



# WINTER ISLAND TIDAL HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT

West Delta

## TIDAL WETLAND

The Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Fish Restoration Program (FRP) acquired approximately 589 acres on Winter Island in 2016 for tidal wetland restoration. DWR is planning to implement the Winter Island Tidal Habitat Restoration Project (Project), which will restore tidal connectivity to the interior of Winter Island to create aquatic habitat at intertidal and shallow sub-tidal elevations, associated high marsh, and riparian habitats on the site to benefit native fish species. The Project is intended to partially fulfill the 8,000-acre tidal habitat restoration obligations of DWR, contained within Reasonable and Prudent Alternative (RPA) 4 of the 2008 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Delta Smelt Biological Opinion and referenced in RPA I.6.1 of the 2009 National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Salmonid Biological Opinion, for long-term coordinated operations of the State Water Project and the federal Central Valley Project.

The goal of the project is to restore unrestricted tidal connectivity to the interior of Winter Island to create tidal wetland, associated high marsh, and riparian habitats on the site to benefit native fish species. To achieve this goal, the Project will involve breaching the perimeter levee to restore tidal hydrology to the site. The Project consists of restoration planning, modeling, design, permitting, construction, and monitoring. Preliminary planning, conceptual design, and baseline data collection (e.g. topography and bathymetry) were conducted in 2016. Hydrodynamic modeling will be conducted in early spring 2017. Restoration planning and environmental compliance documentation preparation will be ongoing in 2017. DWR is the CEQA Lead Agency for this project and estimates a draft Mitigated Negative Declaration release for public review in 2018.

### RESTORATION GOALS / TARGET

589 acres total

The goal of the Project is to restore unrestricted tidal connectivity to the interior of Winter Island to create tidal wetland, associated high marsh, and riparian habitats on the site to benefit native fish species. The project objectives are to:

- ▶ Enhance habitat appropriate for spawning and/or rearing salmonids, Delta smelt, and other native fish species;
- ▶ Enhance available productivity for native fish within and adjacent to the restoration site; and,
- ▶ Provide connectivity to the marsh plain for migrating salmonids.

### LOCATION AND LANDOWNER

The site is in Suisun Bay between Broad Slough and Middle Slough, just north of the City of Pittsburg, in Contra Costa County. Winter Island sits at the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers, in the corridor between Browns Island and Sherman Island Waterfowl Management Area. DWR became the landowner of the 589-acre site in 2016.



## FUNDING

Fully funded by the SWP Contractors for all phases of the effort

## ESTIMATED TIMELINE

- ▶ CEQA Public draft May 2018,  
Final CEQA August 2018
- ▶ Submitting permit applications: Fall 2018
- ▶ Permits obtained: February 2019
- ▶ Construction specifications complete: June 2019
- ▶ Begin construction: August 2019
- ▶ Construction complete: November 2019

## PERMITTING

- ▶ San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board: Section 401 and Waste Discharge Report
- ▶ State Lands Commission: Notice of Proposed Use of State Lands
- ▶ National Historic Preservation Act: Section 106
- ▶ California Department of Fish and Wildlife: Streambed Alteration Agreement Section 1600 ; Incidental Take Permit
- ▶ United States Army Corps of Engineers: Nationwide 27 (404/10 permit)
- ▶ USFWS Endangered Species Act: Section 7
- ▶ NMFS Endangered Species Act: Section 7
- ▶ Delta Stewardship Council: Delta Plan Consistency Determination

## PROJECT PROPONENT

- ▶ Department of Water Resources  
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 Fish Restoration Program  
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