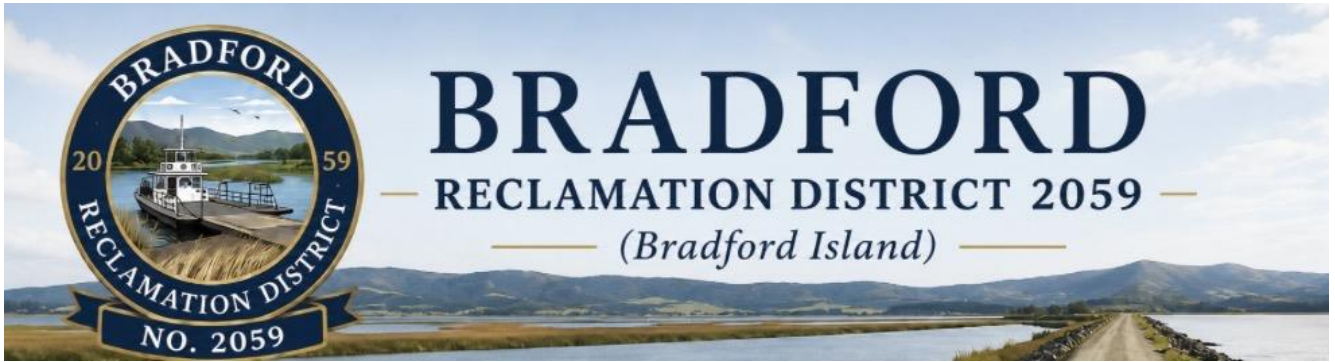




SPECIAL LANDOWNER NEWSLETTER | OCTOBER 2026

Vegetation Control, Drainage Ditches & Pump Station

1 Levee vegetation control — a flood-safety priority

When funding allows, the District removes and controls vegetation on levee slopes so inspectors can identify erosion, animal burrows, seepage, cracking, and other conditions that may threaten levee integrity. Routine inspection, appropriate vegetation management and documentation support the District's levee maintenance obligations and its ability to submit eligible claims for State reimbursement. Work remains subject to applicable habitat protections, permits and the State of California Department of Water Resources (DWR) eligibility rules.

How Subventions reimbursement works

The DWR Delta Levees Maintenance Subventions Program helps reimburse approved eligible levee maintenance. For rural levees, the District must first bear the equivalent of \$1,000 per eligible levee mile (Bradford has 7.4 miles of levee) before reimbursement begins; up to 75% of eligible costs above that threshold may be reimbursed by the State, leaving at least 25% to be locally funded. Reimbursement is not automatic: approved work, documentation, inspections, funding availability and applicable program terms matter.

2 Drainage ditches — District vs. private responsibility

The District maintains (1) the main north-south ditch running the length of Bradford Island and (2) the connecting ditch running east from the north-south ditch to the pump station. These channels help convey drainage water to the pumping system. The District monitors crossings for obstructions and may rent an excavator and use in-house personnel when funding allows.

What property owners must maintain

Drainage ditches along the rear of private properties are privately maintained, not District-maintained. Owners are responsible for their own private ditches, installed culverts and other private drainage systems, subject to applicable easements, permits and law. Please keep these features clear of debris and obstructions and contact the District before altering any drainage route. Whether a particular ditch is private or District-maintained should be verified.

Why ditch cleaning was limited

Routine ditch cleaning is funded through the District's unrestricted local revenues, including property-tax and assessment-roll receipts, not through restricted Delta levee Subventions reimbursements. Funding received from FEMA/CalOES and DWR mitigation-site funds cannot be used for ditch/pump maintenance. The District's proposed 2022 Proposition 218 revenue measure did not pass, limiting the additional operations-and-maintenance funding anticipated. As a result, the Board had to prioritize maintenance within available funds.

3 Pump station — condition, repairs and funding

Bradford Island has one pump station with two pumps. The larger pump is operational and the smaller pump is inoperable. The District has been working with a contractor to evaluate repair or replacement of the smaller pump motor. This pump is over 90 years old. The DWR Subventions program does not cover the pump station operations and maintenance. The District relies on the District assessed taxes for maintenance.

A message to landowners

Maintaining levees, drainage routes and pumps is essential to Bradford Island's flood resilience. The Board continues to prioritize public safety and critical work within the revenues legally available to the District. Property owners can help by keeping private drainage features maintained and reporting blocked crossings or visible levee concerns promptly.

Blake Johnson, PE