



YOLO FLYWAY FARMS TIDAL HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT

Cache Slough Complex

TIDAL WETLAND

The Yolo Flyway Farms Tidal Habitat Restoration Project (Project) is a joint effort by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and Reynier Fund, LLC. to restore seasonal wetland and cattle grazing land to sub-tidal, intertidal and seasonal wetlands to benefit native fish species. The 359-acre Project involves restoring and enhancing approximately 300 acres of tidal freshwater wetlands, and an additional 30 acres of seasonal wetlands, at the southern end of the Yolo Bypass in the northwestern Sacramento/San Joaquin River Delta (Delta). The proposed Project seeks to partially restore historical ecological functions in the current, highly altered regional landscape. DWR and Reynier Fund, LLC. are restoring this project to help meet the 2008 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Delta Smelt OCAP Biological Opinion's requirement to restore 8,000 acres of tidal wetlands in the Delta. The Project will also contribute to restoration requirements of the 2009 National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) OCAP BiOp.

The project design seeks to maximize residency time and food web production by capturing and slowly draining water through the excavation of two breaches along the Yolo Bypass Toe Drain and interior channels to connect and enhance existing wetlands on site. The project plans to accommodate sea level rise through the enhancement of transitional uplands. The project's restoration activities will restore tidal action to benefit native fish species.

The completed restoration project will be conveyed to DWR in fee title.

RESTORATION GOAL / TARGET

The primary goals of the Project are to (1) improve habitat conditions for Delta smelt by enhancing regional food web productivity; (2) improve habitat conditions for salmonids by providing rearing habitats for out-migrating juveniles and migratory habitats for adults; (3) support a range of other aquatic and wetland-dependent species; (4) provide habitat for establishment of native plant communities; (5) minimize potential for colonization by aquatic weeds, and; (6) preserve existing topographic variability to allow for habitat succession and resilience against future climate change.

LOCATION AND LANDOWNER

The Yolo Flyway Farms Tidal Habitat Restoration Project is located in the northern Delta in southern Yolo County, at the southern end of the Yolo Bypass floodway immediately adjacent to the Yolo Bypass Toe Drain. The site is currently owned and managed by Reynier Fund, LLC.

FUNDING

Fully funded by the State Water Project for all phases of the effort.

PERMITS NECESSARY

- ▶ Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board: Section 401 and Waste Discharge Report
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- ▶ State Lands Commission: Notice of Proposed Use of State Lands
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- ▶ National Historic Preservation Act: Section 106

- ▶ California Department of Fish and Wildlife:
 Streambed Alteration Agreement Section 1600;
 Incidental Take Permit

- ▶ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Nationwide 27 (404
 permit)

- ▶ USFWS Endangered Species Act: Section 7

- ▶ NMFS Endangered Species Act: Section 7

- ▶ Delta Stewardship Council: Delta Plan Consistency
 Determination

- ▶ Yolo County approvals and permits

ESTIMATED TIMELINE

- ▶ Permitting: August 2017 through 2018

- ▶ Construction Complete: 2018

- ▶ Monitoring: 2017 through 2029

- ▶ Ongoing Adaptive Management and Maintenance:
 2019+

PROJECT PROPONENT

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 Division of Environmental Services
 Fish Restoration Program
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