



## Walnut Creek @ Diamond Boulevard

The Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (FC District) received a grant from the State of California Department of Water Resources. The grant program was the Statewide Flood Emergency Response (FER) Grant Round 3 Under, Proposition 84: "The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality & Supply, Flood Control, River & Coastal Bond Act of 2006 Et Seq." The purpose of the grant awarded to the FC District was to fund a project that would determine flood stage elevations at 12 of the FC District's stream gauges and outreach to agencies and the public about the findings and use of those flood stages. This report documents the flood stage determination for Walnut Creek using the stage at the stream gauge on the Diamond Boulevard bridge over Walnut Creek in Concord.

### **RESULTS AND HOW TO USE THEM:**

Model analysis of the creek shows there could be several flood stage locations along Walnut Creek. Table 1 lists the stream gauge stages along with locations where the associated flooding could occur. A map showing the locations in Table 1 can be found at the end of this document. The creek stage and flood stage can be read from a plot on the FC District's **RainMap** at [www.ccflood.us/rainmap](http://www.ccflood.us/rainmap).

*Table 1: Walnut Creek @ Diamond Boulevard Gauge Stage and Flooding Location List*

Flooding Order	Gauge Stage	Flooding Location
2 <sup>nd</sup>	15.5	East Buchanan Field Airport
1 <sup>st</sup>	15.3	SE corner of Buchanan Field Airport,   Hilton Concord   200 John Glen Drive

**Note:** The gauge stage listed is the height of water above the sensor at the gauge. It is not the depth of water in the creek because the sensor is not set at the low point of the creek. The elevation of the water can be calculated by adding 20.31 feet. In the future we will likely provide both stage and elevation in our flood stage information.

### **Observing Flood Stage**

Anyone with web access can use the FC District's [RainMap](http://www.ccflood.us) ([www.ccflood.us](http://www.ccflood.us)) to observe the stage at the stream gauge. To view the stream gauge stage, go to RainMap. On RainMap, click the "**Datasets**" button in the upper left. A menu will drop down. Click on "**Water Level**" and the map will show all the points for the stream gauges the FC District operates. Then pan and zoom on the map until you find the location of the stream gauge you are interested in. Click on the point at the stream gauge location and a window for the stream gauge will pop up. The popup will have the name of the stream gauge, a table with the latest stage, and a plot of the stage for the last 7 days. The popup will also have links associated with the gauge (see example below).

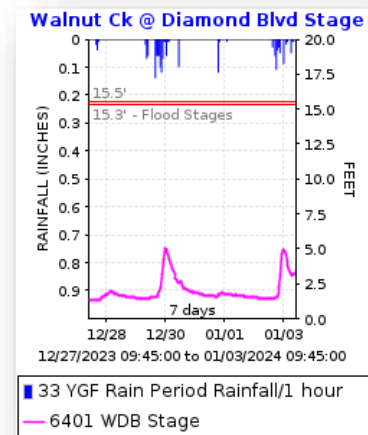
### **Flood Stage Lines**

On the plot you see flood stage line(s) matching those in the table above. Not all of the flood stage lines will be shown. Other flood stage lines may be added if it is found they will help communicate the potential flooding better. If you click the plot, it will open another webpage that has the same 7-day plot you see in the popup and a wider plot of the gauge you choose

with data for the last day. That page also has plots of all of the FC District stream gauges with their respective flood stage lines they have been determined.

### Flood Stage Information

Above the graph on the popup is a link that says, "[Flood Stage Information](#)". Clicking this link will go to a webpage with information about the flood stage. That page has a link which can be clicked to email feedback about when and where flooding from the creek was observed. This feedback is critical for confirming and correcting the flood stage.



### HOW THE FLOOD STAGES WERE DETERMINED:

The FC District engineering personnel (staff) started the development of the model by searching for existing models, creek flow data, terrain data, and engineering drawings. These were used to build the initial model. The following explains how each component that went into the model was developed.

### Model Limits

The limits of the model for Walnut Creek were from the mouth of Walnut Creek (Pacheco Slough) to reaches of several creeks including Walnut Creek, Pacheco Creek, Grayson Creek, Murderers Creek, Clayton Valley Drain, and Pine Creek. The upper limit of the model is the downstream side of the Monument Boulevard crossing.

### Hydraulic Model

For this location, a pre-existing HEC-RAS model was used to model flows for this reach of the channel. The skeleton for this model was the product of joint work by FCD and the US Army Corps of Engineers in a study of the Lower Walnut Creek watershed. This model was then updated with geometric data from 2018 LiDAR surveys and plans for the replacement of Marsh Drive Bridge, the widening of State Route 4, and the desilt of Walnut and Grayson Creeks.

The HEC-RAS models were analyzed within range of the stream gauge — starting from the 50-year and increasing in intensity — to find the smallest storm that produced overtopping at a flood-sensitive location. All locations to flood in the HEC-RAS model up to and including first flood along Walnut Creek were noted for flood stage data.

### Hydrology

The simulation was run using the four available recurrence intervals (scenarios). For each run the water surface elevation (WSE) at the location of the stream gauge was noted.

For this analysis, the first (flood-producing) storm event that overtopped the banks of Walnut Creek was identified and then one of two methods were used to determine flood stage WSE. In the first method, the flood stage for each location was determined by interpolating between the WSE of the flood-producing storm event and that of a smaller event. In the second method, the flood stage was determined by scaling flow rates of the flood-producing storm event until WSE approached the top of bank but did not overtop. Scaling of flow rates was done by applying the

same multiplier factor to each hydrograph in the model. The flood stage from these two methods varied by 0.01 feet, so they were considered equivalent.

### **FLOOD STAGE ANALYSIS:**

Analysis of the Walnut Creek HEC-RAS model shows flooding occurs during a peak flow between the 100 and 200-year storms. Flooding first occurs at two locations simultaneously, at the south-eastern corner of Buchanan Field Airport and at the Hilton Concord. Shortly afterward, flooding occurs at the parking lot of 2200 John Glen Drive. These are shown as flooding at the same flood stage of 15.3 due to rounding off the stages to the nearest 10<sup>th</sup> of a foot. Eventually at the eastern runways of Buchanan Field Airport. The flood stage results are shown in attached maps and summarized in Table 1.

### **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:**

The flood stages presented in this report are intended to increase awareness of potential flooding. However, since these stages have not been validated by actual storm events, they should be used with caution.

Individuals using these flood stages for situational awareness during storms are encouraged to report observations to the FC District at [hydro@pw.cccounty.us](mailto:hydro@pw.cccounty.us). Please include the location, time of flooding, and any other relevant details. If the water level rises above the flood stage line without causing flooding, or if flooding occurs before the water reaches the flood stage line, the FC District needs to be informed.

### **DISCLAIMER:**

The flood stages in this report are based on models with inherent limitations and assumptions that may change over time. Use them with caution, as conditions in the creek channel and at bridge crossings can change seasonally and during storms due to debris blockages, bank failures, or fallen trees. Sediment buildup, vegetation growth, and human activities can alter the creek's capacity over time, reducing the accuracy of these models. Such changes may obstruct flow and lead to flooding at lower storm levels than predicted. Also, associated maps and websites may have errors or inconsistencies and real-time data is reliant on power and internet connections which can fail to operate and provide data in a timely manner. During stormy weather power and communications are more prone to fail. Use this information with caution and do not rely solely on this information and associated data when making decisions related to emergency situations.

This report may be revised and updated as needed based on feedback regarding flood stages.

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**TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS** (not all terms used in this report):

**ArcMap** is a GIS program (see below) that can be augmented with other installed tools such as HEC-GeoRAS (see below). It is used extensively and is the most widely used GIS software and is created by Esri, Inc.

**Geometric data** is data representing the geometrical aspects of the creek including elevations, locations of cross section, spacing between cross sections, and bridge geometry information. It also includes values related to hydraulic aspects of the creek including roughness, obstructions, expansion and contraction coefficients.

**Graphical Information System** (GIS) is a type of mapping software used to store, map, and analyze geographic data in point, line, polygon, raster and database formats.

**HEC-GeoRAS** and **HEC-RAS** are software developed by the US Army Corps of Engineers, Hydrologic Engineering Center (HEC) who developed the River Analysis System (RAS) software. RAS Mapper works inside HEC-RAS.

**LiDAR** stands for **L**ight **D**etection and **R**anging and is a remote sensing technology that uses lasers to measure distances and create 3D maps. The data used was collected by LiDAR equipment mounted in an airplane.

File path: G:\fldctl\Hydrology\Streamflow\Flood Stage Reports\Final Flood Stage Reports\Walnut Creek @ Diamond Boulevard.docx

Attachment: Map



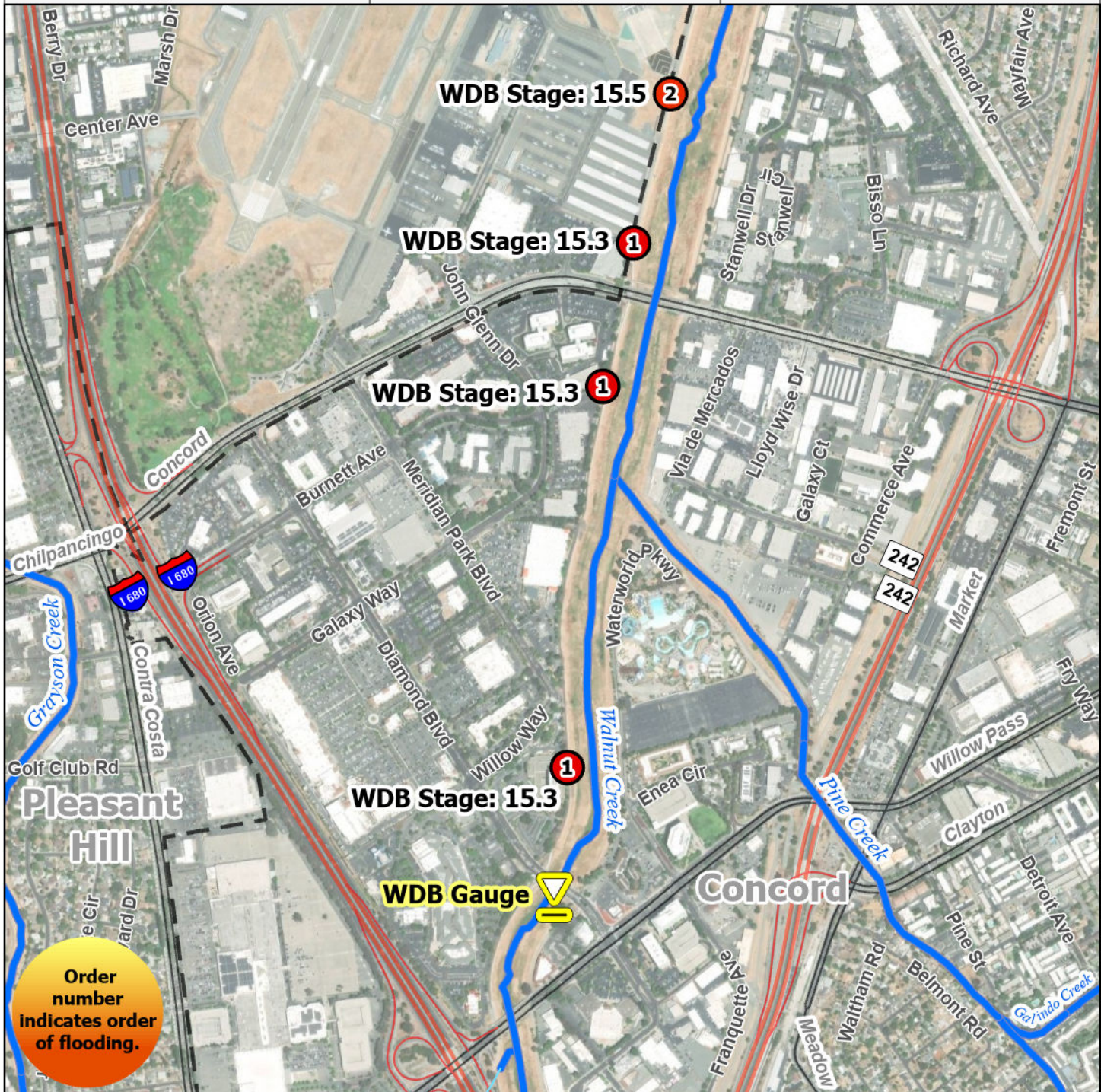


**Contra Costa County  
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# Flood Stages

Walnut Creek @ Diamond Blvd  
(WDB)

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**MODELING DISCLAIMER**  
The flood stages on this map are based on models with inherent limitations. Use with caution, as creek and bridge conditions may change before and during storms due to debris blockages, bank failures, or fallen trees, potentially causing flooding at lower levels than indicated.

**Legend**

1 Flood Location and Order

Stream Gages

9  
1 Order of Flood Stage

**Creeks**

Creeks

Underground Creeks

1:12000

0 500 1,000  
Feet

Pg 1 of 1 WDB

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