



FREMONT WEIR ADULT FISH PASSAGE MODIFICATION PROJECT

Yolo Bypass, CA

FISH PASSAGE IMPROVEMENTS

The Yolo Bypass, a prominent feature of California’s State Plan of Flood Control, is a known adult fish anadromous migration corridor. Currently, structures within the Yolo Bypass are a documented source of migratory delay to, and loss of, special status species, including adult Chinook salmon, steelhead, and green sturgeon. Specifically, potential barriers exist for the migratory fish in the form of earthen agricultural road crossings through the Tule Canal in the northern and mid-Yolo Bypass. The current fish ladder at the Fremont Weir provides insufficient passage for adult salmon and does not provide passage for adult sturgeon. Improved fish passage at Yolo Bypass barriers (e.g. Fremont Weir) is necessary to enable open channel upstream migration to the Sacramento River, allowing migrating fish to ultimately reach their spawning areas.

The proposed Fremont Weir Adult Fish Passage Modification Project would widen and deepen the existing fish ladder at the Fremont Weir. The maximum target flow through the fish passage structure would be limited to approximately 1,100 cubic feet per second. The upstream and downstream adjoining channels would be reconfigured to accommodate migratory fish passage. An existing earthen agricultural road crossings would be replaced by a permanent crossings, either railcar bridges or large fish-friendly box culverts, to allow for clear passage of migratory fish. One agricultural crossing would be eliminated.

The 2009 National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Biological Opinion (BiOp) recognized the importance of floodplain rearing habitat in, and fish passage throughout the Yolo Bypass. The 2009 BiOp requires the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to complete several projects, including habitat restoration and fish passage improvements in the Yolo Bypass. DWR and Reclamation, the lead agencies for CEQA/NEPA, are working closely with landowners to ensure the projects’ goals are met and current land uses will continue.

RESTORATION GOAL / TARGET

Improve adult fish passage at the Fremont Weir and along the Tule Canal

LOCATION AND LANDOWNER

The site is located in the Upper Yolo Bypass. The Fremont Weir is owned by the Sacramento-San Joaquin Drainage District. The agricultural crossings are owned by Knaggs Ranch.

FUNDING

DWR and Reclamation water contractor funding

TIMELINE

- ▶ Planning and Design - beginning 2016
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- ▶ Permitting - Anticipated completion in 2017
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- ▶ Construction - Anticipated start in late 2017

PERMITTING

- All permits will be acquired before construction begins, including:
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- ▶ Endangered Species Act
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- ▶ California Endangered Species Act, Section 2081
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- ▶ Clean Water Act, Section 404
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- ▶ Clean Water Act, Section 401, Water Quality Certification



- ▶ California Fish and Game Code Section 1602 (Streambed Alteration Agreement)
- ▶ Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 408
- ▶ National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106
- ▶ Central Valley Flood Protection Board Encroachment Permit
- ▶ CEQA/NEPA

PROJECT PROPONENT

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

DWR's Yolo Bypass Salmonid Habitat Restoration and Fish Passage Project Website:
http://www.water.ca.gov/environmentalservices/yolo_bypass_salmonid.cfm

