

UNDERSTANDING AND LIVING IN A FLOODPLAIN

Maintaining the proper flow in local streams that cross City properties requires cooperation and assistance to prevent flooding. Following are some suggestions and information for understanding the ways that floodplains function and how the City regulates the floodplain in order to protect property and lives, while affording residents the ability to obtain floodplain insurance.

Reduce risk of damage to homes: Practical methods for reducing the risk of flooding are available to property owners whose homes have experienced damage from flooding in the past or may experience damage in the future. For information, contact the Public Works Department at (530) 822-4626 and/or the Federal Emergency Management Agency. During times of flooding homes can be protected by the installation of sandbags. Contact the Public Works Department at (530) 822-4626, or visit the Web site at www.yubacity.net for sandbag locations during a flood.

Do not dump or throw anything into ditches or streams: A plugged channel cannot carry water. Additionally, trash and vegetation dumped into a stream degrades water quality of both the stream itself and its receiving waters.

Remove debris, trash and loose branches: Keep banks clear of brush and debris to help maintain an unobstructed flow of water in stream channels. Do not remove vegetation that is actively growing on a stream bank.

Obtain a floodplain development permit and/or building permit, if required: The City requires all new and substantially improved buildings in the floodplain to adhere to building standards set forth by the NFIP. For further information or questions about building permits and requirements, contact the Yuba City Building Department at (530) 822-4629. Per request, City inspectors are available to make site visits, to review flood, drainage and sewer issues.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

If you would like additional information on flood insurance or flood preparedness, please do not hesitate to contact the following organizations for assistance:

YUBA CITY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

(530) 822-4626
www.yubacity.net

YUBA CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

(530) 822-4809

YUBA CITY CODE ENFORCEMENT

(530) 822-4700

SUTTER-BUTTE FLOOD CONTROL AGENCY

www.sutterbutteflood.org
Email: info@sutterbutteflood.org

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

1-888-379-9531
www.floodsmart.gov

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

(510) 627-7186
www.fema.gov

CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

(916) 845-8510
www.oes.ca.gov

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

(916) 557-5100
www.usace.army.mil

SUTTER COUNTY LIBRARY

(530) 822-7137
www.saclibrarycatalog.org



FLOOD HAZARD AREA BULLETIN



Plumas Street during the December 1955 flood.

Dear Yuba City Resident:

You are receiving this informational brochure as a part of an annual outreach program designed to increase awareness of flooding as a result of living in a flood-plain. This brochure explains the flood hazard that exists in our community and provides information and resources to help you make decisions regarding flood protection, flood insurance, and developing in the floodplain. As a result of our public education efforts and floodplain management practices, flood insurance policy holders within the City receive an automatic dis-count on their flood insurance policies. Please take the time to read the information provided and, if you have any questions or would like additional information, visit the City's floodplain management website at www.yubacity.net/flood. Additionally, a variety of contact information for other resources is available on the back of this brochure.

THE LOCAL FLOOD HAZARD

A floodplain is an area of land near a river that is susceptible to flooding. Yuba City features several large rivers and smaller tributaries that are susceptible to flooding events. Large rivers include the Feather River and the Sutter Bypass, while interior streams include Gilsizer Slough and Live Oak Canal. Because of the close proximity to these rivers, Yuba City is in a floodplain. Flooding occurs when rivers or streams flow outside of their usual course and overspill beyond their banks. Our community uses levees and upstream reservoirs to control river flows and protect against this type of flooding.

Yuba City is also susceptible to seasonal localized flooding due to water runoff from heavy rainfall. The City is pro-active about preventing local flooding. The Public Works Department performs cleaning and maintenance activities on the drainage channels and pipes in City easements and rights-of-way in accordance with an established schedule and standard operating procedure. Additionally, each year, the City allocates funding for storm drainage improvements.

In the past, flooding is most common from October through April, when storms from the Pacific Ocean and the eastern watershed bring intense rainfall to the area. Larger floods result from heavy rains that continue over the course of several days, augmented by snowmelt at a time when the soil is near saturation from previous rains.



Feather River at the 5th Street Bridge during the December 1955 flood.

CITY FLOODPLAIN INFORMATION SERVICES

As a public service, the City of Yuba City will provide you with the following information free of charge:

- *Flood zone determinations and whether a property is in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) based on the current Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM).*
- *Additional flood insurance data for a site, such as historical flood information or base flood elevation and depth, if shown on the FIRM.*
- *Flood protection assistance such as property protection advice, a site visit to your property to review flood issues, and information on financial assistance available for pre- and post-flood improvements.*
- *A handout on the flood insurance purchase requirement that can help people who need a mortgage or loan for a property in the SFHA.*

If you would like to make an inquiry on any of the above services, or have any other flood related questions, please contact the Public Works Department at (530) 822-4626. Additional information, including current FIRMs, is available on the City's floodplain management website at www.yubacity.net/flood.



FLOOD INSURANCE

Homeowners insurance does not cover flood damage. However, Yuba City 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 100-year floodplain, also known as the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). More than 25 percent of NFIP claims are filed by properties located outside SFHA. In our community, most properties are outside of the SFHA.

Flood insurance protects you from the financial devastation caused by floods. Even a few inches of water can bring thousands of dollars in repair and restoration costs. Having a flood insurance policy is critical to protecting your home or business. For more information on flood insurance visit the NFIP website at www.floodsmart.gov or contact your local insurance agent.

FLOOD PREPAREDNESS AND SAFETY

The Fire Department has flood warning information available that can be accessed by calling (530) 822-4809, or through the Web site at www.yubacity.net. The local radio station used for emergency broadcasting is KKCY (FM 103.1). The alternate local station is KUBA (AM 1600). In addition, Sacramento radio station KFBK (AM 1530) broadcasts regional information.

Following is a list of important considerations that should be followed during times of flooding:

- *Have an evacuation plan before floodwaters hit*
- *If an evacuation is ordered, do so immediately*
- *Do not walk through flowing water*
- *Do not drive through a flooded area*
- *Stay away from power lines & electrical wires*
- *Shut off gas and electricity*

For more detailed information visit the City's floodplain management website at www.yubacity.net/flood.