



INFORMATION ITEM

Tide's End Multibenefit Restoration Project

Summary

Department of Water Resources staff Judah Grossman will provide an update on the Tide's End Multibenefit Restoration Project, which is a potential covered action under the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009. (Wat. Code, § 85000 et seq.)

Projection Location and Design

The Tide's End Multibenefit Restoration Project (Tide's End or project) is a proposed 2,212-acre project located in Yolo County at the downstream end of the Yolo Bypass, about 12 miles southwest of Sacramento.

The project area currently includes agricultural land, upland habitat used for pheasant hunting, and managed waterfowl habitat. As described in the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR), the project objectives are to restore tidal wetland habitat, support floodplain agriculture, and improve flood conveyance in the Yolo Bypass.¹ The project would also further the goals of the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) and its Conservation Strategy to maintain flood capacity in the Yolo Bypass. Tide's End is also listed in the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program (HRL), which is a proposed implementation pathway in the draft updated Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan currently before the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board). HRL identifies Tide's End as a project that would contribute toward habitat goals in the Delta. However, Tide's End is independent of the HRL in that the project would be implemented whether or not the Water Board adopts the HRL.

¹ <https://water.ca.gov/News/Public-Notices/2026/Feb-2026/Draft-Supplemental-Environmental-Impact-Report-for-Tides-End-Multibenefit-Restoration-Project>

The project is proposed in a region of the Yolo Bypass where several other recently completed tidal restoration projects are located (Fig. 1, next page). The project would restore tidal inundation through a series of berm openings, berm lowering, and channel excavation. The restored habitats would enhance plankton production for food web support and facilitate the passage of juvenile salmon and other native fishes accessing the newly connected floodplain during high-flow events.



Figure 1: Map of project location in the Yolo Bypass. Source: Tide's End Draft SEIR, p. ES-4.

Applicability of the Statewide Restoration General Order

In 2022, the Water Board issued Order WQ 2022-0048-DWQ, "Order for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Waste Discharge Requirements for

Restoration Projects Statewide”, also known as the Statewide Restoration General Order (SRGO).² SRGO was developed by the Water Board as a pathway for Clean Water Act Section 401 compliance and waste discharge requirements. It provides programmatic authorization (including program-level CEQA compliance) for large-scale habitat restoration projects that are consistent with certain eligibility criteria.³ The Department of Water Resources, the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), released a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (Draft SEIR) for the project in February 2026. Council staff submitted a comment letter on the Draft SEIR in March 2026.⁴ The Tide’s End project’s Draft SEIR was prepared pursuant to the SRGO authorization process. According to DWR, the project meets the SRGO definition of a qualifying restoration project, as it is a multibenefit project that includes the restoration and enhancement of a variety of aquatic habitat types, resulting in a net increase in tidal wetland and associated floodplain habitat functions, and offering flood management benefits.

Fiscal Information

Not applicable

List of Attachments

Not applicable

Contact

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² https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/generalorders.html#yr_2022 and <https://acceleratingrestoration.org/permits/statewide-restoration-general-order/>

³ Eligibility criteria are outlined in Final Attachment A to the SRGO and Appendix E to the Final SRGO Program EIR, “Description and Eligibility.”

⁴ <https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/pdf/council-meeting/meeting-materials/2026-03-26-item-6-tides-end-seir-comment-letter.pdf>

A recording of the presentation will be available on the Delta Council's YouTube page at <https://www.youtube.com/@DeltaCouncil>.