



YOLO BYPASS SALMONID HABITAT RESTORATION AND FISH PASSAGE PROJECT

Yolo Bypass

FISH PASSAGE AND FLOODPLAIN IMPROVEMENTS

The Yolo Bypass Salmonid Habitat Restoration and Fish Passage Project (Project) has been developed to improve fish passage and increase floodplain fisheries rearing habitat in the Yolo Bypass and the lower Sacramento River basin. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) are jointly planning the Project to comply with the Reasonable and Prudent Alternative (RPA) actions I.6.1 and I.7, as described in the 2009 National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Biological Opinion (BiOp) and Conference Opinion on the Long-Term Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project, and the 2012 Yolo Bypass Salmonid Habitat Restoration and Fish Passage Implementation Plan.

Implementation of the RPA actions would enhance existing floodplain benefits within and through the lower Sacramento River basin and improve fish passage in the Yolo Bypass. RPA Action 1.6.1 requires significantly increased seasonal floodplain rearing habitat availability with biologically appropriate frequency and duration from December through March 7th or 15th, depending on the alternative selected, in the lower Sacramento River Basin. The Project would construct and operate one or more gated and/or passive diversion channels to improve the connection between the Yolo Bypass and the Sacramento River.

The goal of the increased volume of water entering the Yolo Bypass is to pull more fish onto the bypass and create a larger floodplain area. This would allow juvenile salmon to feed in a food-rich area for a longer time where they can rapidly grow to a larger size, as compared to juveniles migrating through the mainstream Sacramento River, thus improving their survival to

the ocean. The project would also reduce migratory delays for adults returning to their spawning grounds.

DWR, as the State lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act, and Reclamation, as the Federal lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act, have prepared a joint Draft Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) to assess impacts of the Project. The Draft EIR/EIS was released in December 2017, evaluating alternatives to meet the BiOp requirements.

RESTORATION GOALS / TARGET

The proposed project aims to 1) increase the availability of floodplain fisheries rearing habitat for juvenile Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon, Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon and Central Valley steelhead; and 2) reduce fish passage migratory delays and loss of fish at Fremont Weir and other structures in the Yolo Bypass for salmon, steelhead and sturgeon.

LOCATION AND LANDOWNER

The site is in the Yolo Bypass and vicinity. Landowners include the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Sacramento and San Joaquin Drainage District, DWR, Port of Sacramento and private landowners.

FUNDING

Planning process has been jointly funded by the State Water Project and Reclamation.



PERMITS NECESSARY

- ▶ Rivers and Harbors Act: Section 408
- ▶ Clean Water Act: Section 401 and 404
- ▶ Central Valley Flood Protection Board: Encroachment Permit
- ▶ National Historic Preservation Act: Section 106
- ▶ CDFW Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement: Section 1600 and 1602
- ▶ CDFW: Incidental Take Permit
- ▶ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered Species Act: Section 7
- ▶ NMFS Endangered Species Act: Section 7

ESTIMATED TIMELINE

- ▶ Permitting: through 2020
- ▶ Construction Complete: 2022
- ▶ Monitoring and ongoing adaptive management: following completion of construction

PROJECT PROPONENT

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