

Bradford Island Reclamation District # 2059

Welcome to Beautiful Bradford Island

Bradford Island is in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and is comprised of approximately 2,385 acres of predominately agricultural and recreational land, and it enjoys the isolation and protection of only being accessible by ferry.



Why was Reclamation District # 2059 Formed?

Bradford was formed to address the flood protection concerns on Bradford Island, landowners formed the Bradford Island Reclamation District # 2059 (“District” or “RD # 2059”) by petition of landowners in 1921. The District was formed under the laws of the State of California and is governed by Division 15 of the California Water Code (commencing with Section 50000). The District is responsible for the maintenance, operation, capital repair of the levee and flood control system on Bradford Island, and it maintains and operates about 7.5 miles of levees, one pump station and about 5 miles of associated internal drainage canals, and other flood control infrastructure.

Year Formed 1921

Population Served Approx. 48

Size: 2,385 acres

How can landowners get more Involved?

RD # 2059 is served by landowner volunteers on the Board of Trustees (“Board”), which takes public input from all Bradford Island landowners. Bradford Island can only continue to flourish with landowner involvement and a united commitment to protecting the island. Here are some opportunities for you to get involved:

- Attend and provide input at monthly District Board meetings,
- Attend Delta Stewardship Council, DWR, Department of Fish and Wildlife, or other Delta related public meetings
- Volunteer to serve on a District committee, or
- Run for a trustee seat...elections are held bi-annually each November in the odd years as mandated by Cal. Wat. Code § 50730.

What are the requirements the District must meet?

As an independent special district, RD #2059 must comply with statutory requirements for local agencies, including those found in the California Water Code, Government Code, the California Constitution, and any other controlling local, state, or federal law, as well as the District’s own Bylaws. RD # 2059 is governed by a Board of Trustees (“Board”) which consists of five elected property-owner Trustees. The District employs a part-time District Manager and part-time Levee Superintendent, and contracts for support services with a District Engineer and District Legal Counsel.

For more Information, please visit the District Website: [www.https://bradfordisland.com/](https://bradfordisland.com/) or contact the District Manager, Angelia Tant by email at: angelia_bradford@sbcglobal.net

District Revenue Sources

The District's 2019/2020 approved budget totaled \$537,796 (note, \$40,000 was budgeted for special consultant services to prepare the Proposition 218 Assessment). The annual budget is typically allocated approximately as follows: 27% for the ferry service, 39% is for levee maintenance and flood protection services, 34% in District payroll, legal, and administrative activities. The activities are primarily funded by two annual property assessments and by funding from the California Department of Water Resources ("DWR") Delta Levees Maintenance Subventions Program ("Subventions") and other state reimbursements. The two current assessments and DWR funding sources are described below:

- **The initial assessment - "CB Assessment" (also sometimes called the "Ad Valorem Assessment")**

This CB assessment was originally adopted as an Operation and Maintenance Assessment and it does not have an expiration date. The CB assessment cannot be raised by a cost of living adjustment and is set at the 2009/2010 maximum rate which generated \$158,257.80 last year. While this CB assessment was initially adopted for Operations and Maintenance services, the District has historically used this revenue to fund the District's portion of the ferry operations. (See more on the ferry costs below.)

- **A second overlay assessment - "2015 Assessment"**

This 2015 assessment was adopted as an Operation and Maintenance Assessment in 2015 to make up for a budget shortfall for required maintenance and pump station repairs. The 2015 Assessment included a 5-year sunset clause, and it is currently set to expire on June 30, 2020. This assessment generated \$232,406.90 last year and it funds most District operations and flood protection services. The District has currently hired a consultant to prepare a new assessment to replace the expiring amount. The District will be discussing the new assessment proposal at the June 2, 2020 Board Meeting.

****Do note, the CB and 2015 assessments are collected from landowners by the Contra Costa County Tax Collector ("County"). The County issues funds directly to the District using a system called the Teeter Plan. As of May 2020, District staff has confirmed that the County has no intent to change its use of the Teeter Plan or to no longer collect assessments on behalf of special districts.

- **State funding from DWR**

DWR's Subventions Program provides funding on a cost-share basis to local levee maintaining agencies for rehabilitation and maintenance of levees in the Delta. To participate in Subventions, the District enters into a Work Agreement with DWR to perform applicable levee work within each fiscal year. The District then submits a claim for reimbursement to DWR for all work performed, and if approved, DWR reimburses the District for 75% of all costs (less \$1,000 per mile of levee, for the District this is \$7,500) spent on approved work. Subventions has been very beneficial to the District in the past allowing RD # 2059 to perform necessary levee maintenance and be reimbursed for most of the costs. Most recently, the District has received reimbursements of \$191,498.00 (2018/2019), \$136,282.00 (2017/2018), and \$32,953.00 (2016/2017).

A secondary source of funding from DWR is grants through DWR's Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP's). These funds are typically generated from voter approved propositions/senate bills. Based on the language in these propositions/senate bills, a variety of grants for levee rehabilitation and/or environmental enhancements may be awarded. There are no set timeframes as to when PSP's will be available for Districts to pursue. RD # 2059 has been awarded several PSP's over the years which allowed the District to: design and construct taller levees (twice), design and construct stability berms on the landside of the levee, and monitor the construction of the flood/salinity barrier.

As part of the acceptance of grant funding for the PSP's, RD # 2059 agrees to maintain these improvements for the life of the projects. These maintenance activities are subvention eligible, and DWR will reimburse for the maintenance.

Delta Ferry Authority - Ferry Service to Bradford

The District is a member of the Delta Ferry Authority ("DFA"), which provides ferry service from Jersey Island to Bradford Island and Webb Tract. As dictated by the DFA Joint Powers Agreement, Rd # 2059 and Webb Tract split all operating costs 50%/50%. Both Districts pay for monthly service at \$9,000 each and for half of all costs, including repairs, dry dock services, inspections, as well as accounting and administrative costs. In recent years, the District has paid the following totals to the DFA: \$98,400 (18/19), 100,800 (17/18), and \$119,250 (16/17).

As stated above, the District has primarily used funds from the CB assessment to pay its portion of the DFA costs each year. Because funding the ferry is such a significant portion of the District's annual budget, RD #2059 Board proposed a reduced ferry service schedule to avoid overtime costs for DFA employees. The reduction resulted in DFA saving approximately \$34,000 annually. However, the DFA costs remain a significant portion of RD # 2059's annual budget and should the District lose its 2015 assessment revenue, it could jeopardize Rd # 2059's ability to fund ferry service.