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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Monitoring of North Natomas Cross Canal Levee at Verona Continues

VERONA, Sutter County—Reclamation District 1001 officials continue to monitor a 240-foot section of the northern Natomas Cross Canal Levee near Verona that developed cracking and first showed signs of slippage on Monday.

Sutter County and California Department of Water Resources officials visited the Saturday morning and met with Reclamation District 1001 representatives to assess the levee condition. Some additional horizontal cracking and slipping has occurred since Monday, but the levee remains stable and continues to hold back water in the canal. No evacuations have been called for.

It is anticipated that Reclamation District 1001 engineers will be evaluating the site to determine if emergency repairs will be necessary. Earlier this week, the section of levee was covered with visqueen, a thick plastic sheet, to keep rain water from seeping into the cracks. Vehicle traffic on the levee has been restricted to Reclamation District and emergency personnel only.

The cracking on the levee was discovered by a Reclamation District 1001 levee patrol on Monday, March 21, and the visqueen was applied on Tuesday, March 22. The Sutter County Board of Supervisors declared a local state of emergency on Tuesday night.

Because of high river levels, County officials are in contact with representatives of the various districts that maintain most of the 240 miles of levees in Sutter County. Levee patrols began on March 17. Releases of high volumes of water into the Sacramento River from Shasta Dam, into the Feather River from Oroville Dam, and into the Yuba River from Bullards Bar Reservoir are expected to continue for several days, and monitoring of the levees will continue as long as high water levels persist.

The snowpack in the mountain river watersheds that drain into the reservoirs is 150 percent of normal, and runoff will be an issue for several weeks. Reservoirs are expected to continue releasing large amounts of water in anticipation of the spring snow melt.

All river levels are currently below flood stage. However, officials remind us that the situation can change rapidly. Residents are advised to monitor AM 1600 KUBA, KKCY 103.1 FM, www.appealdemocrat.com, and www.suttercounty.org, for emergency information. Residents are also advised to maintain a three-day supply of food and water in a “go kit,” including personal medications and copies of important documents available, as they would for any possible emergency situation, whether it is a fire in their home or a flood in their community.

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