California EcoRestore was established in April 2015 to accelerate at least 30,000 acres of known habitat restoration in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta). Three years later in 2018, significant on-the-ground efforts will start implementation to advance Delta restoration opportunities, aimed at surpassing the original target.

**ADDRESSING HABITAT RESTORATION IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES**

EcoRestore is actively engaged in resolving a variety of implementation issues, including:

- Developing more dynamic contracting and land acquisition processes
- Increasing collaboration between project proponents and regulatory agencies
- Working with public agencies and non-profit partners to make project permitting more efficient
- Planning for long-term property and operations management on restoration sites

**THESE PROJECTS WILL ADDRESS:**

- Critical need to restore tidal and subtidal habitats for endangered Delta smelt and other native fish species
- Flood control improvements in a manner that benefits aquatic and terrestrial habitats, species and ecological processes
- One of the most significant upstream migration barriers for adult salmon and other native fish

**PROPOSITION 1 GRANT FUNDING UPDATES**

- $21 million awarded by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) to 23 projects in the Delta focused on water quality, ecosystem restoration, and fish protection facilities.
- $10 million awarded by the Delta Conservancy in 2016 and 2017 and $18.9 million in March 2018. Additionally, two Conservancy-funded projects totaling 35 acres are set to begin construction in 2018.

**MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

Interagency Adaptive Management Integration Team continues to refine their approach to fill gaps and avoid redundancy.
**DECKEISLAND TIDAL RESTORATION**

DWR Fish Restoration Program

Decker Island was formed as part of the construction of the Sacramento Deep-Water Ship Channel and dredging of the Sacramento River in the early 1900s. The island sits nearly 20 feet above sea level. Final disposal of dredge materials occurred on this site, which severely limited plant growth. Exotic weeds and grasses that have developed on the dry, upland site, provide little habitat value. This project aims to restore a suite of natural Delta habitat types including tidal marsh and tidal freshwater emergent, riparian, upland and grassland. Through a breach of the perimeter levee, DWR will implement tidal restoration to support spawning and rearing salmonids, Delta smelt, and other native fish species on the 140-acre site. The project will enhance available food production for native fish within, and adjacent to the restoration site and provide connectivity to the marsh plain for migrating salmonids. This effort counts toward federal fish agencies Biological Opinion requirements to restore 8,000 acres of tidal wetlands in the Delta and Suisun Marsh, as well as mitigation requirements to support endangered salmonid species.

**YOLO FLYWAY FARMS TIDAL RESTORATION**

DWR Fish Restoration Program via Reynier Fund LLC

Construction will begin in 2018 on a joint effort by DWR and Reynier Fund, LLC (property owner) to restore and enhance 350+ acres of intertidal and seasonal wetlands benefiting native fish species. The project site, located in the southern end of the Yolo Bypass is currently used for waterfowl hunting and cattle grazing. Yolo Flyway Farms is funded and managed through DWR’s partnership with DFW on the Fish Restoration Program, established to implement requirements to restore 8,000 acres of tidal wetlands in the Delta and Suisun Marsh. DWR contracted with Reynier Fund LLC through the first of its kind Request for Proposals for Tidal Restoration developed for the Fish Restoration Program.

**HILL SLOUGH TIDAL RESTORATION**

Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW)

Located along the northern margin of Suisun Marsh on DFW’s Hill Slough Wildlife Area, this project will restore brackish tidal marsh and associated upland ecotone. The project involves the restoration of 600+ acres of tidal marsh to add to the recovery of listed plant and wildlife species while contributing to primary productivity in the estuary and reducing the entrainment of at-risk native species as well as other resident and transitory fish species in the Suisun Bay. Implemented by DFWM the site will increase the ability of the Suisun Marsh to adapt to sea level rise and provide public access for recreational activities adjacent to Suisun City. Road improvements and interior site work will begin in 2018, with all inwater construction work taking place in 2019.

**FREMONT WEIR ADULT FISH PASSAGE**

Department of Water Resources (DWR) and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

This project addresses a long-standing source of migratory delay to, and loss of, special status fish species during migration upstream through the Delta to the Sacramento River. The current fish ladder at the Fremont Weir provides insufficient passage for adult salmon and no passage for adult sturgeon. Improving fish passage is necessary to enable open channel upstream migration to allow fish to ultimately reach their spawning areas. Construction will begin in 2018 to widen and deepen the existing Fremont Weir fish ladder as well as modify and remove earthen agricultural road crossings along the Tule Canal to allow for adult fish passage. The project will provide upstream fish passage during and immediately after flood flows overtopping the weir.

**DECKER ISLAND TIDAL RESTORATION**

DWR Delta Levees Program

This long-planned effort in an area formerly slated for urban development, will soon become 1,000+ acres of critically needed habitat for fish and wildlife in the Delta. The project’s location in the western Delta offers a unique combination of the appropriate soil types and lack of subsidence needed to create a large area of tidal marsh and complex intertidal channels. Native grasslands and riparian forests will also be restored in the upland portions of this site. By restoring these habitats that have historically dominated the Delta, this project will contribute to the improvement of the overall ecological health of the Delta. This restoration effort will provide habitat for native fish and wildlife species including Chinook salmon, giant garter snake, and California black rail. After 15+ years of planning and permitting, construction will begin in 2018 on two-thirds of the site, totaling 650+ acres of tidal and subtidal habitat.

**MCCORMACK WILLIAMSON TRACT FLOODPLAIN AND TIDAL RESTORATION**

DWR Division of Flood Management

Offering opportunities for restoration of critical tidal freshwater marsh and floodplain habitat, this 1,600-acre island is currently downstream of the confluence of the Cosumnes and Mokelumne Rivers. Flood flows and high-water conditions in this area threaten levees, bridges and roadways – as demonstrated by the unplanned levee breach on the site in 2017. The project will reduce flooding and provide aquatic and floodplain habitat along the downstream portion of the Cosumnes Preserve by modifying levees on McCormack-Williamson Tract and Grizzly Slough. A key aspect of the DWR North Delta Flood Control and Ecosystem Restoration Project is to provide flood control improvements while benefiting to the ecosystem and fish and wildlife. This project will create tidal marsh, subtidal, and floodplain/riparian habitats to restore natural ecological function. After more than a decade of planning and permitting efforts, construction will begin this year on Phase One, which includes constructing a new levee protecting existing infrastructure before breaching the site to restore tidal function in Phase Two of construction.

**SIGNIFICANCE OF STARTING CONSTRUCTION**

Before projects can begin construction, all required planning steps must be completed. This includes due diligence to ensure the site is suitable for restoration goals, work to secure property control, and completion of all environmental planning, restoration engineering design and all necessary federal, state and local permits.

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**SIGNIFICANCE OF STARTING CONSTRUCTION**

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CA ECO RESTORE CONTINUES TO ADDRESS LONG-STANDING DELTA HABITAT RESTORATION NEEDS

California EcoRestore was established in April 2015 to accelerate at least 30,000 acres of known habitat restoration in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta). Three years later in 2018, significant on-the-ground efforts will start implementation to advance Delta restoration opportunities, aimed at surpassing the original target.

ADDRESSING HABITAT RESTORATION IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

EcoRestore is actively engaged in resolving a variety of implementation issues, including:

- Ongoing state support for habitat restoration project proponents
- These projects will address:
  - Critical need to restore tidal and subtidal habitats for endangered Delta smelt and other native fish species
  - Flood control improvements in a manner that benefits aquatic and terrestrial habitats, species and ecological processes
  - One of the most significant upstream migration barriers for adult salmon and other native fish

RESTORATION PROJECTS BREAKING GROUND IN 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Restoration Project</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tidal Habitats (~3,000 acres)</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floodplain (~200 acres)</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish passage improvement</td>
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</table>

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ONGOING STATE SUPPORT FOR HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT PROONENTS

- Proposition 1 Grant Funding Updates
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