THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO TOOK TIME OUT FROM THEIR BUSY LIVES TO Handout\*\*\*\*\* ATTEND ONE OF BIMID’S FOUR FLOOD CONTROL ASSESSMENT COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS!

The Community Workshops (held on May 13, May 27, June 10 and June 20) were intended to (1) help property owners better understand the purpose and the details of the proposed Levee and Flood Control Facilities Maintenance and Repair Assessment and (2) enable the public to raise questions, seek further clarification, and offer suggestions for possible revisions to certain components and provisions of the proposed flood control assessment.

These Community Workshops were planned to not only be informational, but also interactive in a way that would encourage public ideas and suggestions. It was understood and intended from the outset that, based on such public input received during (and between) these workshops, BIMID would make adjustments to the final form of the proposed assessment in order to best serve our community.

Listed below are the three key changes made to the proposed assessment (and to the final Engineer’s Report) as a result of such public input, and formally adopted at a Special Meeting of the BIMID Board on June 11, 2015 in time to be incorporated into the final ballot language. They are as follows:

1. **A 10 Year Expiration Term (“Sunset Provision”) for the Assessment:** The assessment term was originally designed to be for 30 years, based on a long term planning and financing structure typical for such major Public Works construction projects. There was also consideration of an initial term as short as 5 years and subject to another balloting process before it could be further extended. Some workshop attendees thought that 5 years would be too short for BIMID to efficiently plan for long term flood control improvements, and that a compromise 10-year initial term, with another balloting to extend beyond 10 years, would be more workable. The BIMID Board and staff concurred that a 10 year term would better enable Bethel Island to benefit from at least 3 “construction cycles” of Department of Water Resources (DWR) major project funding, in addition to being better able to proceed with the recently awarded Horseshoe Bend Project just beginning to get underway.
2. **An Annual Consumer Price Index Adjustment Mechanism, not to Exceed 3% per Year:**  Originally the BIMID Board considered setting a maximum rate at 4%, and at the community meetings, there was considerable discussion regarding the need for a CPI adjustment mechanism at all. However, in recognition of the need not to fall behind potential increases in costs over time, the BIMID Board considered it prudent to include an annual CPI adjustment mechanism, linked to the U.S. Department of Labor Index, which would require Board approval every year, and would be limited to a maximum of 3% per year. This would protect BIMID’s, and Bethel Island’s, ability to effectively leverage potentially millions of dollars in DWR funding over this 10-year period. It also needs to be re-emphasized that, under California Proposition 218 regulations, if over time other BIMID revenue (e.g. property taxes) recovers more significantly or rapidly than anticipated (including the prospective revenue benefits of the Delta Coves development over the next few years), it is required that the assessment rate be re-evaluated and reduced, accordingly.
3. **Required Assessment District Separate Funds Accountability and Tracking**. In addition to the succinct Proposition 218 requirements for independent tracking, segregation, and auditing of assessment funds (and for an annual public hearing), the BIMID Board has also added a specific additional provision to the ballot and Engineer’s Report for assessment revenue to be deposited into two separate funds – one dedicated to maintenance and operations and the other dedicated to capital improvements, upgrades and repairs. Further, to help make the ballot process itself totally transparent and above reproach of any possible or alleged tampering, ballots are to be mailed to an independent professional accounting firm, and secured in a sealed ballot box not to be opened until the close of the Public Hearing on August 6, when all ballots will be publicly opened, verified and tabulated.

Jeff Butzlaff

District Manager