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## **Awarded 2007 Coasts, Oceans, Ports and Rivers Institute award**

BOSTON -- GEI Consultants, Inc., one of the nation's leading water resources, geotechnical and environmental engineering firms, announced that it received a design award from the American Society of Civil Engineers, Sacramento Section, for work performed on the \$51 million Bear River Setback Levee Project. The project won the 2007 Coast, Oceans, Ports and Rivers Institute award.

As the prime consultant to the Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority (TRLIA) project, GEI performed feasibility evaluations, fast-track geotechnical investigations, preliminary and final design, and construction management services. The project also included significant environmental restoration and enhancement measures. At 10,000 feet in length, the Bear River Setback Levee is the longest setback levee in California, and provides the Bear River with additional channel capacity during major flood events. Certified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Bear River Setback Levee provides 100-year-level flood protection to the residents of south Yuba County and will be part of the 200-year-level of flood protection when other levee improvements in the basin are completed.

"GEI's depth of experience, hard work and collaborative spirit were instrumental in meeting our accelerated schedule for completion of the Bear River Setback Levee," said Paul Brunner, P.E., executive director at TRLIA. "Going from pre-feasibility to completion of a 2-mile long setback levee in just two years is a remarkable achievement for all involved."

TRLIA is working to improve levees on the Yuba, Feather, and Bear rivers in the Sacramento Valley. The existing levees provide flood protection for approximately 16,000 acres of farms and urban land within Reclamation District 784, including 40,000 current residents and 9,000 future households in the planned residential development of Plumas Lake.

"We are honored to receive this award," said Ray Hart, P.E., chief operating officer (COO) at GEI Consultants. "Levees are one of the most traditional and key elements of many flood control and flood management systems, and our nation has become acutely aware of the importance, benefits, and the risks that the thousands of miles of levees across the country pose."

GEI is part of the Department of Water Resources Urban Levee Evaluation team that is currently doing geotechnical evaluations of the Marysville, Sutter County, American River, and San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency levee systems.