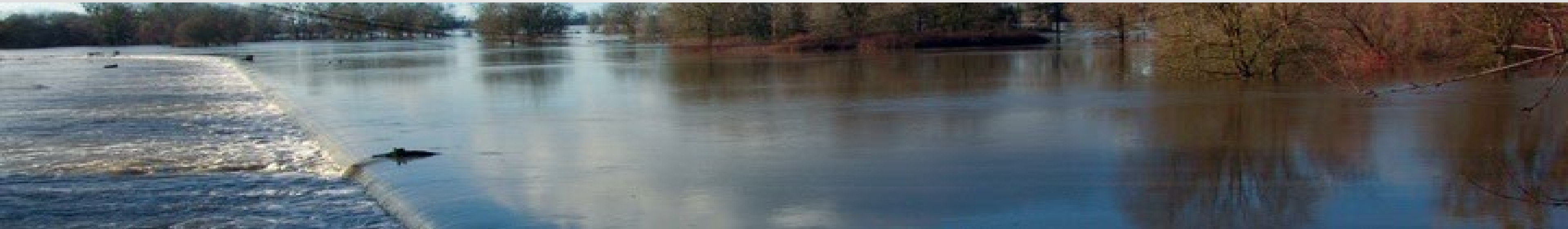


CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

# Yolo Bypass Salmonid Habitat Restoration & Fish Passage Project



Presentation to the California Water Commission, January 19, 2022

Presented by

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# Project Objective

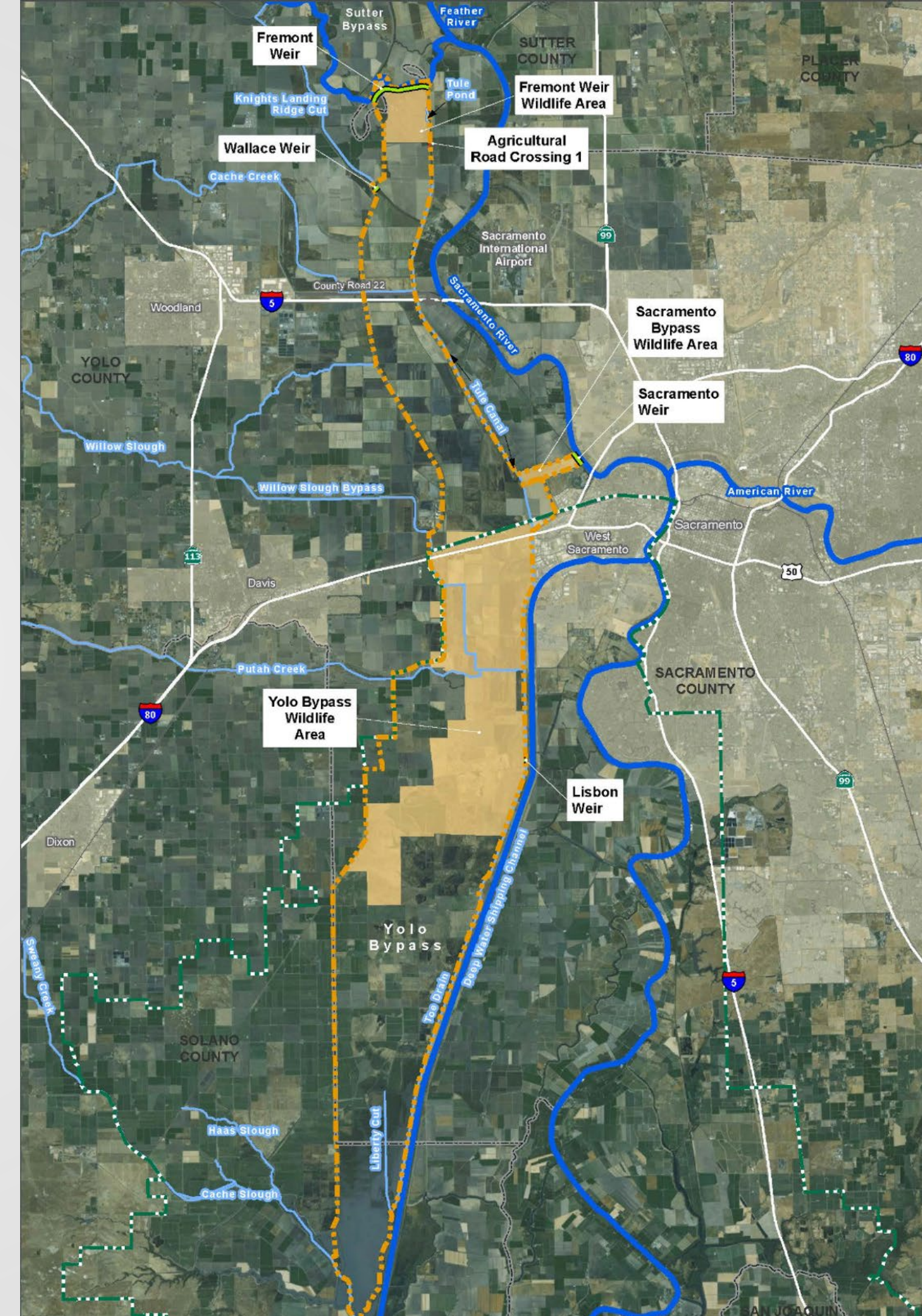
- Restore essential habitat for critically threatened and endangered California Delta-native fish species and fulfill federal regulatory requirements for continued operation of the State Water Project (SWP) and federal Central Valley Project (CVP).
- The restored habitat will support the growth of a healthy population of salmon and improve conditions for survival of sturgeon by improving migration pathways through the Sacramento River, the floodplains of the Yolo Bypass, and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.
- The Project aligns with California's Water Resilience Portfolio and draft strategy to conserve 30 percent of the state's land and coastal waters by 2030 (30x30).





# Project Location

- The Yolo Bypass is a 60,000-acre floodway
- It is 40 miles long and one to three miles wide
- It provides flood protection to the greater Sacramento Area
- The Yolo Bypass area is critical historical floodplain habitat for juvenile salmon.
- It is uniquely situated along the migration corridor for salmon and sturgeon
- This makes it the most promising place to expand upon existing habitat and flooding.





# Evolution of Federal & State Mandates

## **2009 National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Biological Opinion (BO):**

- To the maximum extent of their authorities, provide significantly increased acreage of seasonal floodplain rearing habitat...in the lower Sacramento River basin.
- Reduce migratory delays and loss of adult and juvenile winter-run, spring-run, CV steelhead and Southern DPS of green sturgeon at Fremont Weir and other structures in the Yolo Bypass.

## **2019 NMFS BO:**

- Implementation of the Yolo Bypass Salmonid Habitat Restoration and Fish Passage Project by 2022.

## **2020 California Department of Fish and Wildlife Incidental Take Permit:**

- Shall implement the Yolo Bypass Salmonid Habitat Restoration and Fish Passage Project



# Project Development: Working with Interested Parties

## Extensive Outreach:

- Public Scoping (2013)
- Working Groups (2012 to 2018)
- Value Planning (August 2014)
- Public Workshops (June 2017)
- Cooperating Agency Review (2017)
- Public Draft Comment (2018)
- Landowner Meetings (2018-2020)

## Outreach conducted with:



— BUREAU OF —  
RECLAMATION



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# Project Development: Outreach Outcome

## Successes:

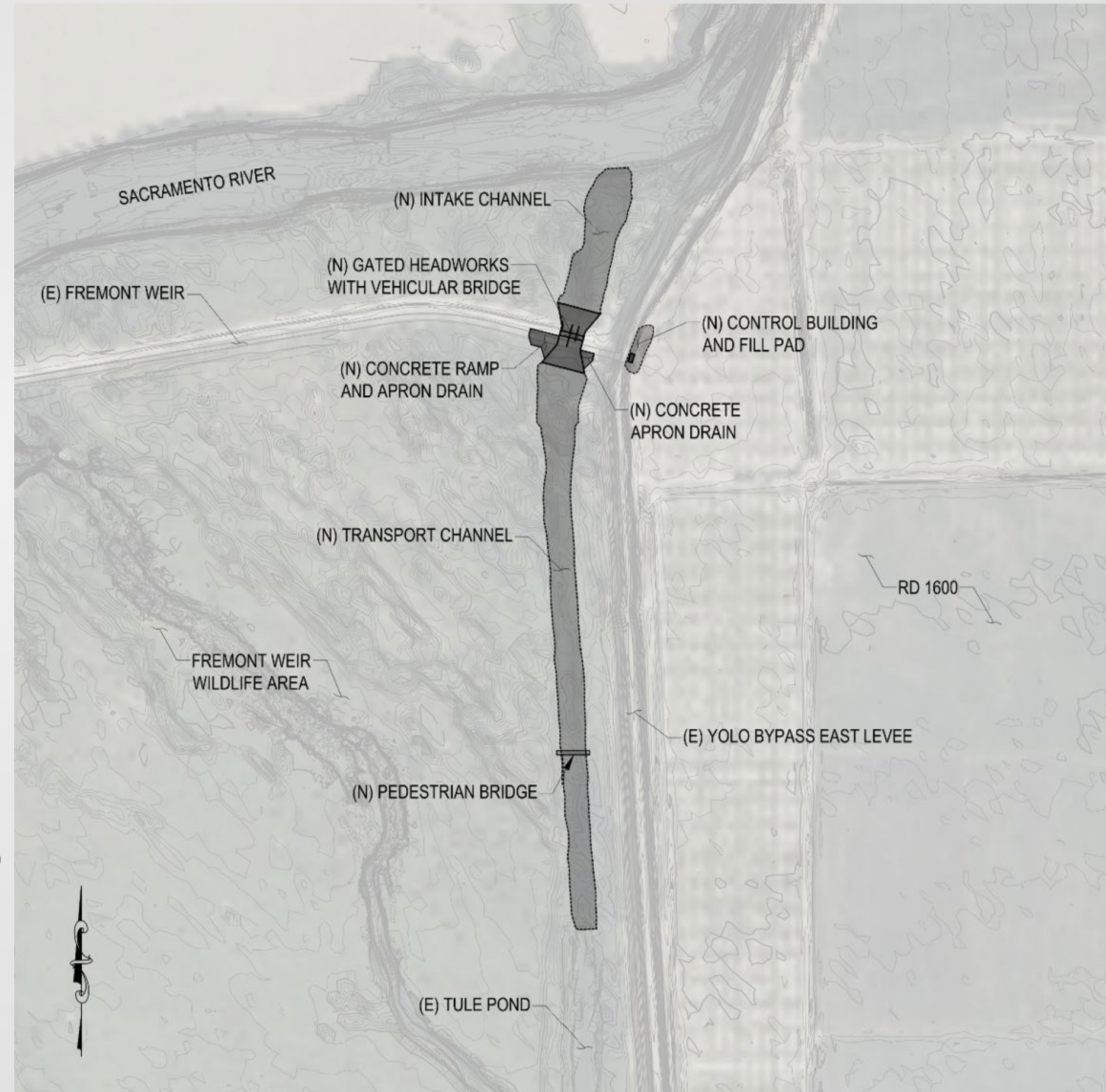
- Identified Yolo Bypass as preferred location for floodplain restoration.
- Developed alternatives with interested parties. Three of six alternatives considered were developed by stakeholders.
- Identified a Preferred Alternative which reduced impacts to landowners while maintaining the benefits to the project.
  - Selected ~6,000 cfs as the floodplain inundation flow rate. Alternatives considered a range of 3,000 – 12,000 cfs.
  - Selected to end floodplain operations on March 15<sup>th</sup>, when operations through April 30<sup>th</sup> were considered.
  - Post-March 15<sup>th</sup> adult fish passage flow was reduced from 1,000 cfs to 300 cfs





# Project Infrastructure and Operations

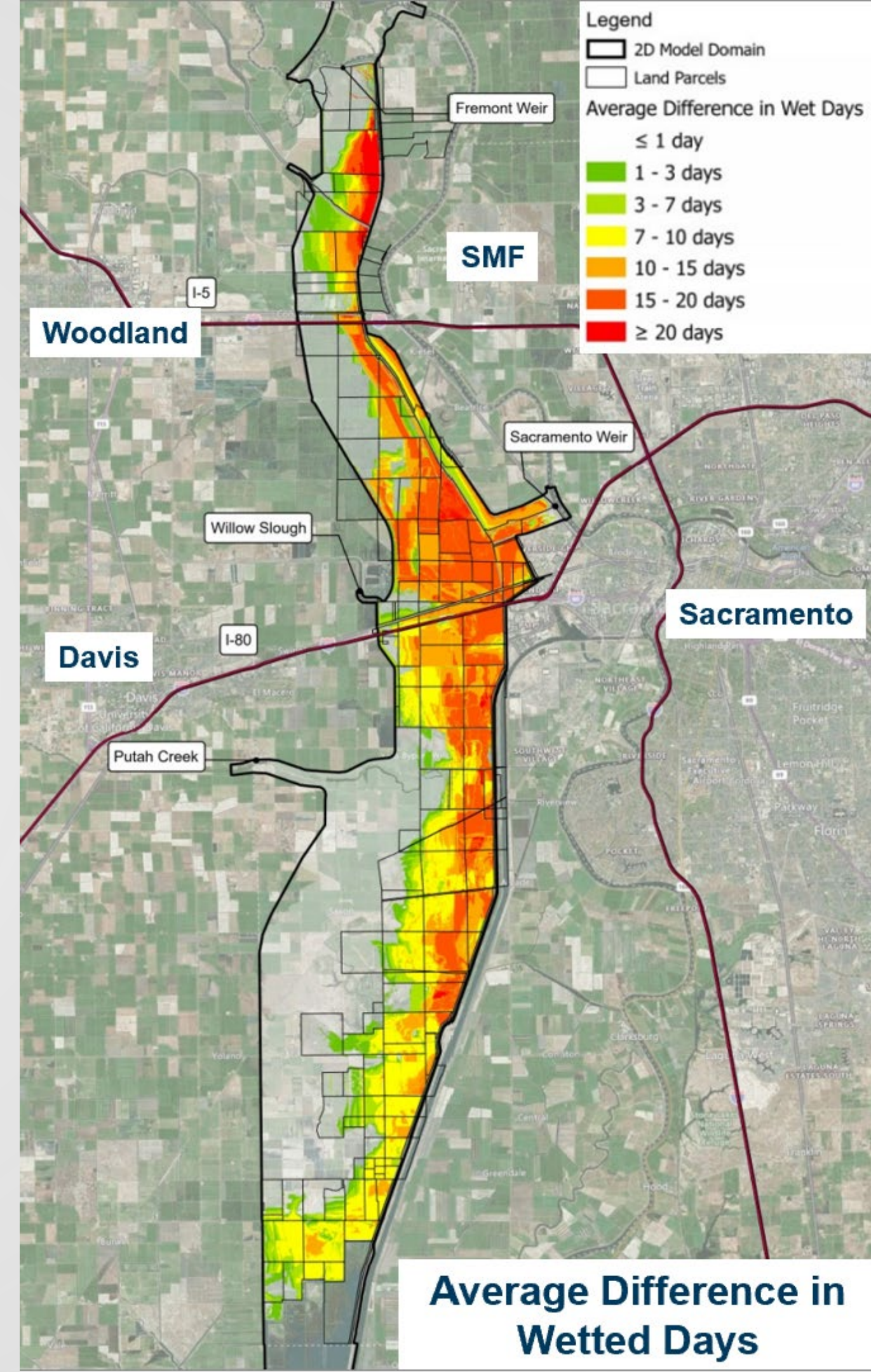
- Excavate an intake channel
- Construct a three-gate headwork structure (Big Notch) at Fremont Weir
- Flow and fish would naturally enter the Yolo Bypass
  - Between Nov. 1 – March 15
  - When river levels are high enough to flow into channel
- As flow increases from 0-6000 cfs it would create floodplain habitat.
- The same flow allows adult fish an opportunity to reenter the Sacramento River





# Easement Purpose & Need

- Project will add approximately 2 weeks of additional inundation
  - Not all land within the Yolo Bypass will experience an increase in inundation
  - Flow path is contiguous from north to south
- Easement will be for flowage of water over and upon the property as may be required for the present and future permitted construction and operation of fish passage and floodplain restoration projects.





# Real Estate Outreach

## Elected Officials

- US Congressman Garamendi
- CA Senator Dodd
- Assembly member Frazier's Team
- Assembly member Aguiar-Curry
- Yolo County Supervisors
- Solano County Supervisors

## State Agencies

- CDFW
- CNRA

## Organizations

- California Waterfowl Association
- Ducks Unlimited
- Yolo Basin Foundation

## Landowners

- Seeking individual outreach meetings with each property owner (In progress)



# RON Considerations

The four findings which need to be met in order to approve a Resolution of Necessity are:

- 1.The public interest and necessity require the proposed project. CCP § 1245.230(c)(1).
- 2.The proposed project is planned or located in the manner that will be most compatible with the greatest public good and the least private injury. CCP § 1245.230(c)(2).
- 3.The property described in the resolution is necessary for the proposed project. CCP § 1245.230(c)(3).
- 4.That either the offer required by Section 7267.2 of the Government Code has been made to the owner or owners of record, or the offer has not been made because the owner cannot be located with reasonable diligence. CCP § 1245.230(c)(4).





# Landowner Engagement

## Pre-Acquisition Process

- Individual Landowner Meetings

## During Land Acquisition Process

- Notice of Decision to Appraise Letter inviting owner to participate in inspection
- Phase I Site Assessment
- Written Offer to Purchase an Easement
- Negotiations
- Resolution of Necessity Hearings (if necessary)



# Project Schedule Update

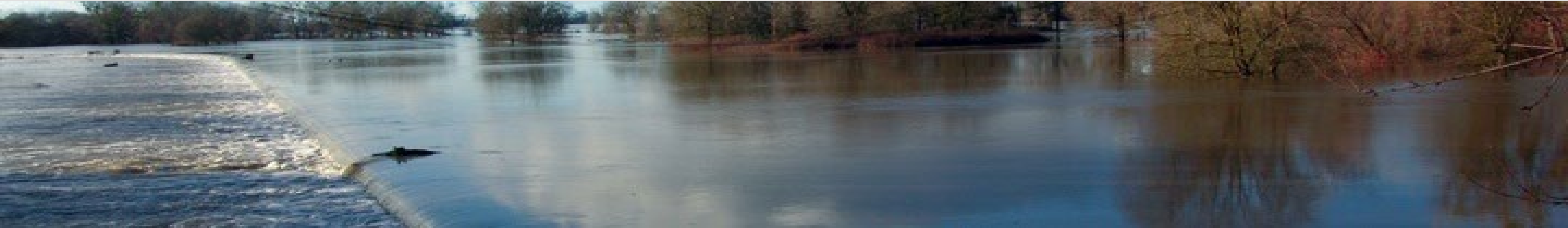
- CEQA Notice of Determination – completed July 2019
- NEPA Record of Decision – completed September 2019
- Permitting and Design – 2019 - 2021
- Real Estate Acquisitions – 2021 – 2023
- Begin Construction – May 2022
- Begin Operations – November 2023





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# Contact Information



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# Additional Feedback & Questions

