

# Flood Facts

- Sacramento has the worst flood protection of any metropolitan area in the nation — a 1-in-100 (or greater) risk of flooding every year. Every other major American city located adjacent to a major river has 500-year flood protection.
- At their core, the levees that protect the Sacramento region today are in many cases the same levees built by farmers and settlers 150 years ago — using inferior engineering standards and materials.
- The quantity of water flowing out of the Sierra Nevada mountains during large floods appears to be increasing — as is the meteorological trend toward larger and larger storms.
- A 1-in-200 year flood in the Sacramento area (basically, smaller than Katrina but larger than the 1986 floods) would submerge 104,000 homes, 3,820 businesses, 573 industrial sites and 212,000 acres of land.
- Most homeowners insurance does not cover damage caused by a flood — those living in a flood plain should consider, and in some cases are required to, carry special flood insurance.
- Just an inch of water can cause costly damage to your property.
- A car can easily be carried away by just two feet of floodwater.
- New land development can increase flood risk, especially if the construction changes natural runoff paths.
- Flash floods often bring walls of water 10 to 20 feet high.

*Sources for the above facts include: Floodsmart.gov, Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency and the Sacramento County Taxpayers League.*