

Where to build?

I have been watching with great interest the progress of the Yuba Highlands project. Several groups of folks seem to be compelled to block the project at any cost, and some seem to be willing to distort facts and fabricate information to fit their own personal agendas.

Yuba County and the surrounding areas have fought the effects of flooding since early settlers arrived here. For protection, dams have been built and levees erected, but it still floods. In 1997, Yuba County suffered a catastrophic levee failure. Between Yuba and Sutter counties, we had the largest single evacuation in California history, according the American Red Cross. Yuba County residents sought refuge and safety in elevated communities surrounding Yuba County, including Nevada County.

In 1997, as conditions worsened, more and more people sought high ground, and when the levee broke, many Yuba County residents went to Nevada County to seek refuge.

When the floodwaters receded, there were a number of complaints from Nevada County. Some even commented: "These people should know better than to live on the valley floor, next to a river. They should have known that they would flood."

Now that Yuba County is considering developing above the floodplain, below the fire line, there is a group of Nevada County people attending every Planning Commission meeting and complaining that they do not like Yuba County developing in the foothills. Much effort has been put into strengthening our levees, but nothing will assure safety from flooding better than natural elevation, such as the Yuba Highlands project.

My question is, will these kind folks from Nevada County, who are so concerned for our well being, let us know where we should or could build?

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