

Save the Date

Levee Vegetation Research Symposium 2012

Scientific Progress Informing a Path Forward

August 28-30, 2012 - Sacramento, California

In the wake of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, flood risk managers across the nation were reminded of the severe consequences of levee failure, especially in deep urban floodplains. This experience triggered a significant effort to better understand the condition of levee systems elsewhere in the country, focusing on well known mechanisms of levee failure associated with threats such as through-seepage, underseepage, slope instability, erosion, and overtopping. It has also included assessments of potential risks associated with existing woody vegetation which are much less well defined.

A symposium on the effects of levee vegetation was held in Sacramento, CA in August 2007. Since then, the US Army Corps of Engineers invested in further research by its Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) to study the effects of woody vegetation on the performance of earthen levees. Simultaneously, the California Roundtable for Central Valley Flood Management (formerly the California Levees Roundtable) formed the California Levee Vegetation Research Program to research gaps in scientific knowledge not addressed by the ERDC studies. Other relevant research on the effects of vegetation on levee integrity continues nationally and internationally.

On August 28-30, 2012, a second Levee Vegetation Research Symposium will be held in Sacramento to take stock of what has been learned over the past five years. This symposium will bring researchers and stakeholders together to present the latest findings and discuss topics that will include:

- Tree root architecture in levees
- Slurry cut-off walls and roots
- Slope stability and tree roots
- Effects of roots on soil cohesion
- Tree windthrow and levees
- Effects of burrowing mammals
- Forensics of California levee failures
- International literature review of vegetation and levees
- High-resolution 3D tree root and mammal burrow imaging
- Modeling/simulation for levee trees
- Levee seepage analysis
- Engineered or design solutions
- How science is incorporated into policy decision making

Look for future updates, including a call for abstracts and registration information. We currently are seeking corporate sponsorships and will gratefully acknowledge them in future mailings and in conference materials. For more information please visit www.safca.org and follow the “Levee Vegetation Research” link at the top of the page or email LeveeVeg.2012@SacCounty.net.

An effort of the California Levee Vegetation Research Program sponsoring agencies.

