**Talking Points for the Proposition 218 Elections for Reclamation District 2035**

The Reclamation District (RD) 2035 Board can increase the flood project operations and maintenance (O&M) assessments without going through the Proposition 218 election process. However, RD 2035 staff recommends utilizing the Proposition 218 election process because it is more transparent and involves property owners’ approval.

**Need for the Proposition 218 Election Process**

* The O&M assessments have not covered the actual expenses for over 10 years.
* There have been many years during which the allowed 5% increase was not implemented.
* Based on the assurance agreement with the State of California (State), RD 2035 is obligated to maintain the flood control project under its jurisdiction in compliance with the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) and US Army Corps of Engineer (USACE) standards.
* Without proper O&M assessments, RD 2035 could again be put on an inactive status for the USACE PL 84-99 Program.
* To maintain eligibility in the PL 84-99 Program, RD 2035 has to fulfil its commitments outlined in the System-wide Improvement Framework (SWIF).
* RD 2035 has been granted temporary eligibility only in the USACE PL 84-99 Program. To continue its eligibility in the Program, RD 2035 must show that it has improved its O&M activities and that it is addressing the deficiencies highlighted by the USACE.
* Had RD 2035 not obtained temporary eligibility in the PL 84-99, the landowners could be held responsible for repairing the levee that was damaged in the 2017 storms (costing millions of dollars).
* Because RD 2035 was active in the PL 84-99 Program, the District was approved by the USACE to repair the damage levee sites at no cost to the District and landowners.
* Compliance with O&M standards is essential for obtaining future funding from the USACE should such disasters occur again, as well as to secure any future grants from the State for levee setback and/or other projects of interest to RD 2035 and Conaway Ranch.