



## Money ready for Marysville levees

By [Ben van der Meer/Appeal-Democrat](#)

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As it prepares to undertake some the most extensive levee work in more than a decade, the Marysville Levee Commission got assurances Monday from the Yuba County Water Agency about the financial outlay to do so.

Agency General Manager Curt Aikens reassured commissioners at their regular meeting over dipping into commission reserves to secure \$20 million in federal stimulus dollars to begin levee work this summer.

"If you've got a cash problem, come to me," Aikens said. "The water agency was created for flood control and water supply. This project is why we're here."

The commission approved a 2010-11 budget at the meeting, with the understanding it will spend about \$200,000 out of commission reserves to constitute a local match for the project.

Once a contract is awarded, a step expected to come in early June, crews will begin work in late July or early August to begin Phase 1 of the overall project to strengthen the "ring" levee surrounding the city of Marysville. The first phase involves putting slurry wall in the levee along 24th Street to Jack Slough, on the city's east side.

After the first phase is completed by the end of next summer, subsequent phases in later summers will address other parts of the levee, with an end result of near-200-year flood protection for the city.

The commission's financial commitment will reduce its reserve fund to about \$480,000 in the next fiscal year, an amount leaving commission President Jerry Crippen with some concern.

"I think everybody's feeling is that \$500,000 gets us through a flood fight if we have to," Crippen said, so he wanted assurances from Aikens about YCWA's ability to help if such a situation came up.

Aikens said he could provide them, and pointed out the agency was almost compelled to do so given how relatively quickly the project was moving ahead.

"When you talk about \$20 million, to get appropriated those kinds of funds could take two to three years in a standard process," he said. "We're not on a standard process. We're cutting things down by years."

Commissioner Patrick Ajuria, who said he'd also wanted some assurances, concurred on the quick turnaround.

"Even land acquisition takes 18 months when you do it through the state," he said.

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