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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Governor Declares State of Emergency, but Funding Uncertain for Levee Repairs**

Gov. Jerry Brown declared a State of Emergency in 19 counties, including Sutter, on Friday. While authorization was given to Caltrans to request federal funds to repair the 10th Street Bridge and other roadways, the governor did not approve the use of California Disaster Assistance Act funds, leaving funding unaddressed to repair the damaged portion of the northern Natomas Cross Canal Levee at Verona.

Total damage in Sutter County due to the March 2011 storms and subsequent high water is estimated at just under $23 million, including $17 million sought by Caltrans to address "aggressive scouring" of the 10th Street Bridge footings. An additional $1 million estimate was included for the Fifth Street Bridge, pending inspection by divers. Although an inspection in February showed no damage to the bridge footings, scouring has occurred in other periods of high water, including 1997, and the preliminary estimate is included out of prudence, until damage can be ruled out.

Representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency met with officials from Reclamation District 1001 and Sutter County on Thursday. The cost to repair damages to the levee at Verona, which has sustained significant cracking and slipping, has reached $4.7 million.

Sutter County estimates erosion at the Tisdale Weir will cost $125,000 to repair. Damage caused by flooded roads in Sutter County is pegged at $100,000. Debris removal is expected to cost another $15,000.

The governor's emergency declaration allows Caltrans to seek funding from the Federal Highway Administration for the 10th Street Bridge and other roads. However, the governor did not approve California Disaster Assistance Act funds. Such approval could still be forthcoming.