

Central Valley Flood Protection Board Meeting  
November 17, 2017

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING

**United States Fish and Wildlife Service Hallwood Side Channel and  
Floodplain Restoration Project**

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**BRIEFING SUMMARY**

**Background**

The USFWS has proposed the Hallwood Side Channel and Floodplain Restoration Project (Project) to directly address Anadromous Fish Restoration Program (AFRP) goals including Yuba River High Priority Actions in the AFRP Final Restoration Plan as directed by the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA). The Project would rehabilitate and enhance juvenile rearing habitat for Central Valley fall-run and spring-run Chinook Salmon and California Central Valley steelhead in the Yuba River below Daguerre Point Dam. The Project, situated within the Yuba River Designated Floodway, has been in planning, permitting and design development since 2012.

**Current Status**

- The Project would enhance/create approximately 165 acres of improved seasonally inundated riparian floodplain habitats, 2 miles of perennial side channels, and more than 6 miles of seasonal side channels, alcoves and swales on private property adjacent to the Yuba River, between river mile 8-11.
- USFWS is partnering with three local landowners and the consultant team to implement the Project; two landowners are aggregate producers in the Yuba Goldfields (Teichert Materials and Western Aggregates).
  - To begin Phase 1 Project implementation in April 2018, the restoration contractor and landowner Teichert Materials has requested that permitting be completed by end of 2017 in order to plan 2018 rock plant budgets.
  - This schedule has implications for utilizing approved USFWS grant funding by the expiration in September 2019 if permitting delays cause an April 2019 or later implementation start date.
- USFWS and Yuba County (NEPA and CEQA leads, respectively) released the Public Draft EA/IS on October 18, 2017 with the 30-day comment period ending on November 16, 2017.
  - Yuba County will hold a CEQA hearing before the Development Review Committee on December 6, 2017.
  - USFWS and Yuba County intend to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) based on a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

- USFWS has requested a Variance to CCR Title 23, Division 1, Section 117 (b) and (c) to remove the main constraint to Yuba River floodplain lateral connectivity, the Middle Training Wall, for this restoration project.
- Based on a coordination meeting with USACE-SPK on December 20, 2016, Section 408 permission is not required for the Project. USFWS is requesting a Consent to Easement for Project activities from USACE-SPK.
- USFWS has authorized funding for Phases 1 and 2 of the Project, scheduled for implementation in 2018 and 2019. Future funding has been and will continue to be sought from USFWS or other participating stakeholders for Phases 3 and 4.
- Endorsement from the nearest Local Maintaining Agencies (LMAs), Marysville Levee Commission and Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority were received. While both LMAs support the project, neither LMA claims that the Project falls within their jurisdiction.

#### **Next CVFPB Steps**

- CVFPB place the Project on the December 15, 2017 meeting agenda for consideration of Encroachment Permit approval to meet the permitting and implementation schedule.