



The Marysville Ring Levee

Reducing Flood Risk for the People of Marysville

May 2020

Background

Yuba Water Agency is committed to protecting public health and safety through projects to reduce flood risk, a core part of its mission. One measure Yuba Water has helped to advance is the Marysville Ring Levee project, which will mark a key milestone in the agency's longstanding efforts when completed.

As part of a multi-agency effort to reduce Yuba County's flood risk, Yuba Water is partnering with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Central Valley Flood Protection Board and the Marysville Levee District to reinforce the 7.5-mile-long Marysville Ring Levee, slated for completion by 2024. The levee system reduces flood risk for the historic City of Marysville, which is home to more than 12,000 people, the region's largest and only level-3 trauma services hospital and the more than 10,000 jobs it supports, two state highways and two Union Pacific Railroad mainlines.

Yuba County's Flood Risk

Yuba County's flood risk is the result of its location between two major rivers and the historic raising of the Yuba's riverbed caused by sediment build-up from the region's gold rush legacy. The 1955 flood in neighboring Sutter County and the Yuba County floods of 1986 and 1997 caused significant damage throughout the region. Although the City of Marysville did not flood, it was surrounded by floodwaters. Strengthening the Marysville Ring Levee is essential to reduce the city's risk of future flooding.

Yuba Water Agency's Role

While the Corps is leading the construction of these improvements in partnership with the State of California and Marysville Levee District, Yuba Water has led the local planning effort to secure federal authorizations and funding for the project. Working with our state partners, Yuba Water helped secure a \$45 million local cost-share credit from work completed in nearby Reclamation District 784 (south Yuba County) to match state and federal funds for this new work, thereby saving Marysville \$12 million in local costs. Yuba Water has also successfully advocated for annual federal appropriations since the early 2000s, and as a result, secured supplemental federal funds for the project.



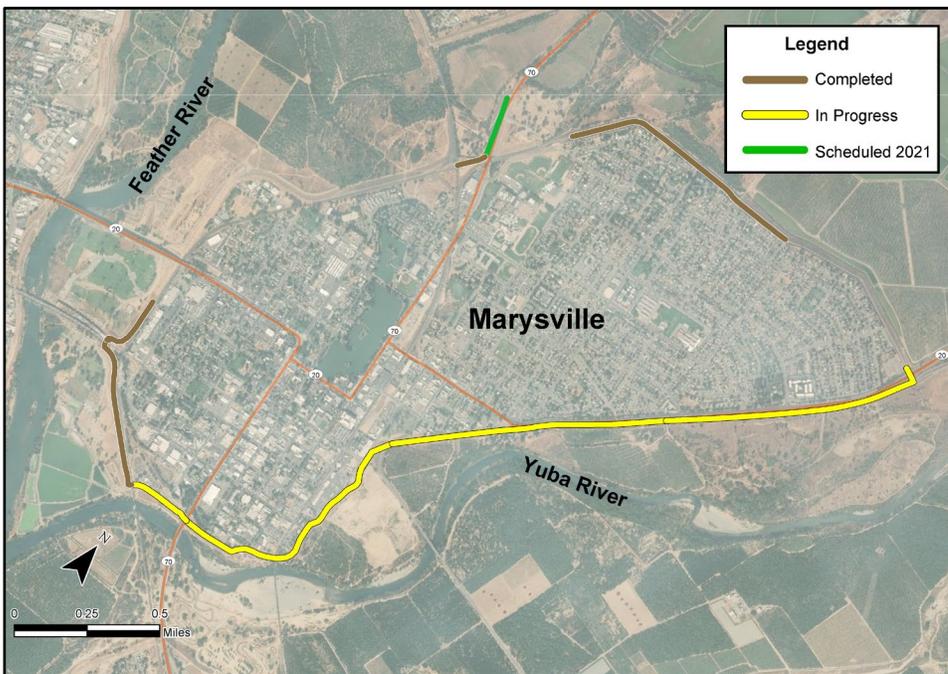
530.741.5000
info@yubawater.org
1220 F Street
Marysville, CA 95901

yubawater.org



Status and Next Steps

Approximately \$75 million of the project's \$115 million budget has been invested in strengthening 9,000 feet of critical sections of the ring levee. The Corps is currently reinforcing an additional 15,000 feet of levee, with a final 1,200-foot reinforcement slated for 2021. Due to recent unanticipated regulatory changes by the California Public Utility Commission, the cost of relocating 131 utility poles and replacing them with 59 poles along the levee has grown from \$5 to \$25 million. Yuba Water is now working with the state to secure the additional funding needed to complete the project by 2024.



A map of the Marysville Ring Levee repairs completed, in progress and scheduled for 2021.

Project Benefits

The newly strengthened levee will provide a nearly 300-year level of protection, meaning there is less than a 1-in-300 chance in any year that a storm could come along that is bigger than the levees are designed to handle. This will be one of the highest levels of flood protection for an urban area in California's Central Valley, a safeguard that is especially important in the face of higher river flows expected as a result of climate change.

The project will exceed state requirements for 200-year protection by 2025, which ensures permitting for critical new business and residential development projects. This level of protection also means Marysville homeowners will be eligible for lower-cost flood insurance.

530.741.5000
info@yubawater.org
1220 F Street
Marysville, CA 95901



yubawater.org