

The County of Yuba

Community Development & Services Agency

Kevin Mallen, Director

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October 10, 2018

Dear Hallwood Resident:

This letter summarizes the discussion points covered during the October 1, 2018 public meeting to discuss flood risks for the community of Hallwood. Key points included:

- The County recently learned that the north training wall (NTW) of the Yuba River has degraded over time. Although none of the State or Federal agencies have designated it as a flood control facility, the NTW degradation appears to reduce flood protection to the Community of Hallwood.
- The Yuba Water Agency retained experts (MBK Engineers) to evaluate the extent of flooding in Hallwood in the event the NTW fails.
- County staff is working directly on this issue with MBK Engineers, Yuba Water Agency, mining companies and flood control agencies. We are examining alternatives for both short term and long-term solutions.
- The County will continue to share new information with Hallwood residents as it becomes available at:
<http://www.co.yuba.ca.us/Departments/Community%20Development/Public%20Works/pubFEMA.aspx>
- The County strongly encourages that Hallwood residents purchase flood insurance prior to the upcoming rainy season

Other important information:

- The County of Yuba is the floodplain manager, but it does not own, operate, maintain, or have jurisdiction over levees or other flood control structures. When it comes to flood control, the County's primary responsibility is to share information concerning flood risk to its residents. The County also follows Federal and State regulations regarding zoning and building requirements in floodplains.

- Both the Federal Government and the State of California have authority over rivers and flood control facilities. The Federal agencies possessing regulatory authority over rivers and flood protection facilities include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish & Wildlife, and NOAA Fisheries. State Agencies possessing regulatory authority over river management and flood control include California Fish & Wildlife, the State Water Resources Control Board, and the Central Valley Flood Protection Board. All of these agencies have the regulatory authority to require permits for work in or adjacent to rivers or for work on flood control facilities.
- At the meeting there were several questions about a proposed project to remove a portion of the middle training wall (which the Yuba River currently runs on both sides of and in some areas thru). The proposed project is the *Hallwood Side Channel & Floodplain Restoration Project*. It is a habitat restoration project proposed by the California Department of Fish & Wildlife. None of the issues concerning the degradation of the NTW were caused by this proposed project, nor was this proposed project intended to provide flood protection for the community of Hallwood. The project proposes to remove over three million cubic yards of hydraulic dredging material from the Yuba River Floodway to restore salmon habitat. However, it does appear to also have potential flood risk reductions due to lowering the elevation of the Yuba River during high water events.

We appreciate your partnership and patience as we work to identify a solution that reduces flood risk for Hallwood. Please contact Mr. Daniel Peterson, Deputy Director of Public Works for Yuba County at dpeterson@co.yuba.ca.us or (530) 749-5430, if you have any questions.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Mallen', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kevin Mallen
CDSA Director