



Wallace Weir Modification Project

Project Description: In water year 2014, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) documented several hundred adult salmon in dead-end agricultural ditches in the Colusa Basin Drain system, and while many of these fish were rescued from the drain, the stress from the poor water quality conditions prevented these salmon from successfully contributing to the reproductive population. In the remainder of water year 2014 and in water year 2015, CDFW operated a fyke trap with wing walls at Wallace Weir to prevent straying adult salmonids and sturgeon from entering the Colusa Basin Drain; rescued fish were returned to the Sacramento River. These fish rescue operations have proven resource intensive and are not efficient at higher flows in the Knights Landing Ridge Cut (KLRC). Wallace Weir is a key water control structure in the bypass for flood conveyance and irrigation, but it is an obsolete structure which must be installed and removed annually using inflexible, labor intensive methods. The stakeholder alternative proposes replacing the seasonal earthen dam at Wallace Weir with a permanent, operable structure that would provide year-round operational control. The project would also include a fish rescue facility that would return fish back to the Sacramento River. Wallace Weir has been treated as a common element to the larger habitat restoration and fish passage projects included in the 2009 NMFS Biological Opinion. This project will serve primarily as a fish passage improvement action that will prevent upstream migration of straying adult salmonids and sturgeon into the Colusa Basin Drain. In addition, an upgraded Wallace Weir could allow for better regulation of the timing of outflows in the KLRC to minimize adult attraction flows. Operational control of water levels would also provide greater flexibility for managing water releases for agriculture and wetlands habitat. DWR has contracted with RD 108 to develop the project, including acting as lead agency for CEQA.

Type of Project: Fish passage

Restoration Targets: NA

Location and Landowner: This project is located at Wallace Weir in the Knights Landing Ridge Cut on private property (Knaggs Ranch) in the Yolo Bypass, Yolo County (site map attached). The Wallace Weir is owned by Knaggs Ranch, LLC and the David and Alice te Velde trust, the successors of Hershey in the 1937 agreement.

Funding:

Permitting: Clean Water Act Section 404: application submitted
Endangered Species Act: consultation underway
Central Valley Flood Protection Board Encroachment Permit:
Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 408: application submitted
Clean Water Act Section 401, Water Quality Certification (RWQCB):
CA Fish and Game Code, Section 1602 (Streambed Alteration Agreement):
CA Endangered Species Act, Section 2081:
CEQA/NEPA: MND being prepared

Estimated Timeline: Permits obtained in 2016 with construction in Fall 2016.

Project Proponent: DWR – Karen Enstrom. RD - 108 Lewis Bair.

