

Corps, Levee District One meet with Rep. Wally Herger to discuss flood reduction efforts in Yuba City

YUBA CITY, Calif. (April 16, 2009) -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' success in securing about \$129,000 to study more than 20 relief wells highlighted a briefing and site visit with Levee District One Board Members and Rep. Wally Herger today.

In a meeting set up primarily in an effort to inform Rep. Herger on a couple of local flood reduction projects and the importance of getting project funding sooner rather than later for the routinely flooded basin, the Corps team of Dr. Christine Altendorf, deputy district engineer for programs and project management, Laura Whitney-Tedrick, project manager for the Sutter Basin Feasibility Study, and Claire Marie Turner, project manager for Section 408 projects including Star Bend, highlighted recent Corps efforts to more effectively work with its partners as well as the team's success in securing the money to study the relief wells.

"Having been a resident of this area, I know that when it comes to flooding in this area, it's not if, it's when," Rep. Wally Herger said, assuring that he understands how urgent it is to improve the levees and, potentially, the relief wells.

The money acquired to further study the wells will be used to clean out the wells and test their efficiency. After testing is complete, it will be determined if the wells are working properly or if there is some kind of deficiency in their operation. While there is currently no funding to provide any possible fixes on the wells following the testing, Corps officials are working to secure more funding, should it be necessary.

The relief wells were installed in the summer of 1997 following local flooding in the area in January of the same year. Levee District One officials believe that levee breaks elsewhere in the system potentially saved the levee behind where the wells would be placed later that year.

In addition to discussing the relief wells, Rep. Herger was able to visit the site of the Star Bend Setback Levee project, an Early Implementation Project being constructed under Section 408 and is located within the study area of the overall Sutter Basin Feasibility Project. Levee District One Board Members pointed out details associated with the work required to complete the project as well as work already completed, including the transplanting of many Elderberry shrubs.

For residents who are interested in viewing the Star Bend site, Levee District One staff is giving some bus tours to the project site.



Levee District One Board Member Francis Silva (in the blue shirt) explains to Rep. Wally Herger, Dr. Christine Altendorf and the rest of the group how the relief wells function.