

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR A FLOOD IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

YOU ARE RECEIVING THIS BROCHURE BECAUSE YOUR PROPERTY IS IN OR NEAR A SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREA AND IS SUBJECT TO FLOODING.

➤ **History of Flooding in the County of Yuba.** It is critical to remember that the County of Yuba is protected by levees from flooding by the Feather, Yuba, and Bear Rivers as well as their tributaries. The County has been subject to flooding from these rivers when levees have failed in the past. The most recent levee failures occurred in 1997 along the Feather River and in 1986 along the Yuba River. Being prepared is your best defense against such events. Yuba County is subject to occasional heavy rain storms that cause localized flooding.

What should you do before a flood?

➤ **Know your flood hazard.** The following areas have a known potential for flooding:

Feather River	Yuba River
Bear River	Hutchinson Creek
Clark Slough	Jack Slough
Linda Drain	Olivehurst Drain
Bingham Canal	Clark Lateral
Dry Creek	Best Slough
Western Pacific Interceptor	Reeds Creek

This is not a complete list of areas that are within flood zones, but rather a list of areas with documented flooding problems. If your neighborhood is not listed, your property may still be within a flood zone, as designated by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maps. Upon request, the Public Works Department at (530) 749-5420, will make free flood zone determinations for properties within the County. FEMA maps are also available on the County's website at www.co.yuba.ca.us. If located in

an "A" Zone, your property is within the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), which is an area that has been determined to have the potential for flooding caused by a 100-year storm. The Building Department and Public Works Department maintain elevation certificates for many properties within the County which are also available for review. Contact the Public Works Department to determine if a particular property has an elevation certificate.

➤ **Plan ahead.** Develop an emergency plan for your family that includes a list of phone numbers, evacuation routes, and where to meet if separated. Also, inventory your possessions and keep important papers in a safe place.

➤ **Purchase flood insurance for your property.** Flood damage is not covered by a standard homeowner's insurance policy. A separate flood insurance policy is required to cover damages incurred by flooding. Coverage is available for both buildings and contents. The County of Yuba participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) that makes available federally backed flood insurance for all structures, whether or not they are located within the floodplain. Note that there is a 30-day waiting period before coverage goes into effect. More than 25 percent of NFIP claims are filed by properties located outside the 100-year floodplain, also known as the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). Contact your insurance agency for more information. Flood insurance information, including flood depth data, is also available from Yuba County Public Works.

➤ **Maintain drainage channels and pipes free of obstruction and debris.** The County of Yuba cleans and maintains the drainage channels and pipes in County easements & rights-of-way in accordance with an established schedule and standard operating procedures. There are certain drainage courses and basins within the Reclamation District 784 that are maintained by the District. Residents are encouraged to assist in maintaining the drainage in their areas by removing or reporting obstructions (such as shopping carts, leaves, debris, trash, etc.). Keeping drainage channels free of obstructions reduces flooding in the event of heavy rains. By way of County Ordinance, it is illegal to dump trash, debris, paint, grease, or any other material into any portion of the drainage system. Dumping has devastating impacts on water quality in

addition to causing flooding. To report obstructions or illegal dumping, or for questions regarding drainage system maintenance, please contact the Public Works Department at (530) 749-5420.

➤ **Protect your property from the hazards of flooding.** Various methods may be used to minimize flooding. If the floor level of your property is lower than the "Base Flood Elevation" (elevation of the 100-year flood, based on the FEMA maps), consider elevating your structure, if possible. Brochures discussing flood proofing, protecting utilities, and other mitigation measures are available in Yuba County Public Library. If a flood is imminent, property can be protected by sandbagging areas subject to the entry of water into living spaces. The Linda Fire Department or Olivehurst Fire Department (depending upon the area you are in) may be available to assist with sandbagging efforts. Valuables and furniture may also be moved to higher areas of the dwelling to minimize damages. The County of Yuba will make site visits to provide one-on-one advice to a property owner regarding flooding and drainage issues on private property. We also have site specific information for some parcels within Yuba County. For more information, please contact Public Works at (530) 749-5420.

➤ **Meet improvement requirements.** The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requires that if the cost of reconstruction, additions, or other improvements to a building equals or exceeds 50% of the building's market value, then the building must meet the same construction requirements as a new building. Substantially damaged buildings must also be brought up to the same standards. For example, a residence damaged so that the cost of repairs equals or exceeds 50% of the building's value before it was damaged must be elevated above the base flood elevation. Please contact the Building Department at (530) 749-5440 for more information.

➤ **Build responsibly.** All development within the County requires a permit. Always check and fulfill permitting requirements with the Building Department at (530) 749-5440 and/or the Public Works Department at (530) 749-5420 before you build on, alter, fill, or re-grade on any portion of your property and/or within any easement or right-of-way. Building to current standards can protect your property from future flood hazards, can lower future

flood insurance premiums, and can improve drainage between structures. Only use licensed contractors.

➤ **Keep an emergency supply.** Non-perishable food, water, batteries, flashlights, a manual can opener, and a battery-operated radio should be kept available in case of an emergency situation.

➤ **Sign up for the County's CODE RED emergency warning system at:**
www.yuba.org/departments/emergency_services/BePreparedYuba.php

What should you do during a flood?

➤ If there is the threat of localized flooding or a flood event, review your family evacuation plan and ensure your disaster preparedness kit is complete. If time permits and you know how to safely turn off utilities, do so prior to leaving your residence. Information on safely turning off electrical and natural gas services to your home can be received by calling Pacific Gas and Electric at 1-800-743-5000 or <https://www.pge.com>

Listen to local radio stations, watch the local news, and or access the County website for information about your specific community. Local radio stations that broadcast emergency information are 92.5, 101.5, and 103.1 FM, 1410, 1530, and 1600 AM. The County web page may be accessed at www.yuba.org.

➤ If your property is in immediate danger of flooding you may be advised to evacuate through the County telephone notification system. Listen to instructions and evacuate immediately. Do not wait for an evacuation order if you feel unsafe. Activate your family evacuation plan and move to higher ground. Avoid driving through moving water. Six inches of moving water can cause vehicles to malfunction and stall. Twelve to twenty four inches of water can cause some vehicles to float and be carried away.

➤ For emergency assistance dial 911. The County Office of Emergency Services (OES) will provide a contact number for non-emergency information through the telephone notification system, radio broadcasts, television, and the County website. The OES web page may be accessed at

What should you do after a flood?

- Listen to the radio for emergency instructions.
- Avoid driving if possible.
- Follow procedures for property damage repairs

Do not enter a flooded building until an inspector has cleared the structure. Select a contractor who is licensed in his trade. The County of Yuba requires contractors to be licensed. Licensed contractors will be able to produce receipts for their licenses. It is also recommended that you verify certification of liability and workman's compensation insurance. Complaints against licensed contractors may be referred to the appropriate licensing agency.

Require your contractors to obtain the proper permits for work being performed. Permits are required for any permanent improvement (including roofing, siding, additions, alterations, etc.) to a structure and for site work such as grading, filling, etc. Permits are required even if a homeowner is doing the work himself.

Questions about permits or contractor licensing may be addressed to the County of Yuba Building Department (530) 749-5440.

Replace any flooded mechanical or electrical equipment with equipment elevated above the design flood level. Contact the County for information on how to retrofit your home to be more flood resilient.

Recognize and protect the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains to help reduce flooding:

Floodplains are a natural component of the Yuba County environment. Understanding and protecting the natural functions of floodplains helps reduce flood damage and protect resources. When flooding spreads out across the floodplain, its energy is dissipated, which results in lower flood flows downstream, reduced erosion of the streambank and channel, deposition of sediments higher in the watershed and improved groundwater recharge. Floodplains are scenic, valued wildlife habitat, and suitable for farming. Poorly planned development in floodplains can lead to streambank erosion, loss of valuable property, increased risk of flooding to downstream properties and degradation of water quality.

Floodplains should also be protected against illegal dumping or improperly performed grading.

Flood data / map information services provided by the County

The County can provide one-on-one advice about property protection such as retrofitting or drainage improvements. Staff is available to meet at the property to review current conditions and can provide advice on available financial assistance programs. Staff can identify whether the property is in a Special Flood Hazard Area, floodway, or the Yuba River Floodway; the community number; Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) panel number and suffix, index date; FIRM zone; Base Flood Elevation (BFE) with datum; levee and dam failure inundation areas; and information on Natural Floodplain functions. The County can also provide background on what development standards and insurance requirements apply, and can provide information on local drainage problems, historical flooding, Elevation Certificates, Letters of Map Amendment (LOMA), and Letters of Map Revision (LOMR). Please call **(530) 749-5420**.

Yuba County's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

The County recently updated its Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. The updated Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is posted on the County's website. For more information please call (530) 749-5642 or visit the OES web page at:
https://www.yuba.org/departments/emergency_services/index.php

For more information about flood safety or the NFIP, please note the following:

www.yuba.org
[Integrated Public Alert & Warning System | FEMA.gov](#)
[National Flood Hazard Layer | FEMA.gov](#)
1-888-FLOOD29

*This information is provided by the County of Yuba and is applicable to properties within the limits of the County. If you have questions, please contact the County of Yuba Public Works Department at **(530) 749-5420** or by mail at 915 8th Street, Suite 125, Marysville, CA.*

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