



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMMUNITY WORK CENTER INMATES TO ASSIST AUTHORITIES DEVELOP TEMPORARY LEVEE AT TUTWILER

Tutwiler - The Mississippi Levee Board has requested the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) to assist local officials at Tutwiler in Tallahatchie County to develop a temporary levee to control flooding this spring. Inmates will construct a levee along the north side of Hobson Bayou, which runs through a low-lying area of Tutwiler according to MDOC Deputy Commissioner of Institutions Chris Epps. An abnormal rainfall in the Delta region in December, January and February precipitated the special request by the Levee Board for the sandbagging assistance. Hobson Bayou, which is a tributary of the Coldwater River, climbed from its banks and caused extensive flood damage to 23 homes in Tutwiler in December of last year.

"We are deeply pleased that we are able to assist the Levee Board in this flood prevention project," said Deputy Commissioner Epps. "Inmate work crews will be transported to assist in this flood relief project. A Quitman County Satellite work crew will begin sandbagging at the project site on March 5 and 6. A work crew from Leflore County will replace the initial work detail on March 7. A final detachment of offenders from Bolivar County will arrive on March 8, and they are expected to complete work on the temporary levee," Deputy Commissioner Epps added.

Kelly Greenwood, engineer for the Levee Board said, "This sand bagging project is a temporary effort which we sincerely hope will prevent any further flooding damage to those residences in Tutwiler located in the Hobson Bayou flood plain." Mr. Greenwood added, "The Levee Board has worked in close association with both the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency to remove the problem of future flooding in Tutwiler. As soon as the spring rainy season ends, we will build a permanent levee alongside Hobson Bayou designed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers which should remove all future concerns about flood control in Tutwiler."

MEDIA NOTE: If you would like a digital photograph of the sandbagging effort, contact Ken Jones at (601) 359.5608 or email him at kjones@mdoc.state.ms.us