



**COMMENTS BY RECLAMATION DISTRICT 1600 TO  
THE YOLO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
June 4, 2024 – Agenda Item # 32  
SAFCA Upper Elkhorn Basin Presentation**

Good morning.

My name is Michele Clark. I am the President of Reclamation District 1600.

This morning you heard the presentation by California Department of Water Resources and Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency about plans to expand the Fremont Weir. RD1600 has participated as a member of the Steering Committee since August 2023. We appreciate being invited to participate.

I am here today to express the concerns of the District because it is the land within the District that would bear the burden of the Fremont Weir expansion.

RD 1600 stretches from the Fremont Weir in the north, to County Road 22 in the south. It is between the Yolo Bypass and the Sacramento River. The District was established in 1913 for the purpose of draining the land and maintaining the levees for farming.

There are approximately 6500 acres within the District. Most of the land has been farmed for over 100 years. The farms are currently planted in nut trees, vegetables, seed crops, and grains. In addition to farms, there are 6 residential parcels, 2 mitigation banks and 6 permanent agricultural and habitat conservation easements.

An expansion of the Fremont Weir by the federal and state agencies would allow more water to flow through the Yolo Bypass making it harder for the District to drain the land. The agencies are also considering allowing water to flow directly into and through District for extended periods. This would disrupt or eliminate our productive farmland and residences.

Even restrictions on the types of crops that can be grown in the District would negatively impact it. Our sole source of revenue is special assessments from the 17 landowners. Reducing production value could reduce our revenues which are already limited.

We are also concerned about plans for the Tule Canal. The Tule Canal is the District's main drainage canal. Broadening the use of the Tule Canal would have impacts on our obligation to drain the land to keep farmers farming.

We are troubled about the plans to develop portions of the Upper Elkhorn for public recreational use. This would be detrimental to the owners and tenants living and working there as well as to farming operations.

Without more detailed plans, I cannot be more specific about the impacts on RD1600 at this time.

The District is grateful to Yolo County staff, Sabrina Synder, for her participation on the Steering Committee, and her work to keep the landowners within the District educated about the process. The Yolo Bypass News which Sabrina produces is a great way for folks to learn about the many projects that are occurring throughout the area.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Michele Clark, President  
Board of Trustees  
Reclamation District 1600  
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