice, Reclamation District 784
Ric Reinhardt, MBK Engineers
Ricardo Pineda, CA DWR, NFIP State Coordinator
Jay Punia, Central Valley Flood Protection Board
Kimberly Carsell, USACE, Sacramento District

Yuba County Levee Status Table

May 27, 2010

Yuba County Protecting Levees

Levee ID	Levee Name	Community Name	USACE Program Levee	Owner (Name & Organization)	Flooding Source	Levee Status	Comments
6019	Unnamed	Yuba County	Y	Reclamation District 784	Yuba River	B	PAL expires June 12, 2010
6067	Unnamed	Yuba County	N	Unknown	Yuba River	To be de-accredited	Segment does not meet 44 CFR 65.10 criteria
6069	Yuba River South Levee	Yuba County	Y	Reclamation District 784	Yuba River	Fully certified, full accreditation planned	Certified by TRLIA on May 5, 2010; previoulsy certified by USACE on May 8, 2007
6070	Feather River East Levee	Yuba County	Y	Reclamation District 784	Feather River	Full accreditation planned	Certified by TRLIA on May 5, 2010
6071	Feather River East Levee	Yuba County	Y	Reclamation District 784	Feather River	Full accreditation planned	Certified by TRLIA on May 5, 2010
6072	WPIC West	Yuba County	Y	Reclamation District 784	Western Pacific Interceptor Canal	Fully certified, full accreditation planned	Certified by TRLIA on May 5, 2010; previoulsy certified by USACE on May 8, 2007
6074	Unnamed	Yuba County	N	Unknown	Algodon Slough	To be de-accredited	No response to PAL offer
6084	WPIC West	Yuba County	Y	Reclamation District 784	Western Pacific Interceptor Canal	Fully certified, full accreditation planned	Certified by TRLIA on May 5, 2010; previoulsy certified by USACE on May 8, 2007
6085	Upper Bear North Levee	Yuba County	Y	Reclamation District 784	Bear River	Fully certified, full accreditation planned	Certified by TRLIA on May 5, 2010; previoulsy certified by USACE on May 8, 2007
6087	Bear River North Setback Levee	Yuba County	Y	Reclamation District 784	Bear River	Fully certified, full accreditation planned	Certified by TRLIA on May 5, 2010; previoulsy certified by USACE on May 8, 2007
6098	Unnamed	Yuba County	N	Unknown	Unnamed	To be de-accredited	No response to PAL offer
6106	Unnamed	Yuba County	N	Unknown	Clark Lateral	To be de-accredited	No response to PAL offer

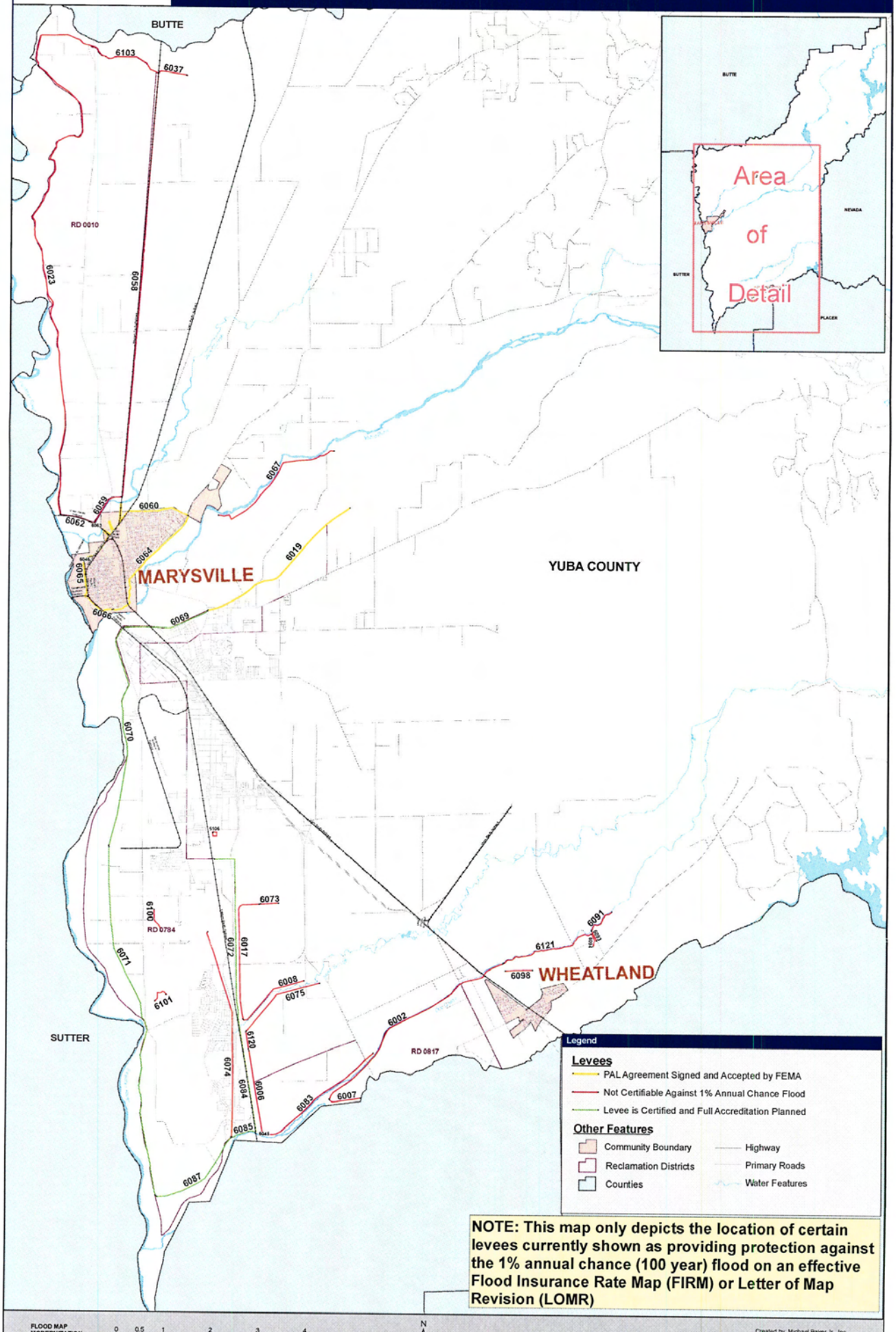
City of Marysville Protecting Levees

Levee ID	Levee Name	Community Name	USACE Program Levee	Owner (Name & Organization)	Flooding Source	Levee Status	Comments
6046	Unnamed	City of Marysville	Y	Marysville Levee District	Feather River	B	PAL expires June 12, 2010
6060	Unnamed	City of Marysville	Y	Marysville Levee District	Feather River	B	PAL expires June 12, 2010
6064	Unnamed	City of Marysville	Y	Marysville Levee District	Feather River	B	PAL expires June 12, 2010
6065	Unnamed	City of Marysville	Y	Marysville Levee District	Feather River	B	PAL expires June 12, 2010
6066	Unnamed	City of Marysville	Y	Marysville Levee District	Feather River	B	PAL expires June 12, 2010

* Procedure Memorandum No. 43 (PM 43) describes seven Provisionally Accredited Levee (PAL) designation scenarios. This table only lists levees that are provisionally accredited, fully certified, or where full accreditation is planned.

A1: Levees not in USACE program that are shown as providing base flood protection on an effective FIRM or LOMR, and the levee owner believes that the levee meets 44 CFR 65.10 requirements

B: Levees in USACE program that are shown as providing base flood protection on an effective FIRM or LOMR, and that are eligible for PAL

Other PM43 levee scenarios are not listed in this table

Yuba County Levee Status