



For Immediate Release

Contact:

Jamie Roberson, Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board
662-624-4397

Meredith Johnson, GodwinGroup
601-360-9418

Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board Announces Levee Closure

Board monitoring unusual high water event, confident of levee stability

CLARKSDALE, Miss., April 29, 2011 – [The Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board](#) has ordered levee access closed today in Coahoma, DeSoto and Tunica Counties due to an unusual high water event. Closing of all access to the Desoto Lake Lots – Highwater Road will be effective Wednesday, May 4. Authorized vehicles only will be allowed on the levee.

The Board began closing all inlets on Wednesday and has requested that the Coahoma County Board of Supervisors put in place a mandatory evacuation in effect for residents on the river side of the levees by Wednesday at the latest.

“Our levees are in top condition, and we are confident regarding their stability,” said Kelly Greenwood, Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board chief engineer and CEO. “We are taking prudent, precautionary steps to monitor the levees for safety reasons as events merit.”

The Board will patrol the levee 24-hours a day and is on standby to mobilize equipment and take action quickly should the need arise, particularly for residents and property behind the levees.

The Board will meet again Monday with the Coahoma County Board of Supervisors to provide updated water level information which, along with weather forecast, will determine the mandatory evacuation date.

“The Yazoo-Mississippi Levee Board is poised to act at full strength, but it is too early to make comparisons to historic floods of record,” said Sykes Sturdivant, Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee

Board president. “We are two to three weeks away from the height of a potential high-water event, and anything could change before then.”

For 49 consecutive years, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has presented the Board with an award for Outstanding Maintenance of Flood Control Facilities. “During one of the greatest disasters in the Mississippi Delta – the Great Flood of 1937 – our levees did not break,” Greenwood said.

Formed by an act of the Legislature in 1884, the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board is a constitutional body of the State of Mississippi headquartered in Clarksdale, Miss., and is comprised of all or portions of 10 Delta counties, including DeSoto, Tunica, Coahoma, Sunflower, Quitman, Tallahatchie, Leflore, Humphreys, Holmes and Yazoo. The Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board is responsible for the first 98 miles of mainline Mississippi River levee in the state and 18 miles of backwater levees within the Mississippi Delta. They are also responsible for minor maintenance on some 330 miles of interior rivers and streams.

For more information, visit www.leveeboard.org.

###