



Joint Information Center

San Joaquin Operational Area

NEWS

Elena R. Reyes
Information Officer

Rex Osborn
Assistant Information Officer

000JIC019

1600 Hours; April 21, 2006

For Immediate Release

Contact : (209) 468-3962

E-Mail: oes_planning@sjgov.org

UPDATE: Monitoring of San Joaquin County Levees Continues

(SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY, STOCKTON, CA) – Monitoring and patrolling of the levee system in San Joaquin County is scheduled to continue at least through next week. Reclamation Districts will continue to patrol and monitor the San Joaquin River along the southern portion of the County in response to continued high water levels. Water levels at the Vernalis gauge have receded from last week's peaks of 29.21', and the threat of levee failure has been reduced. Current water levels at the Vernalis gauge continues at 28.00', flood level is 29.00'.

While the level of emergency response resources in the field have been reduced in response to the improved water levels, the County of San Joaquin, the Department of Water Resources, and the Army Corps of Engineers continue to maintain a system for responding quickly to any potential problems reported by Reclamation Districts. Agencies remain prepared to rapidly re-establish a higher level of flood fight operations if conditions change. In summary:

- Individuals residing south of Woodward Avenue, west of Union Road, and east of Kasson Road are reminded to stay informed of the general situation in the southern portion of the County.
- San Joaquin River water levels north of Woodward Avenue and Mossdale have receded below Monitor Stage and residents in that area will be notified if a renewed threat is expected.
- Individuals not residing or having business in areas along the south San Joaquin River near Vernalis are encouraged to respect road barriers and stay off levee tops. Roads currently closed may be reopened if the situation remains stable.
- All vehicles (including media vehicles) are prohibited from driving on the levees. Emergency crews need unrestricted access on these one-lane levees.
- The Office of Emergency Services has resumed normal business hours for inquires of a non-emergency nature. In the event of an emergency, individuals are advised to call 9-1-1.

For the most current news and information, including maps and photos, see the "Spring Storms 2006" website at: <http://sjgov.org/oes/current.htm> or call the emergency recorded information line at (209) 469-8200. For additional information, call the Emergency Operations Center line at (209) 468-3962.

- END -

1 of 1

The Joint Information Center is established to ensure timely, accurate, and consistent information is presented to the media for immediate dissemination to the citizens of San Joaquin County.