

Water Action Plan Implementation

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Interagency Coordination

Governor Brown directed three cabinet secretaries to coordinate on an interagency effort to create a water plan for the state.



The California Water Action Plan was released in January.

The California Water Action Plan was a multi-agency effort guided by input from scientists, engineers, policy experts, and feedback from the public.



Roadmap for the Brown Administration on Water Policy

- Many of the decisions involving water policy over the last year are the result of working towards implementing the goals of the Water Action Plan.
- The Brown Administration plans to continue to use this policy document as one that will help shape its water policy decisions over the next four years.

Report on Progress Will Be Made to Legislature

- In January 2015, the Secretary for the Natural Resources Agency shall submit to the chair of the fiscal committees of each house of the Legislature and the chair of the appropriate policy committees a report describing a strategy to implement the remaining actions described in the Water Action Plan.
- This report shall include a schedule of activities that the administration proposes for each of the next four budget years, the estimated costs of those activities, and the expected funding source.

The Governor's 2014-15 Budget

- Provided **\$709.4 million** in funding priorities for the Water Action Plan and helped lay a solid fiscal foundation for implementing near-term actions.
 - \$617.8 million in funds were accelerated to aid in responding to the drought.
 - \$66.6 million also went to support the Water Action Plan.
 - Additionally, Cap and Trades Funds in the amount of \$25 million were appropriated to Department of Fish and Wildlife for Wetlands and Watershed Restoration.

Integrated Regional Water Management Drought Funding

- \$221 million in grants were awarded by the Department of Water Resources for Integrated Regional Water Management.
- The grants will fund over 100 local/regional drought projects, and the funding will leverage local dollars 3:1 (three local dollars for every one state dollar).
- Due to the drought, the Department of Water Resources expedited the grant process and prioritized those areas suffering greatest from the drought.

Drought Task Force



Governor's Drought Task Force



In December 2013, Governor Brown convened an interagency Drought Task Force to provide a coordinated assessment of the state's dry conditions and recommendations on current and future state actions.

Water Conservation

The website www.SaveOurH2O.org was created in order to help encourage Californians to conserve.



Drought and Real Time Drought Operations

State and federal water project operators and environmental and water quality regulators are working together in real time to exercise as much flexibility as possible under regulatory standards to allow for the capture and storage of water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.



Proposition 1

- The water bond passed by voters allocates:
 - \$2.7 billion for future water storage projects
 - \$520 million for safe drinking water
 - \$1.495 billion for environmental restoration
 - \$810 million for more effective water management
 - Integrated Regional Water Management \$510M.
 - Stormwater capture \$200M.
 - Water conservation \$100M.
 - \$725 million for water recycling
 - \$900 million for cleaning up and maintaining groundwater,
 - \$395 million for flood management.

Increase Regional Self-Reliance and Integrated Water Management Across All Levels of Government

Support and Expand Funding for Integrated Water Management Planning and Projects

The administration will work with the Legislature to enhance the Integrated Water Management Planning program. Providing funding for regionally-driven, multi-benefit projects that prioritize protection of public health is critical. The administration will target funding to local regional projects that increase regional self-reliance and result in integrated, multi-benefit solutions for ensuring sustainable water resources.

Achieve the Co-Equal Goals for the Delta

Begin Implementation of the Delta Plan

The administration directs all of its relevant agencies to fully participate in the Implementation Committee established by the Delta Stewardship Council and to work with the Delta Science Program, the Interagency Ecological Program, and others to implement the Delta Science Plan to enhance water and natural resource policy and management decisions.

Protect and Restore Important Ecosystems

Forest related watershed management efforts

There is an inter-agency group convening to focus on landscape-level forest management and restoration efforts. This group includes the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Governor's Office, CalFIRE, Resources Agency, Wildlife Conservation Board, and Department of Fish and Wildlife. The goal of this effort is to identify and collaborate on landscape level forest management and restoration projects that result in more resilient forests and restore forest health through ecologically sound management.

Protect and Restore Important Ecosystems

Coastal Watershed and Estuarine Restoration efforts

Inter-agency group convening to advance coastal watershed and estuarine restoration. This group includes the state Coastal Conservancy, NOAA Fisheries, USEPA, Resources Agency and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Goal: Identify specific geographic areas where we can combine and direct expertise and resources, to maximize our effectiveness in implementing on-the-ground conservation projects and make measurable progress in meeting the objectives of the CA Water Action Plan and other state, federal and other resource plans.

Protect and Restore Important Ecosystems

Enhanced Stream Flow

The Wildlife Conservation Board in consultation with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, State Water Resources Control Board, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is developing a high-level strategic framework that will serve as a platform for the development of a WCB competitive grant program that supports multi-benefit ecosystem watershed protection, water transactions, and restoration projects that will result in enhanced stream flow.

Groundwater Legislation

- On September 16, the Governor signed three bills - AB 1739 by Assemblymember Roger Dickinson and SB 1168 and SB 1319 by Senator Fran Pavley which create a framework for sustainable, local groundwater management for the first time in California history.
- The legislation allows local agencies to tailor sustainable groundwater plans to their regional economic and environmental needs.

Groundwater

Two key principles to the groundwater legislation:

- First: Groundwater is best managed at the local or regional level, and local agencies should have the tools they need to sustainably manage their resources.
- Second: When local or regional agencies can't or won't manage their groundwater sustainably, the state will intervene until the local agencies develop and implement sustainable groundwater management plans.

Groundwater - Key Dates

- **January 31, 2015:** Department of Water Resources (DWR) establishes basin priorities, which determine which basins require Groundwater Sustainability Plans
- **June 1, 2015:** DWR adopts regulations for evaluating Groundwater Sustainability Plans
- **December 31, 2016:** DWR publishes report on water available for replenishment of groundwater in the state
- **January 1, 2017:** DWR publishes best management practices for the sustainable management of groundwater
- **June 30, 2017:** Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) are formed
- **July 1, 2017:** State may designate basin as probationary basin where GSAs are not formed
- **January 31, 2020:** Groundwater Sustainability Plans are adopted and implemented under way for basins in critical overdraft. Plans are submitted to DWR for adequacy review upon adoption.
- **January 31, 2022:** Groundwater Sustainability Plans are adopted and implementation under way for basins not in overdraft. Plans are submitted to DWR for adequacy review upon adoption.
- **January 31, 2040:** Groundwater Sustainability Agencies in critically overdrafted basin achieve sustainability goal
- **January 31, 2042:** Groundwater Sustainability Agencies in basins not in overdraft achieve sustainability goal.

Delta Stewardship Council Levee Prioritization

The Delta Stewardship Council, in consultation with the Department of Water Resources, the Central Valley Flood Protection Board, the Delta Protection Commission, local agencies, and the California Water Commission, will develop funding priorities for state investments in Delta levees. These priorities will be consistent with the provisions of the Delta Reform Act in promoting effective, prioritized strategic state investments in levee operations, maintenance, and improvements in the Delta for both levees that are a part of the State Plan of Flood Control and non-project levees.

Integrated Flood Management

In support of the Water Action Plan's call for multi-benefit projects and greater alignment of efforts between agencies, the Natural Resources Agency, Department of Water Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Delta Stewardship Council, and others are working to align flood protection and habitat restoration projects in the Yolo Bypass.

Kris Tjernell



The Yolo Bypass

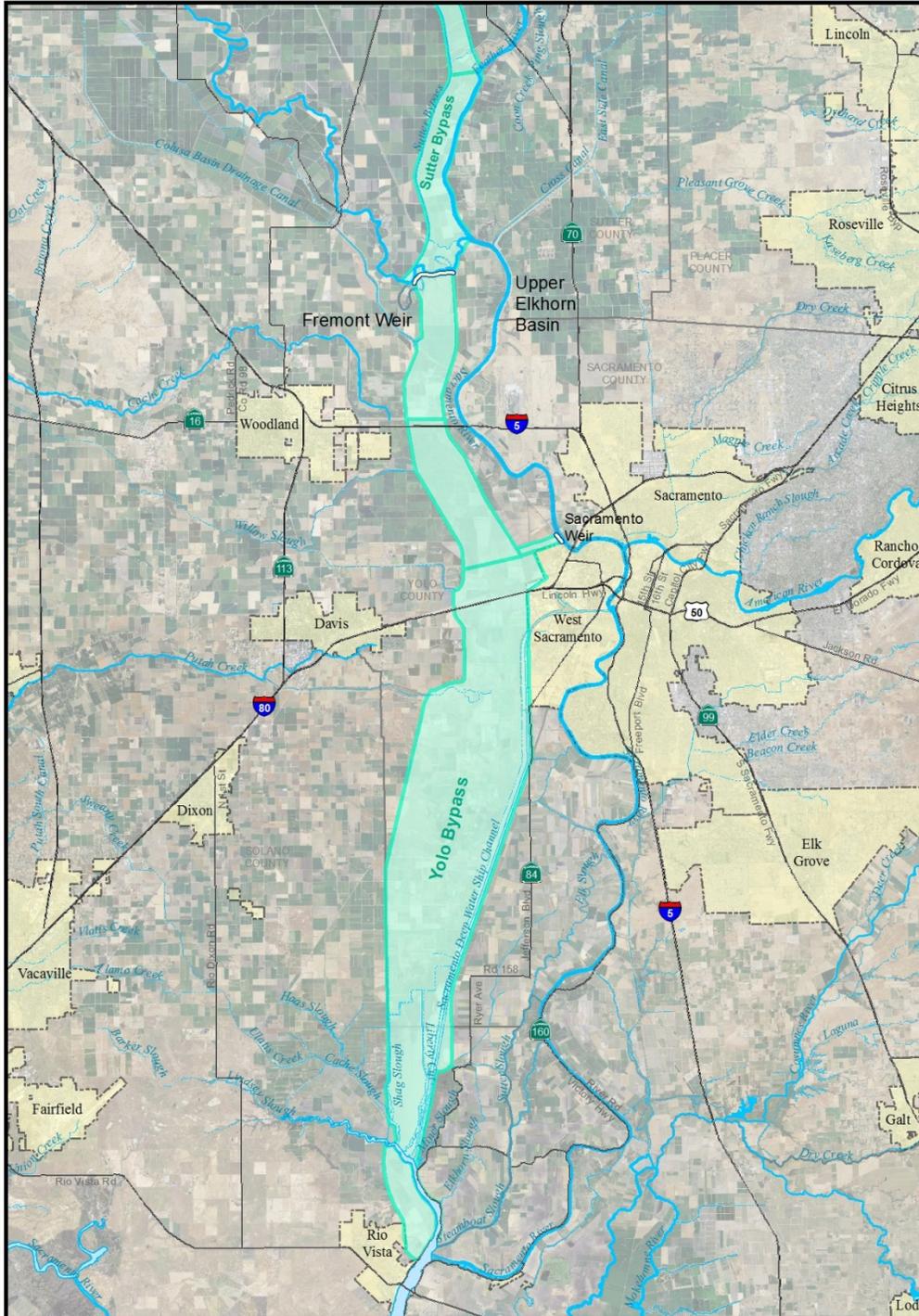
New partnerships for alignment,
cooperation, & success

Kris Tjernell
Special Assistant for Water Policy



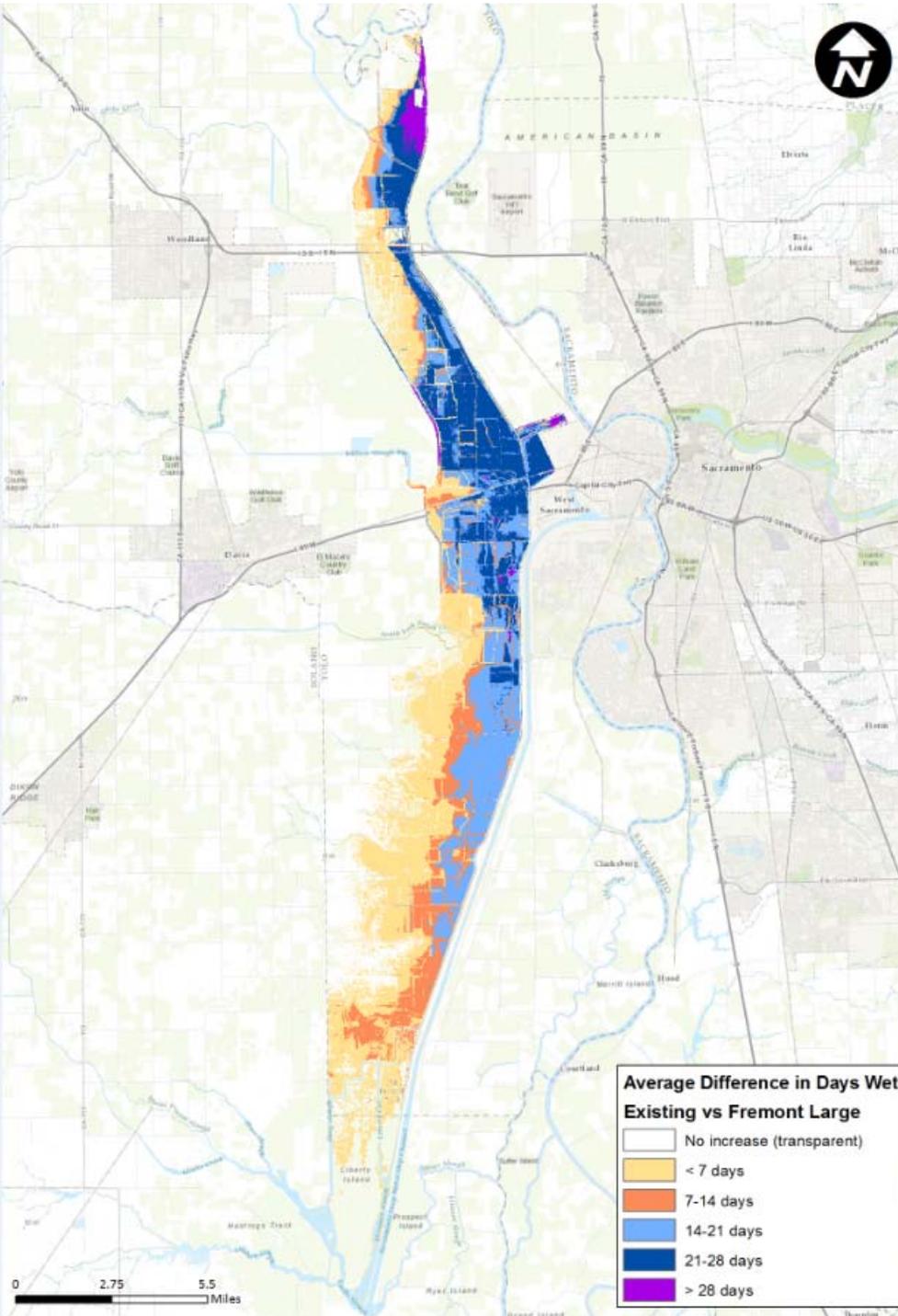
Briefing Overview

- ▶ Yolo Bypass – the Basics
- ▶ Multiple Objectives
 - ▶ Flood Risk Reduction
 - ▶ Habitat Restoration
 - ▶ Local Sustainability
- ▶ Challenges with Current Trajectory
- ▶ Success Through New Partnerships



Yolo Bypass – the basics

- 1917 Federal Authorization
- ~59,000 Acres
 - 64% Private
 - 36% Public
- 80% of flow moves through the Bypass in major storms
- Valuable habitat for 43 species of fish, some of which are listed
- Critical link in Pacific Flyway
- Agricultural production



Yolo Bypass Restoration Objectives

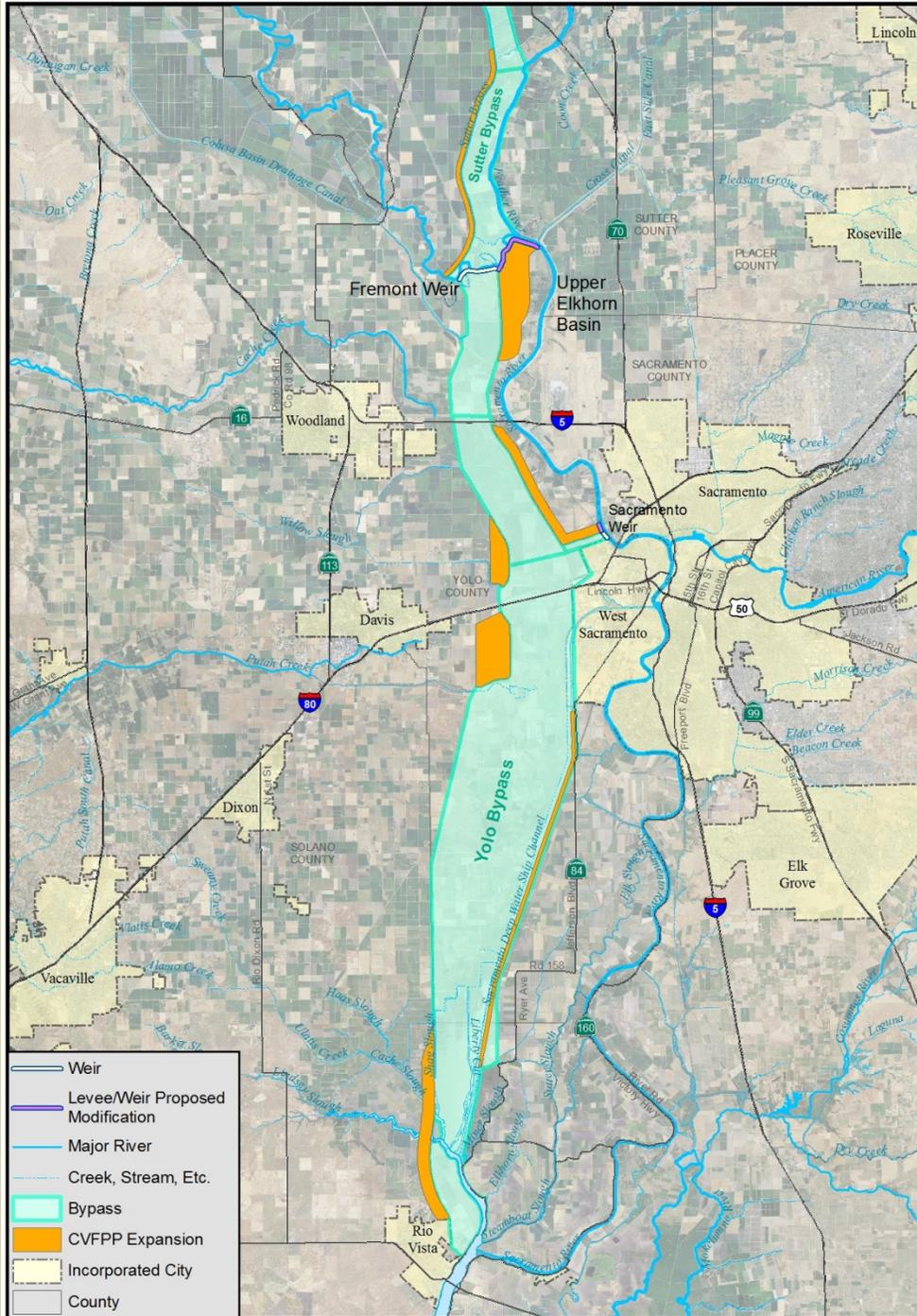
2009 Biological Opinion

- 17k-20k Acres Floodplain + Fish Passage
- Salmon, Steelhead, Sturgeon

Conservation Measure 2

- 7k-17k Acres Floodplain
- Fish Passage
- BiOp Species, plus splittail

*Preliminary modeling results

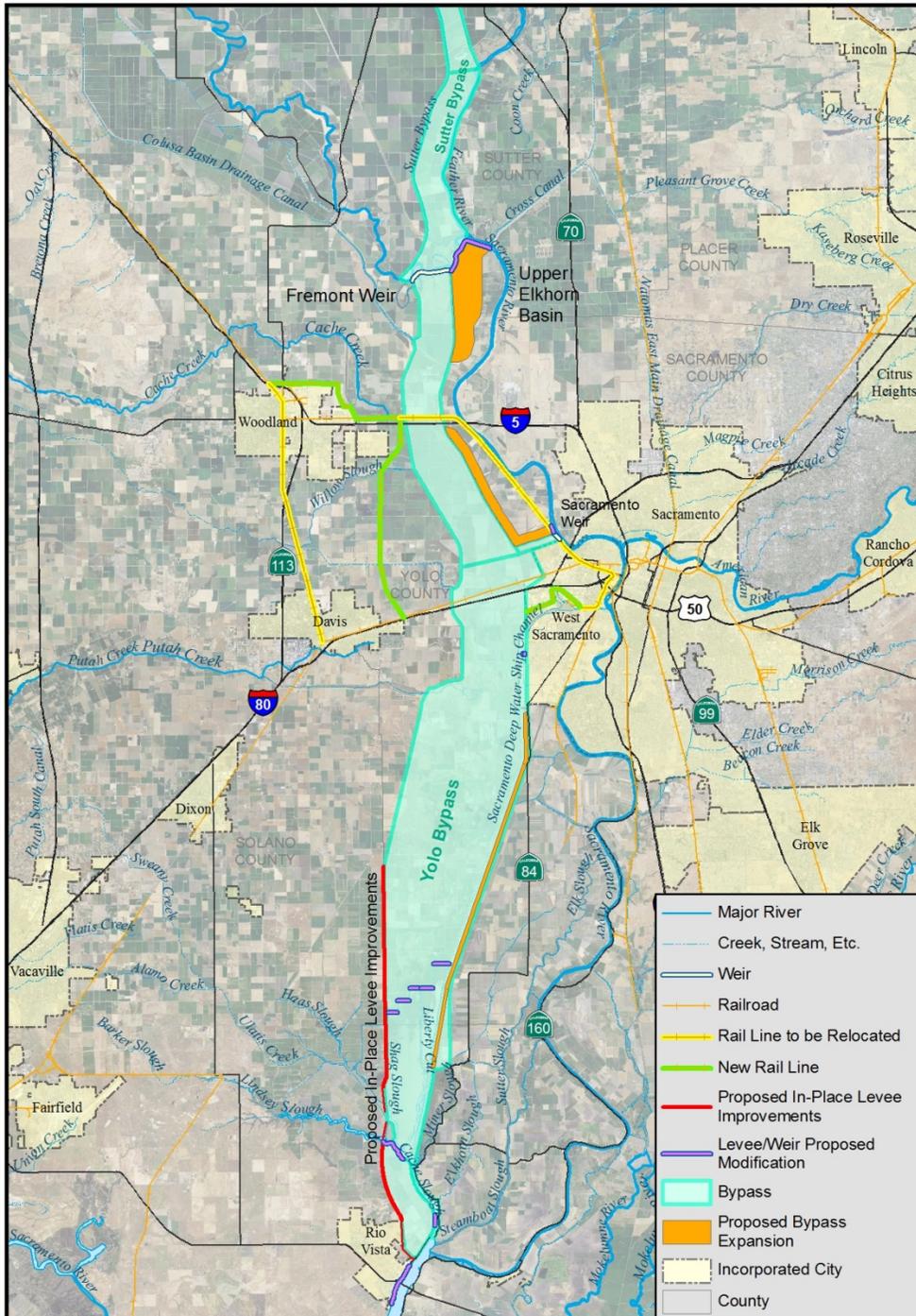


Preliminary Concepts Under Evaluation. Not Proposals for Construction

State Flood Objectives:

- State System-wide Investment Approach: A balanced approach to flood management
- Contemplating 10k-18k acre expansion
- Driven by current conditions and planning for climate change

*Prelim. concepts under evaluation; not proposals for construction



Preliminary Concepts Under Evaluation. Not Proposals for Construction

Local & Regional Objectives

- Regional flood improvements
- Low-impact restoration
- Programmatic/phased floodplain planning
- South bypass concerns
- Various Forums:
 - Regional Flood Planning (RFMP)
 - Integrated Water Mngt. Plan (IWMP)
 - **BOR Value Planning**

Yolo Bypass Program Activities and Schedule

Programs	Objectives	Integration Challenges and Issues	pre 2015	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	post 2020
Central Valley Flood Protection Program	Provide a blue print for improving flood management for the areas protected by the facilities of the State Plan of Flood Control (SPFC).	Schedule				Draft	Adopt			
Basin-wide Feasibility Studies	Refine scale/location of major SSIA system improvements (<i>i.e. storage/bypasses</i>) and integrate implementation to improve flood system resiliency, manage larger floods and provide for ecosystem enhancement.	Schedule		Draft	Final					
Regional Flood Management Planning	Develop regional solutions to local flood management problems.	Issues related to habitat restoration objectives and local economic impacts. Alignment of local and State investment priorities								
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Feasibility Study	Evaluate various alternatives to identify possible federal interest in projects that can reduce flood risk primarily for the urban areas protected by the facilities of the SPFC.	Funding and scheduling process is too slow								
USBR/DWR Biological Opinions	Increase frequency and duration of flooding on 17-20K acres in the Yolo Bypass and improve fish passage.	Impacts to flood system, impacts to local economies, political & social constraints to meeting full objectives, implementation schedule								
Bay Delta Conservation Plan	Increase in frequency and inundation of flooding on 7-17K acres in Yolo Bypass.	Impacts to flood system, impacts to local economies, political and social constraints to meeting full objectives								
Westside IRWM	Address water management and natural resources challenges and opportunities in Yolo, Solano, Napa, Lake, and a portion of Colusa counties.	Planning completed. Funding needed for permitting and implementation								



In Summary: Current Paradigm Challenges

- ▶ Permitting: USACE; CVFPB; CESA/ESA; Water Quality
- ▶ Financing
- ▶ Local Resistance and Needs
- ▶ Multiple Stakeholder Forums
- ▶ Non-coordinated Land Acquisition
- ▶ Restoration timelines

CA Water Action Plan:

- ▶ Pursue regionally integrated flood projects
- ▶ Integrated habitat/flood planning = max. public benefits
- ▶ Implement near-term projects in the Yolo Bypass to increase floodplain habitat and associated fish passage

DSC's Habitat Issue Paper:

- ▶ Enhance the Yolo Bypass to provide floodplain habitat and passage
- ▶ Address stakeholder/landowner concerns to avoid conflicts
- ▶ Focus restoration conversations to avoid redundancy

Yolo Bypass Alignment

Current Paradigm

Local
RFMP

State
CVFPP / State
BWFS

Federal
USACE

State/Federal
BiOp

State
CM2

Alignment Concept

Selected Actions

RFMP
Actions

BWFS
Actions

USACE
Actions

BiOp
Actions

Yolo Bypass Partnership
Flood System Improvements
Floodplain Restoration/Fish Passage

Structured Conversation

- State
- Federal
- Local
- Stakeholders

Acronyms

BWFS	Basin-wide Feasibility Studies
BiOp	Biological Opinions
CM2	Conservation Measure 2
CVFPP	Central Valley Flood Protection Program
RFMP	Regional Flood Management Planning
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Integrated Planning Benefits

- ▶ Accelerated permitting & implementation
- ▶ New partnerships with local gov't and stakeholders
- ▶ Single forum for discussion
- ▶ Broadened financing strategy
- ▶ Coordinated land acquisition
- ▶ Proof of concept for what's possible in the Delta

Thank you

