

## Please Complete Your Ballot and Mail It Back Promptly

### Public Hearing

A public hearing will be held Thursday, August 6, 2015, at 7 p.m. at the BIMID office, located at 3085 Stone Road, Bethel Island, CA, 94511. You are invited to attend the public hearing.

Tabulation of the returned ballots will commence after the close of the public input portion of the hearing. The results of the tabulation are expected to be announced at the August 6, 2015 public hearing.

### Method of Voting

To complete the enclosed ballot, mark the oval next to either "Yes" or "No," sign the ballot, place it in the provided postage-paid return envelope and mail or hand deliver it to:

Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District  
3085 Stone Road, Bethel Island CA, 94511

Only official ballots that are signed and clearly marked with the property owner's support or opposition and are received before the end of the public input portion of the public hearing on Thursday, August 6, 2015, will be counted.

Ballots are weighted by the amount of the proposed assessment and will be tabulated accordingly. The assessment shall not be imposed if, upon conclusion of the public hearing, weighted ballots submitted in opposition of the assessment exceed the weighted ballots submitted in favor of the assessment. If a majority of weighted ballots returned are in support, the assessment may be levied annually starting with fiscal year 2015-16, with an expiration after ten years, to fund improved flood protection, enhanced levee maintenance, and major levee improvement projects. Levees may be collected from fiscal year 2015-16 through fiscal year 2024-25.

If you lose your ballot, require a replacement ballot, or want to change your vote, please call (800) 273-5167 for another ballot. See the enclosed ballot for additional instructions.

### Is this a Special Election?

No. The proposed assessment is being conducted consistent with Proposition 218, the "Right to Vote on Taxes Act," authored by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, which was approved by the voters of California on November 6, 1996, and is now Article XIIIIC and XIII D of the California Constitution. Proposition 218 requires that a ballot and notice be mailed to all property owners who will be asked to pay an assessment. This mailed ballot proceeding gives property owners the opportunity to vote and decide on the future of your local flood control services.

Proposition 218 and the California Constitution state that a public hearing must be held 45 days after the mailing of the ballots. The purpose of the 45 day balloting period is to give property owners enough time to get more information about the ballot measure if needed and to return their voted ballots to the tabulator.

### Public Accountability Safeguards

If approved by property owners, the funds from this assessment can only be used for levee and flood control improvements that benefit properties in the assessment area. The funds cannot be used for other purposes. The revenues and expenditures will be regularly audited by an independent auditor and the results presented annually at a public meeting.

### Additional Information

For additional information concerning the proposed assessment, please contact:

Jeff Burtzloff, District Manager

Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District  
3085 Stone Road, Bethel Island, CA, 94511  
(925) 684-2210



All Ballots Must Be Received by August 6, 2015 To Be Counted



## Official Notice And Ballot Information Guide Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District Levee and Flood Control Facilities Maintenance and Repair Assessment

### Why Did You Receive This Ballot?

Properties located within the boundaries of Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District ("BIMID") are at an elevated risk of flooding in the event of a levee breach. Property owners are being asked to vote on a proposed funding measure to enhance levee maintenance and make critical repairs to the levees and flood control facilities that protect the Island. Please read the following information and then complete the enclosed ballot and return it in the provided postage-paid return envelope.

Your vote on this ballot measure is important because only returned ballots will be counted. Your ballot is your opportunity to participate in deciding whether local funding should be approved for improved flood protection, enhanced levee maintenance, and major levee improvement projects within BIMID.

### About Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District

BIMID is an independent special district that is responsible for the maintenance, operation and improvement of the levees and the drainage and flood protection system on Bethel Island. BIMID is governed by 5 elected trustees and receives its funding from a small portion of property taxes. Since the District's formation in 1960, BIMID has protected life and property on Bethel Island from potential flooding from the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers. BIMID's facilities include 11.5 miles of levees, 2 pumping stations, internal drainage canals and ditches, and drainage facilities.

The District has never received any additional funding through an assessment or special tax in its 55 years of operation. Despite working within a limited budget, BIMID continues to operate as effectively as possible, currently doing so with minimal staff comprised of only one full time Levee Superintendent, a part-time District Manager, a part time Secretary/Clerk and two part time, as needed hourly laborers.

**What This Measure Would Provide**  
If approved by property owners, the proposed assessment would provide funding for maintenance and repairs of the levee and flood control system that protects the properties within the boundaries of BIMID. Approval of this assessment would:

- Provide a higher level of protection of life and property from flooding
- Continue and enhance year-round maintenance and rehabilitation of levees that protect Bethel Island
- Enable implementation of BIMID's 5-Year Plan and 84-99 flood protection standard
- Fund the local share requirements for DWR grant funding for major levee improvement projects. The State Department of Water Resources (DWR) will pay for up to 75% of maintenance costs - BIMID is responsible for 25% local share to qualify. Similarly, DWR will pay for 75% to 95% of critical upgrades - BIMID is responsible for 5% to 25% local share to qualify.

### Why Is a Funding Measure Needed?

According to the 2007 Geotechnical Levee Study by Hultgren Tillis Engineers, the Bethel Island Flood Protection System "... falls short of providing a generally acceptable level of safety and reliability related to standard consideration for levee safety." As a result of this study, BIMID is engaged in a long range effort to raise the levee standard from the minimal HIMP standard to the engineered and recommended PL 84-99 standard. At the same time, since the 2008 recession, BIMID has experienced over 30% loss in property tax revenue, the District's primary funding source. Despite BIMID significantly downsizing its staff and administrative costs, and implementing operation cost reductions, the current funding levels are inadequate to fund desired flood control system maintenance and these critical levee repairs.

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## How Was the Assessment Determined?

The total annual cost of the improvements to be funded by the assessment is allocated to each property based on the estimated special benefit received from improved flood protection. The benefit to each parcel of property was estimated based on the flood risk, property type, elevation, structure attributes, and other factors.

An Engineer's Report, describing the proposed improvements, method of assessment, estimate of cost and budget, total assessment duration, and justification of the proposed assessment for each parcel is available for review at the Bethel Island Municipal Improvement Office, 3085 Stone Road, Bethel Island, CA, 94511.

## How Much is the Proposed Assessment?

The total proposed assessment for your property for fiscal year 2015-16 is printed on the Official Ballot included with this notice and information guide. The proposed rates for fiscal year 2015-16 for typical different use types for properties within the District are shown below:

Typical One Story House	\$ 132.69
Typical Two Story House	\$ 110.00
Typical House on Stilts	\$ 102.00
Typical Vacant Lot	\$ 89.70
Typical Commercial	\$ 144.75
Typical Agriculture (10 Acres)	\$ 149.38

If the measure is approved, the total estimated amount that would be raised for fiscal year 2015-16 is approximately \$213,947.

## Will the Assessment Increase in the Future?

If approved, the assessments may be adjusted in future years by an amount equal to the annual change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers in the San Francisco Bay Area, not to exceed 3% (three percent) per year without a further vote or balloting process.

## Will the Assessment Include an Expiration Date?

Yes, the proposed assessment may be levied for ten years beginning in Fiscal Year 2015-16 and continuing through Fiscal Year 2024-25.

## Current Levee Status

The Bethel Island levee system differs in a critical way from traditional flood control levees because most of Bethel Island is well below sea level. Typical flood control levees are designed to only hold back water during flood events. However, the Bethel Island levee retains water year-round, operating more as a dam than a flood control levee. As a result, the levee is subject to an increased risk of breaches, seepage, and flooding (see Figure 2). Due to higher levels of scouring, erosion and weathering, it is important that the levee receives regular maintenance and major levee improvements over time.

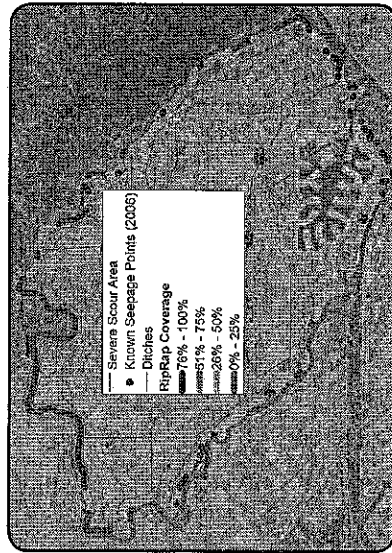


Figure 1: Levee Weak Link Improvement Map. GEI Consultants

## Long Term Flood Protection for Bethel Island

Even with its limited funding, BIMID has just completed the final required improvements to achieve the HMP flood protection standard, FEMA's "short-term, interim" levee standard appropriate for Delta Islands used only for agriculture. (It should be noted that BIMID was only able to achieve the HMP standard because of an especially favorable 5% local share and substantially lower contractor bid than expected.) The District intends to raise the flood protection on Bethel Island from the current HMP standard to the engineered and recommended PL 84-99 flood protection standard by making the required improvements. The PL 84-99 standard is FEMA's minimum standard for "base level of protection" for all Delta Islands with both agricultural and urban residential uses. The engineer's estimate to achieve the PL 84-99 standard is \$20 million (\$12 million for the current Five Year Plan alone) – the proposed assessment would allow the District to provide the required local share (typically from 5% to 25%) to be eligible for State funds. Without increased funding from the proposed assessment, the currently active upgrades at Horseshoe Bend could be the last significant levee improvement project that the District is able to finance for the foreseeable future. Nearly depleted reserves will force the District to focus on minimal maintenance and repairs and forego millions of dollars in State funding due to the grant eligibility requirements for such a local match.

## How Does BIMID Protect My Property?

BIMID protects properties within the District's boundaries by regularly inspecting levees for signs of structural distress, scouring erosion, seepage, boils, rodent infestation, sloughing and other conditions that could indicate structural deficiencies of the levee. When potential issues are identified, based on financial capabilities, BIMID undertakes appropriate levee maintenance, repairs and reconstruction. BIMID also regularly maintains and enforces required maintenance of vegetative growth on the levee, and repairs damage and undermining caused by problematic rodents.

## State Matched Funds for Critical Repairs

BIMID relies on the state of California DWR Subventions Program funding for 75% reimbursement of levee maintenance costs, and on DWR grant funding for major levee improvement projects. To qualify for these levee improvement grants, BIMID is normally required to pay a local share percentage (between 5% and 25%) of total project costs. If the District cannot afford the required local share of the cost of such a levee improvement project, the State will not provide the funds and the project cannot be undertaken. Additional consistent and reliable annual funding from this measure will enable BIMID to once again be better able to leverage millions of dollars that the Bethel Island community needs to keep up with the enhanced maintenance, significant improvements, and substantial upgrades of our levee system.

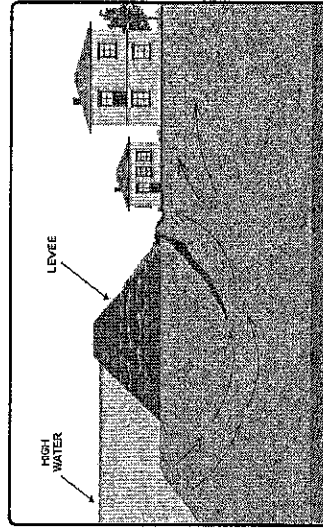


Figure 2: Levee Cross-Section Showing Through-Seepage and Underseepage

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