

## ENVIRONMENTAL RISK

### Flooding

According to the Flood Insurance Rate Map prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), a substantial portion of Cutler and Orosi is subject to a 100-year flood. The primary source of flood waters comes from the Sand Creek watershed. Records indicate that at least 19 floods have occurred in the area since 1862. The largest recent flood occurred in 1969 when Sand Creek experienced a peak flow of 3520 cubic feet per second (cfs), greatly exceeding the downstream channel capacity of 1200 cfs. This flood caused an estimated \$5.4 million worth of damage in the area.

Since the 1969 flood, the Tulare County Flood Control District has constructed a flood detention facility at the upper end of Sand Creek. This reduces the potential for flooding along Sand Creek by storing storm waters behind a dam. Unfortunately, there still exists flow capacity problems downstream from this facility. These problems involve bamboo growth in the channel, illegal dumping of debris and refuse, and levees which are poorly constructed and maintained. This problem is further aggravated by the fact that Sand Creek flows through the urbanized portions of Orosi. Numerous yards back up to the creek, which makes it difficult for the channel to be maintained.

To realize a significant reduction in the flooding potential of Cutler and Orosi two flood control measures are required. One measure, the construction of the Sand Creek Detention facility on the upper reaches of the Sand Creek Watershed, has already been completed. The second measure, maintaining the flow capacity and levees of Sand Creek, still requires attention. According to flood control engineers for Tulare County the formation of an assessment district is needed to finance the maintenance and improvement of Sand Creek.

### Noise

The County of Tulare has adopted two county wide goals which pertain to noise. They are (1) protect the citizens of Tulare County from the harmful effects of exposure to excessive noise, and (2) protect the economic base of Tulare County by preventing the encroachment of incompatible land uses near known noise-producing industries, railroads, airports and other sources.

The County of Tulare adopted an updated Noise Element on February 9, 1988. The noise consultant for the county has provided current (1986) and projected (2010) noise contours for lands adjacent to freeways, airports, local industries and railroads. The noise contours were prepared in terms of either the Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) or Day-Night Average Decibel Level (Ldn), both of which