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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

San Joaquin County and Cities Flood Evacuation Map Website

San Joaquin County - June 8, 2011 - The San Joaquin County Office of Emergency Services and the cities of Stockton, Lathrop, Manteca, and Lodi have worked cooperatively for several years to improve the ability of public safety agencies to effectively and safely evacuate urban areas threatened with flooding. This evacuation planning has complemented efforts by the Office of Emergency Services and reclamation districts to improve emergency response to threats to levee stability. As a result of this program evacuation maps are now available on a dedicated website to the general public living in urban areas.

The full, detailed, evacuation maps will assist public safety officials to rapidly organize an orderly evacuation of urban neighborhoods if necessary. These confidential evacuation maps include planned evacuation routes, pre-planned locations of command posts and staging areas for fire and police resources, and other details of local evacuation plans. Locations of schools, care homes, and other vulnerable populations are also displayed for use by officials.

Versions of these maps are now available to the general public. These edited maps display the information that citizens would need to safely evacuate their neighborhoods. These general public maps can be found at www.sjmap.org/evacmaps and are organized as brochures containing additional safety information on the reverse side. The brochures are available in English and Spanish and can be viewed on a computer screen or printed on legal size paper. Businesses, homeowners associations, and other neighborhood organizations with the ability to print large maps can also download a PDF file of the full-size maps for printing and posting in public areas.

The general public evacuation map website also provides users with the ability to quickly see their evacuation routes and rally points - pre-determined locations where citizens can receive evacuation assistance - through an interactive map. Clicking on a rally point location on this "viewer" allows the user to see an aerial photo of the site in their neighborhood where they could gather to receive assistance if they cannot leave on their own in an evacuation.

For more information on this improved general public evacuation website, please contact;

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