Regular Meeting

AGENDA

PARADISE CUT BYPASS EXPANSION AND MULTI-BENEFIT PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG)| 555 E Weber Avenue
Stockton, CA 95202
October 15, 2024
11:30 am – 1:00pm (light lunch provided)

Advisory Committee Members:
Chris Elias, San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency
John Herrick, South Delta Water Agency
Sarah Puckett, American Rivers
Ilene Macintire, City of Tracy
Nick Mussi, Reclamation District 1, 2, 544, 2089
Bob Pombo, Reclamation District 2095
Alexis Stevens, Reclamation District 2058, 1007
Susan Dell'Osso, Reclamation District 2062
Jesus Esparza, Department of Water Resources (non-voting)
Andrea Buckley, Central Valley Flood Protection Board (non-voting)
Lauren Damon, Sacramento San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (non-voting)

1. Administrative Matters (25 minutes)
    A. Roll call
    B. Approve 8/26 Meeting Summary (Attachment A) **[Possible Action]**
    C. Approve correction to 8/26 Advisory Committee meeting agenda packet to correct project goals, objectives, and study area attachment (Attachment B) **[Possible Action]**
    D. Receive and file updated study area map with Advisory Committee feedback incorporated (Attachment B) **[Possible Action]**

2. Public Outreach Update (15 minutes)
    A. Small group meetings with reclamation districts
    B. Updated flyer (Attachment C)
    C. Winter newsletter

3. Recommend Approval to SJAFCA of Paradise Cut Bypass Expansion and

Multi-Benefit Project Engagement Strategy (Attachment D) **[Possible Action]** (20 minutes)

4. Receive and File Final Decision Recommendation Framework (Attachment E) (5 minutes)

5. Feasibility Study Update (5 minutes)

6. SJAFCA Update (5 minutes)

    A. Board approval of name change
    B. Delegation to Executive Director

7. California Department of Water Resources and Central Valley Flood Protection Board Updates (5 minutes)

8. Advisory Committee Comments (5 minutes)

9. Public Comment (5 minutes)

10. Adjournment

Virtual Attendance:

To JOIN via ZOOM
Link to meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87023309123?from=addon
Meeting ID: 870 2330 9123
No passcode

To DIAL IN by phone: +1 305 224 1968 US

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DRAFT

Meeting Summary
Paradise Cut Bypass Expansion Multi-benefit Project
Special Advisory Committee Meeting
August 26, 2024 | 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Committee Members (Present):
John Herrick, South Delta Water Agency
Sarah Puckett, American Rivers
Robin Kloepfer, City of Tracy (alternate)
Andrea Buckley, CVFPB (non-voting)
Jesus Esparza, DWR (non-voting)
Susan Dell'Osso, Reclamation District 2062
Alexis Stevens, Reclamation Districts 2058, 1007
Nick Mussi, Reclamation District 1, 2, 544, 2089
Bob Pombo, Reclamation District 2095
Chris Elias, SJAFCA*

*Glenn Prasad was SJAFCA alternate until Chris Elias joined at 11:50 AM

Committee Members (Absent):
Ilene Macintire, City of Tracy (alternate present)

Other In-Person Attendees:
Eric Nagy, LWA
Dominick Gulli, RD 1007
Phil Balmat, San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District
Chis Neudeck, KSN
Greg Gibson, City of Lathrop
Daniel de Graaf, de Graaf Engineering
Glenn Prasad, SJAFCA
Leanne Randall, SJAFCA
Ric Reinhardt, Wood Rodgers
Petrea Marchand, Consero Solutions
Laura Duffy, Consero Solutions
Natalie McDonald, Consero Solutions

Zoom Attendees:
Anji Shakya, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
Artie Valencia, Restore the Delta
Kelly Wright-LaForce, Banta-Carbona Irrigation District
Lauren Damon, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
Natalie Bogan, HDR
Sarah Lesmeister, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
Scott Peterson, San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority
Melissa Weymiller, LWA

Administrative Matters

- J. Herrick called the meeting to order at 11:36 AM and initiated roll call (see above). L. Randall led roll call and established a quorum. John Herrick, Sarah Puckett, Robin Kloepfer (alternate for Ilene Macintire), Andrea Buckley (attended on Zoom), Jesus Esparza, Susan Dell'Osso, Alexis Stevens, Nick Mussi, Bob Pombo, and Glenn Prasad (alternate for Chris Elias) were present. C. Elias joined the meeting at 11:50 AM.
- J. Herrick said there was a suggestion for a motion to change the order of the Advisory Committee meeting agenda items. P. Marchand suggested the Advisory Committee discuss the Engagement Strategy before the Decision Framework. Motion: S. Dell'Osso, second S. Puckett. Motion: passed 8-0; 0 absent **(DECISION).**
- J. Herrick brought forward a motion to approve the July 1, 2024 meeting summary. S. Puckett requested the facilitators (Consero Solutions) make two changes to the meeting summary: 1) correct the spelling of Artie Valencia's name on page 3 and 2) correct the location of the Flood Management Association conference from Los Angeles, CA to Las Vegas, NV on page 5 **(ACTION).**

- A. Stevens said she was not present at the last Advisory Committee meeting and requested the facilitator update the attendee list in the July 1, 2024 meeting summary **(ACTION).**
- S. Puckett brought forward a motion to approve July 1, 2024 Advisory Committee meeting summary with corrections. Motion: S. Puckett, second S. Dell'Osso. Motion passed 8-0; 0 absent **(DECISION).**

Approve Addition of Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy as Advisory Committee Non-Voting Member

- P. Marchand said SJAFCA staff recommends the Advisory Committee approve the addition of a non-voting member, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy, to the Advisory Committee. J. Herrick said because the committee is advisory, and the process is open to the public, he has no issue with adding a non-voting member. He asked for other from Advisory Committee members comments.
- S. Dell'Osso asked who the individual representing the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy would be. P. Marchand said they have not decided yet but staff can get back to the Advisory Committee with that information **(ACTION).** J. Herrick asked the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy if they have identified who would be representing the agency on the Advisory Committee.
- S. Lesmeister said the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy will have to determine how much time it would take before they can decide who will attend and participate in Advisory Committee meetings going forward. She said it will be herself, Lauren Damon, or Anji Shakya. She said each of them are familiar with the project.
- J. Herrick asked for comments from the Advisory Committee. He asked for public comments.
- S. Puckett said she would like to thank the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy for their support and for providing past funding for Paradise Cut. S. Puckett brought forward a motion to approve SJAFCA staff's recommendation to add the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy as a non-voting member of the Advisory Committee. Motion: S. Puckett, second N. Mussi. Motion passed 8-0; 0 absent **(DECISION).**

Recommend Official Project Name to SJAFCA

- P. Marchand said the Phase 2 Planning Team used the name "Paradise Cut Expansion and South Delta Restoration Project." She said the SJAFCA-DWR agreement funding this feasibility study stage calls the project the "Paradise Cut Bypass Expansion and Multi-Benefit Project." She said DWR has confirmed the agency would like to keep this new name. SJAFCA staff suggests the Advisory Committee recommend "Paradise Cut Bypass Expansion and Multi-Benefit Project" as the official name to the SJAFCA Board of Directors.
- J. Herrick said this is committee is advisory, and though there may be strong views of how the project should proceed, the role of the Advisory Committee is to evaluate various items and make recommendations to SJAFCA. He asked for comments from the Advisory Committee. A. Stevens asked where the new name came from in the agreement with DWR and why it was different from the name used during Phase 2. P. Marchand asked J. Esparza if he wanted to address the question.
- J. Esparza said as far as DWR management, this is the name that came across his desk. G. Prasad said in terms of SJAFCA's relationship and responsibilities with DWR and ongoing resources, "multi-benefit" is key word and has its place in a number of programs. He said sometimes the wording follows the funding stream. He said the Division of Multi-Benefit

Initiatives is a newly organized division within DWR with the responsibility to oversee projects like Paradise Cut with unique, multi-benefit opportunities. He said this is part of the reasoning behind the name. J. Esparza confirmed the term "multi-benefit" is tied to the Division of Multi-Benefit Initiatives where the funding is coming from. He said the change provides an opportunity for the Division to look for more funding for the project.

- J. Herrick asked for public comments.
- D. Gulli suggested calling the project the "Paradise Cut Bypass Expansion and South Delta Dredging Project" so people are clear on what is going on in the South Delta. He said he felt like the public would be more for it if they understood it was a dredging project. He said there are many DWR projects referred to as "multi-benefit" projects. He said he thought having another name for the project or sticking to the original name wouldn't jeopardize the contract.
- J. Herrick said D. Gulli's comments are appropriate. He said the development of this project necessitated buy-in by a large number of people and interests downstream of the bypass part; the dredging part was also debated for many years. He said it is important everyone understands the project is the bypass *and* substantial dredging of the South Delta or there will not be local support. He said he does not have a problem with the name change, just that he wished there was a discussion before it was made. He asked for any other comments.
- S. Puckett said she understood the project was renamed because it is under the Division of Multi-Benefit Initiatives, but she now understands the project is now under the Division of Integrated Water Resources. She asked J. Esparza if that was a different division. J. Esparza said no, the Division of Multi-Benefit Initiatives falls within the Division of Integrated Water Resources.
- J. Herrick said the potential motion is that the Paradise Cut Bypass Expansion and Multi-Benefit Project name be recommended by the Advisory Committee to the SJAFCA Board of Directors as the official project name going forward.
- S. Dell'Osso said she echoed the comments made about dredging.
- Motion: S. Dell'Osso, second: N. Mussi. Motion passed 7-1; opposed: A. Stevens **(DECISION).**

Review Draft Engagement Strategy

- P. Marchand introduced the draft Engagement Strategy. She said the document is only up for the Advisory Committee's review today; there is no action required. She said the Paradise Cut Management Team had already seen the document and the consultant team integrated suggested changes. She said the team will go back to the Paradise Cut Management Team again on October 3 and then to the Advisory Committee again on October 15. At that point, the action for the Advisory Committee would be to recommend approval of the Engagement Strategy to the SJAFCA Board. She said she wanted to emphasize this strategy was based on the Engagement Strategy from Phase 2. She said the team will hold small group meetings and public workshops, post newsletters, develop a frequently asked questions document, and update the website. She said the purpose of the strategy is to engage interested parties in the completion of the feasibility study, including the preferred alternative. She described primary and secondary audiences for outreach. She said primary audiences are those the team will be actively soliciting feedback from and providing regular project updates to. She said the project team will provide regular

updates to secondary audiences via virtual communications and public workshops. P. Marchand asked if there were any questions from the Advisory Committee.

- J. Herrick asked when small meetings would begin. P. Marchand said the team expects to start small group meetings with reclamation districts in September and October. She said at these meetings, the project team would reintroduce everyone to where the team left off with Phase 2; discuss Phase 3 goals, objectives, and study area; and seek input on the draft Engagement Strategy.
- J. Herrick said he wanted to make sure Banta-Carbona Irrigation District is included in the primary audience list. P. Marchand confirmed it is. J. Herrick said the new weir is close to Banta-Carbona Irrigation District's intake and they have concerns.
- S. Dell'Osso said there may be some property owners that would be considered primary audiences, not secondary.
- J. Herrick asked for other input from Advisory Committee members.
- S. Puckett said she did not see any outreach to the secondary audiences in the Engagement Strategy goals. P. Marchand said she will add secondary audiences as appropriate to the Engagement Strategy goals **(ACTION).**
- J. Herrick asked how many small group meetings he would have to attend. P. Marchand said that may be a negotiation between the project team and the Advisory Committee chair. J. Herrick said the Sites Reservoir hearings just started, so he has less time.
- B. Pombo asked if all landowners were on an outreach list. B. Pombo said there are some landowners who are affected who didn't know about the project.
- P. Marchand said the team wants to make sure everyone who needs to be on the list is on it. She said the team is working with SJAFCA and the Advisory Committee chair to compile a distribution list. P. Marchand will send J. Herrick a draft list for review **(ACTION).**
- J. Herrick asked for public comments. No comments in person or online.
- G. Prasad said regarding J. Herrick's early question about the number of Advisory Committee meetings, once SJAFCA approves the Engagement Strategy and Decision Framework, the project team will look at the project schedule. He said meetings may be dependent on milestones, additional outreach, or field tours. He said once the project ream has all the information, they can present a more robust schedule. J. Herrick clarified his question was on how many small group meetings he as chair would have to attend but thanked G. Prasad for providing the information.
- J. Herrick asked if there were other comments. No comments in person or online.

Recommend Approval of Draft Decision Framework to SJAFCA

- P. Marchand said M. Weymiller will lead the discussion on the Decision Framework. P. Marchand said the Decision Framework is complementary to the Engagement Strategy.
- M. Weymiller said the purpose of the Decision Framework is to outline the responsibilities, composition, and governance processes of the entities responsible for advice and decisions related to the project. She reviewed the graphics from the draft Engagement Strategy outlining the roles and responsibilities of the different teams involved: SJAFCA, DWR, Advisory Committee, Paradise Cut Management Team, Technical Review Panel, and the consultant team. M. Weymiller said the team is working to get the Technical Review Panel on contract as the independent review body.

- She reviewed the graphic showing the proposed decision-making process for deliverables and where they would get approved. She said day-to-day decisions would be made by the consultant team and the Paradise Cut Management Team. She said certain larger deliverables would go to the Advisory Committee and the Advisory Committee could make recommendations to the SJAFCA Board of Directors, who would then get DWR leadership approval.
- She said the team knows there have been comments from DWR on the draft that have not been addressed yet. She said the team is looking for the Advisory Committee to review and potentially approve to recommend to the SJAFCA Board of Directors. She said the team could make amendments if necessary. She asked for questions or comments from the Advisory Committee.
- J. Herrick said there have been several communications and discussions about the Decision Framework. He said DWR's comments, which had not yet been incorporated, led DWR to ask the team to not recommend the document yet. He said there is a proposal to move it forward allowing DWR's comments to be incorporated later and approved. He said the Advisory Committee knows they are not the decisionmakers but the group is the method by which local interests were brought aboard to have input along the way on the project. He said it is up to SJAFCA and DWR for how to proceed. He said their procedural decisions are beyond the scope of the Advisory Committee. He said the Advisory Committee is there to advise. He said from South Delta Water Agency's perspective, it took a lot of effort to take a very beneficial project and make it acceptable to the greater area. He said a lot of people were involved in that process. He said the position of many people was "we support the project if…" and the "if" was the downstream dredging part. He said everyone needs to understand the downstream interests will not be supportive if the dredging part gets removed or significantly decreased. He said he just wants everyone to understand this was a delicate joining of interests. He said the project provides tremendous benefits under high flow events on the San Joaquin to a lot of people and property. He said the downstream people's opinion upfront was "I don't want one more inch of water." He said they had to balance these interests to get where they are today. He said with that in mind, he felt the Decision Framework was acceptable to him. He said he understood the decisionmakers were SJAFCA and DWR. He asked for other comments from the Advisory Committee.
- B. Pombo said as 2095 and as an irrigation district inside 2095, his priority is that their infrastructure is protected and that there is no undue process to maintain because of the project. He said he is all for working together but he doesn't want to sell out anyone's benefits. J. Herrick said he appreciated that and those are the specifics to work through now.
- C. Elias thanked J. Herrick for his comments and wanted to let him know SJAFCA heard his concerns. He said it took a long time to get to this point and SJAFCA's goal is to sustain the balance. He said this will be guided by the input the team receives.
- J. Herrick said he did not want his comments to come off as criticism or mistrust. He said the feasibility study covers a lot and the team will discuss any changes as they come up.
- J. Esparza said downstream effects are always top of mind for DWR and they would definitely be considered He said anything that would be needed to mitigate those type of effects would also be taken into account as far as DWR is concerned. He shared an

anecdote. He said he understands the value of local leaders making decisions. He said there are a lot of things the group needs to consider and work together on. He said there a lot of things to fall into place for everyone and hopefully it is what works best for everyone.

- J. Herrick said he wants to make sure it is clear the downstream interest is dredging, not just mitigation. J. Herrick said he read J. Esparza's changes this morning. He asked G. Prasad for the team's recommendation on how to move forward.
- G. Prasad said the Paradise Cut Management Team discussed this item. He said given the project needs to stay on track, staff would recommend the Advisory Committee proceed by authorizing the Chair to finalize the Decision Framework in collaboration with the Paradise Cut Management Team and recommend the Decision Framework to the SJAFCA Board for approval.
- S. Puckett asked when the next Paradise Cut Management Team meeting was and M. Weymiller said October 3. S. Puckett asked if the Paradise Cut Management team would meet to finalize the Decision Framework before the next Paradise Cut Management Team meeting. G. Prasad said yes, though this could also be done over email. J. Herrick said it would probably be better to have a meeting.
- J. Herrick said the proposal from SJAFCA is to make a motion to accept the draft Decision Framework and authorize the Chair to finalize the document in collaboration with the Paradise Cut Management Team and recommend the document to SJAFCA. He asked if anyone else had more comments.
- A. Stevens wanted to confirm the reason the Advisory Committee was not yet approving is because DWR made comments that have not yet been incorporated. She asked what kind of comments. G. Prasad said DWR's primary concern is that the decision-making framework was described in a way that made it seem as though the Advisory Committee was making decisions on the project. He said this Advisory Committee was formed not to make decisions but to make recommendations to the SJAFCA Board that has an agreement with the State. He said those changes require adding clarifying language.
- P. Marchand said the first round of edits from DWR are reflected in the document before the Advisory Committee in revision mode and the second round of edits were received today.
- J. Herrick asked for public comments.
- S. Puckett brought forward a motion to accept the draft Decision Framework and authorize the Chair of the Advisory Committee to finalize the document in collaboration with the Paradise Cut Management Team either with or without a meeting and recommend the final document to SJAFCA. Motion: S. Puckett, second: S. Dell'Osso. Motion passed 8-0; 0 absent **(DECISION).**

Recommend Project Goals, Objectives, and Study Area to SJAFCA

- ***Note:*** *After August 26, Consero Solutions realized the Advisory Committee agenda packet contained an outdated copy of the project goals, objectives and study area. The presentation provided by R. Reinhardt (Wood Rodgers) contained the most recent and accurate version of the project goals, objectives, and study area. The Consultant Team is amending this error at the next Advisory Committee meeting on October 15, 2024.*

- R. Reinhardt (Wood Rodgers) presented on recommended project goals, objectives, and study area. He said the goals and objectives were written to make sure the entire area impacted also benefits from the project. He reviewed goals from Phase 2: flood risk reduction, habitat restoration, and channel restoration. He said the current project objectives listed in the DWR contract with SJAFCA are to reduce catastrophic flood risk for communities including Lathrop, Manteca, and Stockton; protect farms from uncontrolled flooding; restore riverine, floodplain, riparian, and wetland habitat for native fish and wildlife; improve irrigation intake reliability and waterway navigability; and improve water supply reliability and resilience to climate change by supporting more flexible water supply management. He said the team took this information to the PCMT and PCMT members suggested adding climate change resiliency goals and Central Valley Flood Protection Plan flood and habitat goals. He said one goal we suggested not be considered is adding water quality. He said as the technical team looks at what the project will accomplish from a water quality standpoint and the existing conditions, the team does not believe there will be a measurable impact on water quality. He said the report will certainly walk through what the impacts are and the potential benefits, but it gives the team pause to recommend it in the goals and objectives. He said the team will provide a budget for the scope it would take to do additional modelling. With that background, he said the recommended goals are flood risk reduction, ecosystem restoration, and water supply. He said the recommended objectives are to reduce catastrophic flood risk for communities including Lathrop, Manteca, and Stockton; protect farms from uncontrolled flooding; restore and improve the quantity, diversity, and connectivity of riverine, floodplain, riparian, and wetland habitat for native fish and wildlife; and improve irrigation intake reliability and waterway navigability.
- R. Reinhardt paused for questions or comments from the Advisory Committee. No questions or comments.
- R. Reinhardt said the first thing their team looked at for the study area was the Anchor QEA report that looked at 25 miles of dredging. He said they also took the maximum footprint for the Phase 2 area. He said one thing that was missing was the definition between the study area and the benefit area. He said the study area is just where they are looking at actions, so the benefit area can be larger than the study area. He showed a slide of the proposed study area map and said the benefit area would be larger.
- J. Herrick said the channel restoration part includes Tom Paine Slough in the list but the channel is not highlighted on the maps. R. Reinhardt said he will make that change **(ACTION).**
- C. Elias asked for clarification on why water quality will not be recommended as a goal or objective. R. Reinhardt said the feasibility study team will study water quality in detail. He said it is their technical expert's opinion that the project will not be able to make a significant enough positive benefit to establish it as a goal for the project, but it will be evaluated. He said they are not seeing opportunities for water quality uplift. He also said the team does not think water quality will be a basis on which to justify the project or secure funding. He said it is an important piece to look at but the team is cautious about managing expectations.

- C. Elias had a question about the link between sedimentation and not being able to see significant water quality benefits. R. Reinhardt said the team can look at increased scope for more modeling but wanted to manage expectations.
- J. Herrick said he appreciates the input that R. Reinhardt's team has and he now agrees with his recommendation to not include water quality as a goal. He said he will discuss this further with the consultants **(ACTION).**
- S. Dell'Osso asked why a section from Old River from San Joaquin to Middle River was not included in the study area. R. Reinhardt said the team was not proposing any actions for that segment of the river. He said if the Advisory Committee is aware of projects in that footprint they could expand it. He said it was not proposed for the dredging or ecosystem projects. He said this was also not included in Phase 2. S. Dell'Osso said if they can add it, it would be an important section. R. Reinhardt says the team is here to get feedback today. R. Reinhardt will look at adding Old River from San Joaquin to Middle River as well as Tom Paine Slough to the study area and report back to the Paradise Cut Management Team at the next meeting **(ACTION).**
- S. Puckett had concerns about making the study area too rigid and suggested there be a process to make it flexible if something came up down the road. R. Reinhardt said the study area will help the team focus on an area, but there would always be the opportunity to add areas to look at if there is a rationale.
- J. Herrick asked for other comments from the Advisory Committee or staff. He asked if there were any public comments.
- C. Neudek said one of the considerations for the beneficial reuse of dredge spoils is the left bank of Fabian Bell canal (Fabian Tract). He said they are interested in that material and the idea of laying their levees back, creating that riparian forest and shaded river component. He said none of that is shown on the map. R. Reinhardt repeated C. Neudek's comment so people on Zoom could hear. He said RD 773 is interested in being evaluated for dredge spoils. He said there would be a lot of materials to get rid of and would be interested in hearing which reclamation districts would have an interest in receiving that material. J. Herrick reiterated it is important to coordinate the project with reclamation district's short- and long-term proposals. D. Gulli said he had eight reclamation districts interested as well.
- R. Reinhardt said the important piece is it is ideal to have the reclamation districts receiving the spoils as close as possible, as it gets expensive to transport.
- J. Herrick asked for comments. No comments in person or online.
- C. Elias motioned to recommend the project goals, objectives, and study area to SJAFCA for approval. Motion: C. Elias; second: S. Puckett. Motion passed 8-0; 0 absent **(DECISION).**
- Comment from Zoom: "I understand about listing the goals, but let's please evaluate water quality benefits in some sort of analysis. Contingent on funding…I understand…Let's try." – Artie Valencia (asked to be captured in notes to inform planning team).

DWR and CVFPB Updates

- No comments at this time.

Advisory Committee Comments

- C. Elias said he wanted to mention a recent tour. A. Buckley said there was a tour two weeks ago for Department of Finance and Legislative Analyst's Office staff to familiarize them with the needs of the SJAFCA area. She said there were great presentations and a great tour. She said hopefully the tour will be successful for advocating for funding. C. Elias thanked J. Herrick for being at the tour to provide his knowledge and experience.
- J. Herrick said he had talked to local Congressmen and he has been invited to speak at a subcommittee hearing. He said there are other efforts going on to find funding for the project. He said there is another tour coming up and there can be more tours to bring people up to speed or show people what is going on. He suggested going to the Banta-Carbona intake at some point.
- B. Pombo said per R. Reinhardt's comments at last meeting, some of the property that is going to be flooded have conservation easements. He said he had a question from a landowner on whether they would be condemning the property and taking it or condemning the conservation easement. J. Herrick said in the earlier processes they had long discussions related to this. He said the solution was to condemn the old easements. He said the landowner has been cooperative up to this date.
- K. Wright-LaForce said Banta-Carbona Irrigation District would like to meet with the outreach team when they come out. J. Herrick said he will meet with Banta-Carbona Irrigation District and continue to keep them informed **(ACTION)**.

Public Comment

- No public comments. General comments in the Zoom chat included: video was a bit fuzzy and it was hard to hear audience members if they were not speaking into the mic at the podium. Some Zoom attendees expressed interest in having the slides posted online, as the Zoom video quality made them hard to see.

Adjournment

- J. Herrick adjourned the meeting at 12:58 PM.

STAFF REPORT

To: Paradise Cut Advisory Committee

From: Glenn Prasad
Deputy Executive Director
San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency

Petrea Marchand
Advisory Committee Facilitator
Paradise Cut Consultant Team

RE: Approve correction to 8/26 Advisory Committee meeting agenda packet regarding project goals, objectives, and study area attachment and receive and file updated study area map with Advisory Committee feedback incorporated

Date: October 15, 2024

RECOMMENDED ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACTION

- Approve correction to 8/26 Advisory Committee meeting agenda packet regarding project goals, objectives, and study area attachment
- Receive and file updated study area map with Advisory Committee feedback incorporated

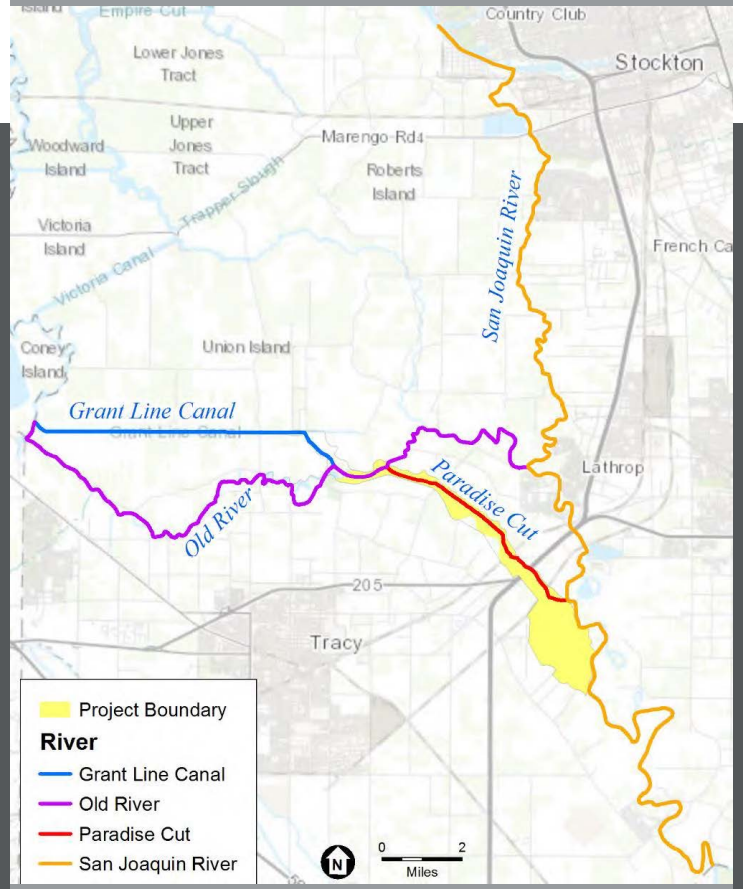
BACKGROUND

After the 8/26 Advisory Committee (Committee) meeting, staff realized the agenda packet presented to the Committee included an old version of the goals, objectives, and study area slides. Wood Rodgers' presentation to the Advisory Committee on 8/26, however, included the correct, most up-to-date slides **(Attachment B1).** The correct version presented to the Advisory Committee included more slides and incorporated feedback from the Paradise Cut Management Team (PCMT), while the old version attached to the agenda packet had less slides and did not yet reflect PCMT feedback. While the Advisory Committee approved the slides as presented on 8/26, staff prepared this staff report as a record of the error. Staff recommends the Advisory Committee approve a correction to the 8/26 Advisory Committee meeting agenda packet. The Consultant Team updated the study area map based on feedback from the 8/26 Advisory Committee meeting. Staff recommends the Advisory Committee receive and file the updated study area map **(Attachment B2).**

Paradise Cut Expansion and South Delta Restoration Project

Advisory Committee Goals & Objectives Meeting
August 26, 2024

Photo credit: ESA 2023



Goals & Objectives

Phase 2 Project Goals

Project goals defined in the May 4, 2023 Memo from San Joaquin RCD to SJAFCA (Phase 2):

- **Flood risk reduction**: Reduce catastrophic flood risk to people and property in the South Delta.
- **Habitat restoration**: Restore riparian and other native habitats for Swainson's hawk, riparian brush rabbit, riparian songbirds, and other species.
- **Channel restoration**: Restore channel capacity in portions of the South Delta downstream of Paradise Cut.

- *Which goals should be carried forward for the Feasibility Study?*
- *Should any goals be reframed or reworded?*
- *Are there other goals that should be added?*

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Current Project Objectives

Project objectives identified in the DWR grant agreement scope of work:

- Reduce catastrophic flood risk for communities including Lathrop, Manteca, and Stockton.
- Protect farms from uncontrolled flooding.
- Restore riverine, floodplain, riparian, and wetland habitat for native fish and wildlife.
- Improve irrigation intake reliability and waterway navigability.
- Improve water supply reliability and resilience to climate change by supporting more flexible water supply management.

- *Should these objectives be carried forward for the Feasibility Study?*
- *Should any objectives be reframed or reworded?*
- *Are there other objectives that should be added?*

PCMT Request for Additional Goals & Objectives

The following priorities are from the CVFPP 2022 Update, CVFPP 2022 Conservation Strategy Update, and DWR Agreement (2023):

Climate change resiliency goals:

- Increase flood system resiliency (CVFPP 2022 Update).
- Restore the landscape-scale ecosystem functions necessary for climate change resilience (DWR Agreement 2023).
- Improve water supply reliability and resilience to climate change by supporting more flexible water supply management (DWR Agreement 2023).

CVFPP flood and habitat goals:

- Improve flood risk management (CVFPP 2022 Update).
- Protect and enhance natural ecosystems and promote ecosystem functions (CVFPP 2022 Update).
- Increase and improve the quantity, diversity, and connectivity of riverine and floodplain habitats (CVFPP 2022 Conservation Strategy Update).
- Contribute to the recovery and sustainability of native species populations and overall biotic community diversity (CVFPP 2022 Conservation Strategy Update).

Recommended Goals

Based on the priorities identified in the DWR Agreement (2023), CVFPP 2022 Update, and CVFPP 2022 Conservation Strategy Update, the following updates to the project goals are recommended:

- **Flood risk reduction:** Increase flood system resiliency in the South Delta.
- **Ecosystem restoration:** Restore habitat and ecosystem functions necessary for climate change resilience.
- **Water supply:** Improve water supply reliability and resilience to climate change by supporting more flexible water supply management.

Recommended Objectives

Based on the priorities identified in the DWR Agreement (2023), CVFPP 2022 Update, and CVFPP 2022 Conservation Strategy Update, the following updates to the project objectives are recommended:

- Reduce catastrophic flood risk for communities including Lathrop, Manteca, and Stockton.
- Protect farms from uncontrolled flooding.
- Restore and improve the quantity, diversity and connectivity of riverine, floodplain, riparian, and wetland habitat for native fish and wildlife.
- Improve irrigation intake reliability and waterway navigability.

Study Area Considerations

Water Supply Reliability & Channel Capacity Study Extent

Recommendation: Use the same extents as the *2021 Anchor QEA Planning Guide*

South and central sections of the Delta, within San Joaquin County, south of Bouldin Island, and north of the Pescadero RD including the following channels:

- Middle River
- Old River (West)
- Old River (South)
- Old River (East)
- Old River Side Channel
- Fabian & Bell
- Paradise Cut
- Tom Paine Slough

Source: Anchor QEA (2021) Planning Guide for the Channel Depth Restoration Program for the South Delta Channels

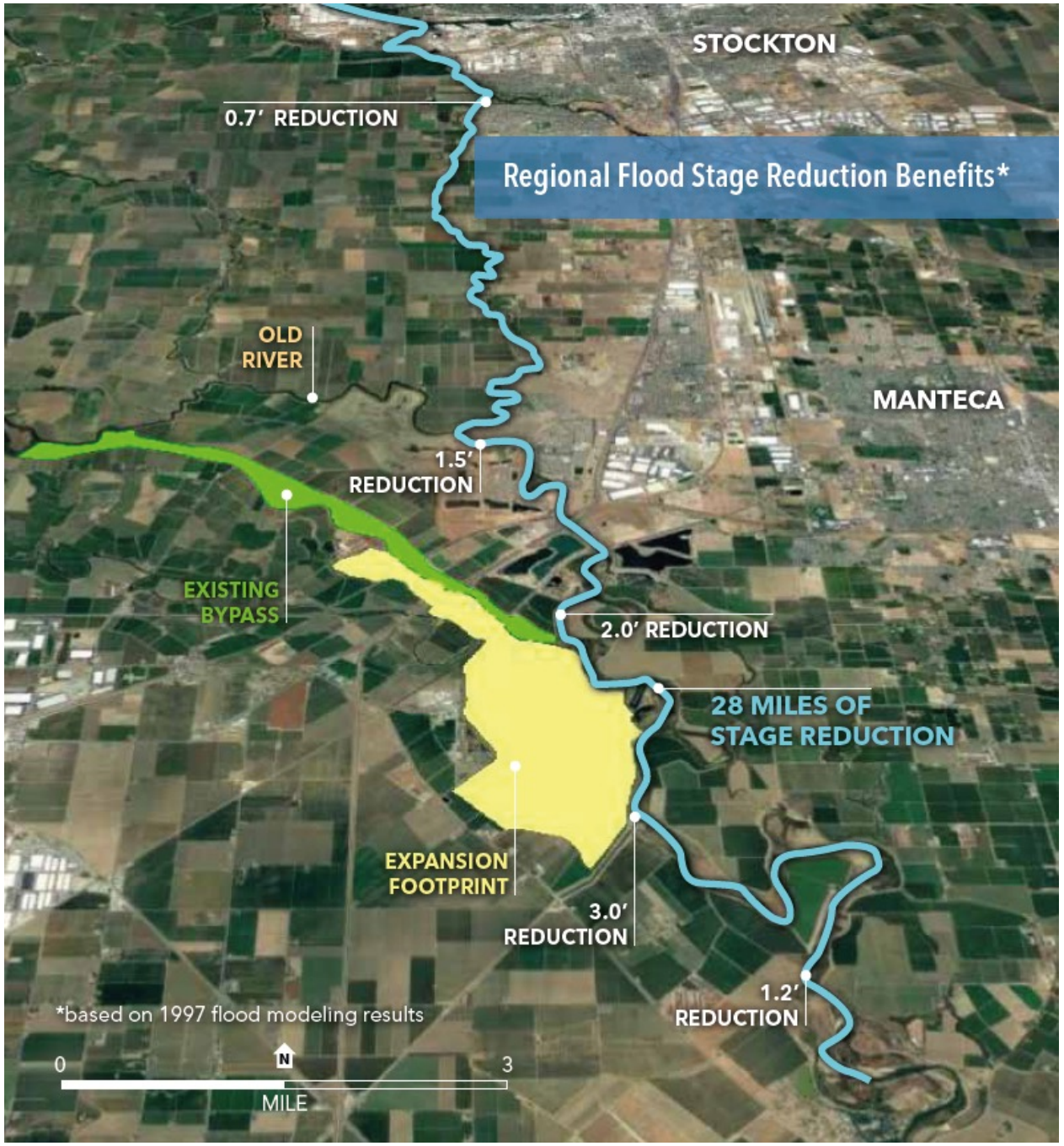
Flood Risk Reduction Study Extent

Recommendation: Project footprint and,

- Manteca
- Lathrop, including Stewart Tract
- Stockton, south of French Camp Slough

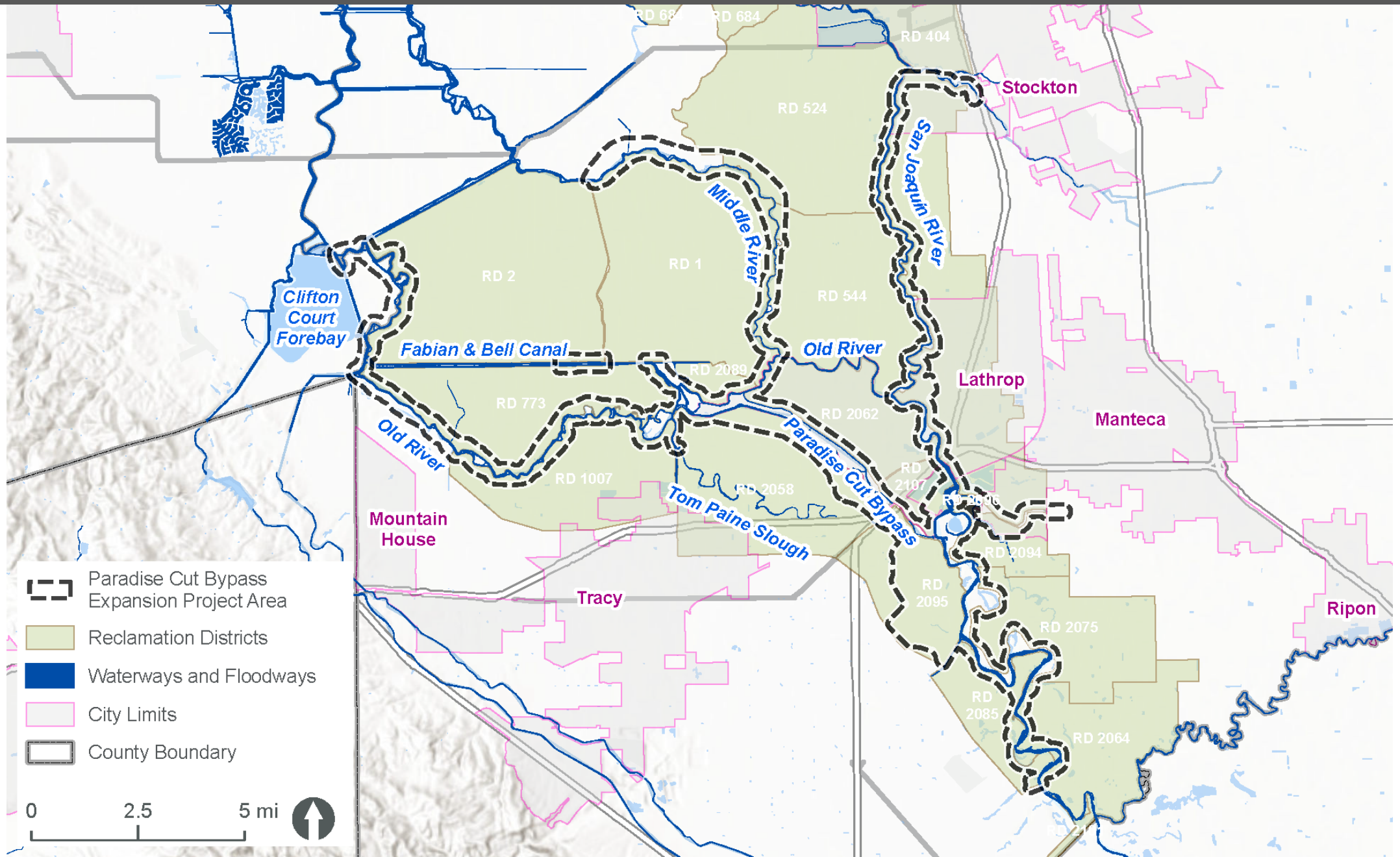
Ecosystem Restoration Study Extent

Recommendation: Project footprint and areas subject to hydraulic effects



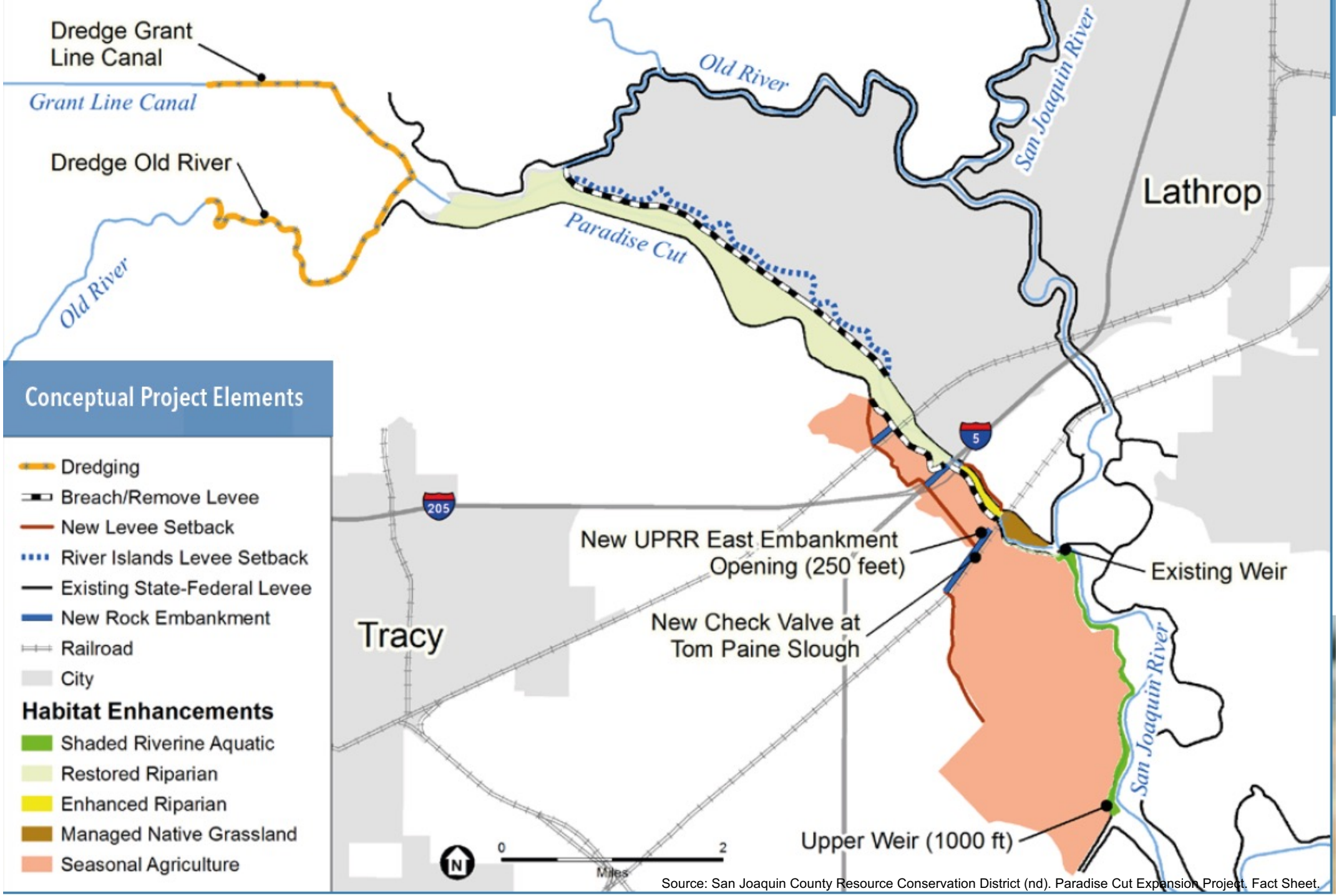
Source: San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District (nd). Paradise Cut Expansion Project. Fact Sheet.

Proposed Study Area



Extra Slides

Minimum Viable Project



Source: San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District (nd). Paradise Cut Expansion Project. Fact Sheet.

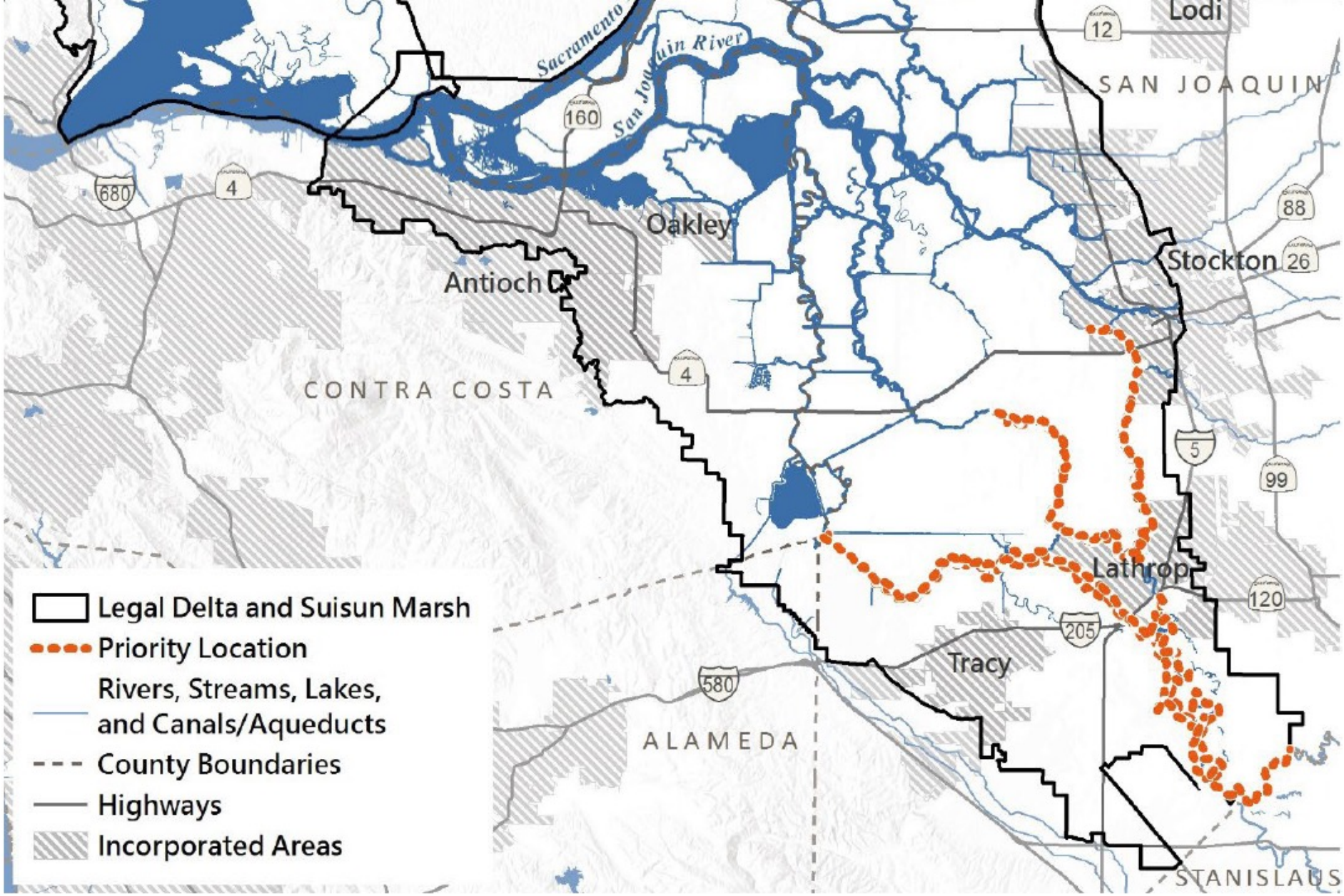


Figure 4-4. Priority Locations to Evaluate Physical Expansion of Floodplains

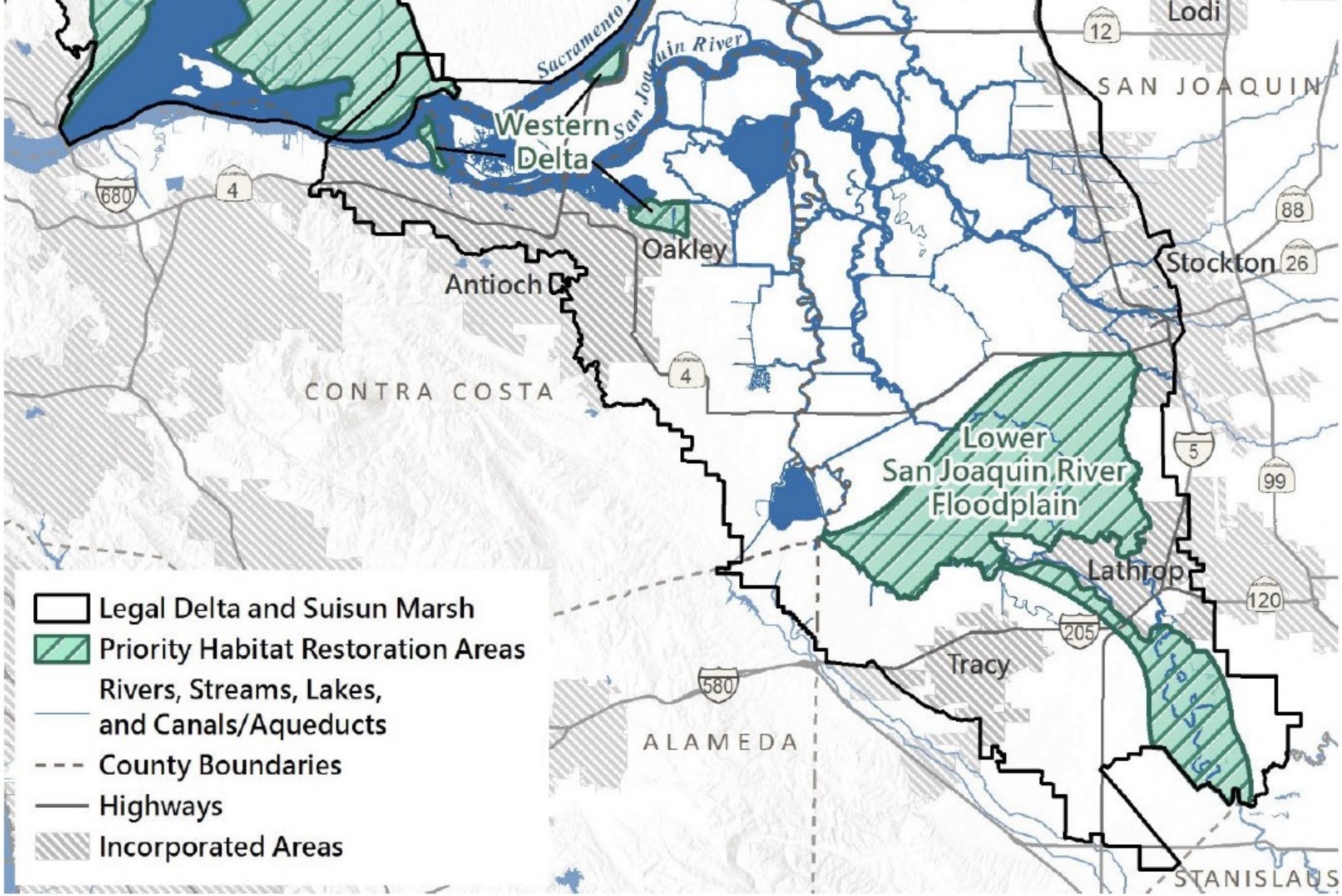
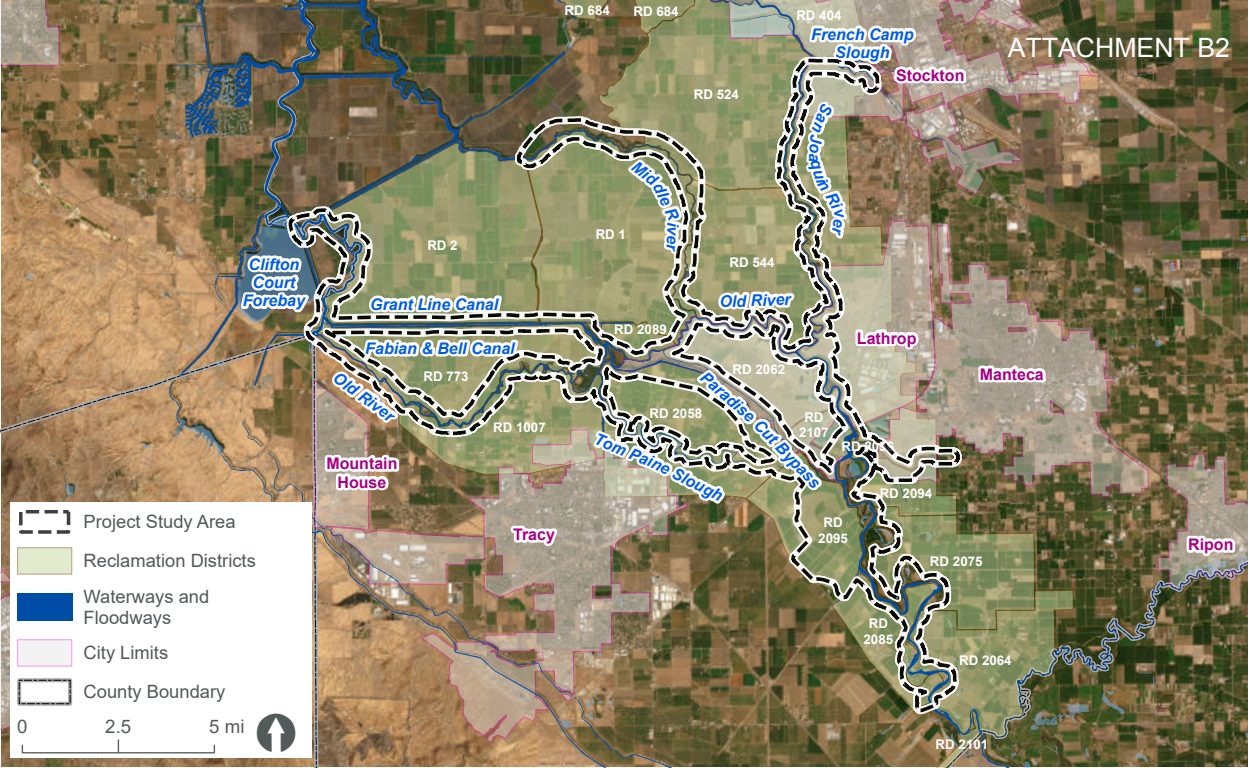


Figure 4-7. Priority Habitat Restoration Areas

ATTACHMENT B2



ATTACHMENT C

PARADISE CUT BYPASS EXPANSION AND MULTI-BENEFIT PROJECT

PROJECT AT-A-GLANCE

The Paradise Cut Bypass Expansion and Multi-Benefit Project (Project) will improve flood protection for local communities, restore habitat, and improve water supply reliability in the South Delta. The Project will expand the existing Paradise Cut Bypass, restore capacity in South Delta channels, and increase habitat for species of state and local importance. By significantly lowering flood stage along nearly 30 miles of the San Joaquin River between Vernalis and Stockton, the Project will greatly increase public safety, as well as protect property and farmland from uncontrolled flooding.

PROJECT PARTNERS

A diverse group of interested parties are working together to advance this pragmatic, multi-benefit, regional solution – a shared vision for cities, farms, and wildlife. The San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency is leading an effort with the California Department of Water Resources to advance a feasibility study and further develop the Project in partnership with an Advisory Committee and reclamation districts as follows:

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- American Rivers
- Central Valley Flood Protection Board (*non-voting*)
- City of Tracy
- California Department of Water Resources (*non-voting*)
- RD 1 / 2 / 544 / 2089
- RD 1007 / 2058
- RD 2095
- RD 2062
- South Delta Water Agency
- San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency
- Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (non-voting)

OTHER RECLAMATION DISTRICTS

- RD 17
- RD 404
- RD 524
- RD 684
- RD 733
- RD 828
- RD 2064
- RD 2075
- RD 2085
- RD 2094
- RD 2096
- RD 2101
- RD 2107

PROJECT GOALS

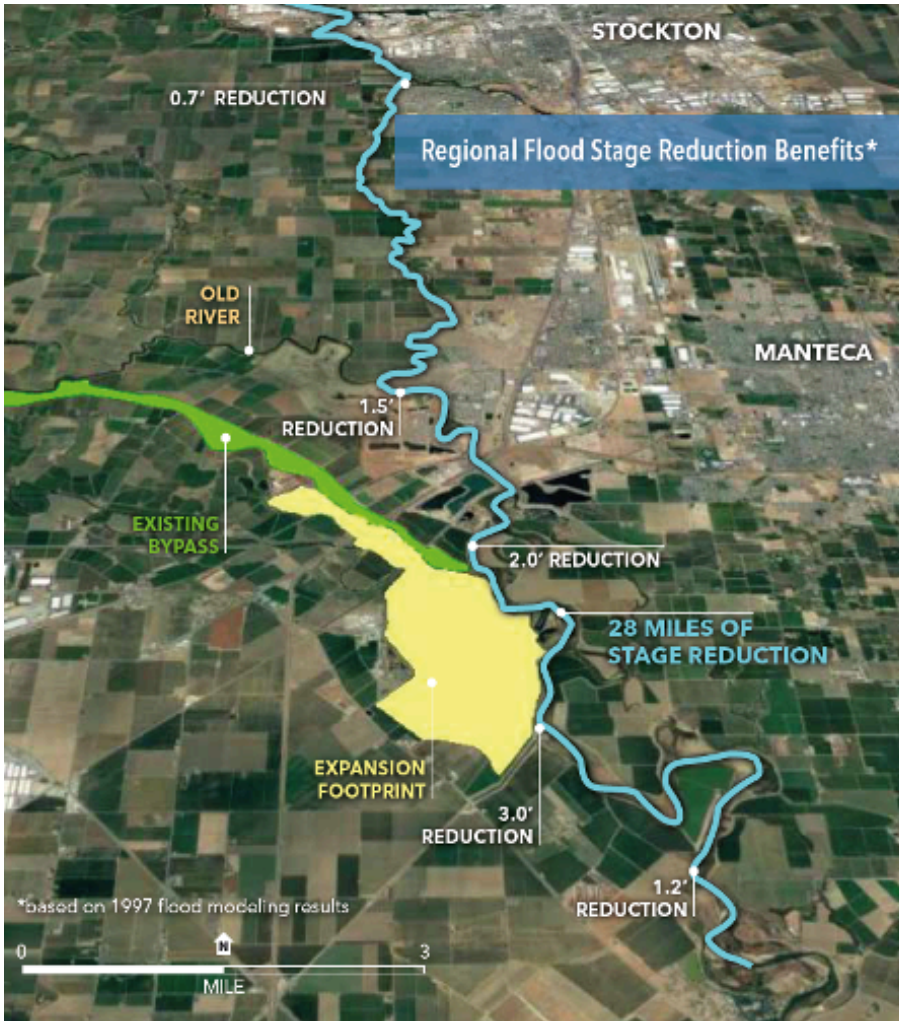
1. Increase flood system resiliency in the South Delta.
2. Restore habitat and ecosystem functions necessary for climate change resilience.
3. Improve water supply reliability and resilience to climate change by supporting more flexible water supply management.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1. Reduce catastrophic flood risk for communities including Lathrop, Manteca, and Stockton.
2. Protect farms from uncontrolled flooding.
3. Restore and improve the quantity, diversity and connectivity of riverine, floodplain, riparian, and wetland habitat for native fish and wildlife.
4. Improve irrigation intake reliability and waterway navigability.

Existing Paradise Cut Weir

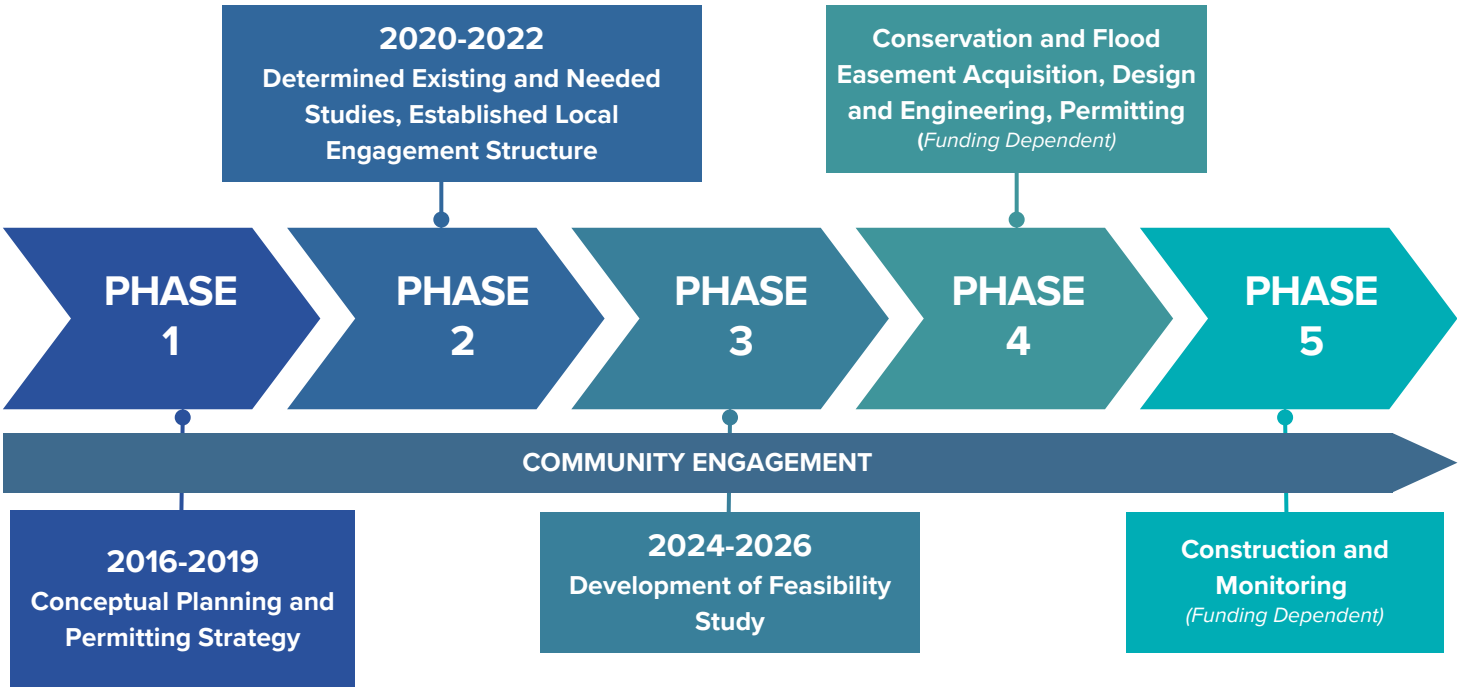
PROJECT SITE MAP



BUILDING RESILIENCE THROUGH PUBLIC INVESTMENT

The Project will require significant public investment for development and construction. The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy funded Phase 1 and Phase 2 with over $350,000 in grants. The California Department of Water Resources funded Phase 3 with a $3 million investment from the Systemwide Flood Risk Reduction Program. Local agencies will need to secure additional state and federal funds to complete the project.

MILESTONES



CONTACT US

Questions, comments, or concerns? Contact the Project Manager:

Glenn Prasad | Deputy Executive Director
San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency | Glenn.Prasad@sjafca.org

For more information, visit
https://www.sjafca.org/projects/paradise-cut-bypass-expansion-multi-benefit-project

ATTACHMENT D

DRAFT

Paradise Cut Bypass Expansion and Multi-Benefit Project (Phase 3)

ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

October 4, 2024

Credit: DWR

Credit: Florence Low

Credit: DWR

Looking South along the Paradise Cut Bypass

SAN JOAQUIN AREA FLOOD CONTROL AGENCY

CONSEROSOLUTIONS

DRAFT

Paradise Cut Bypass Expansion and Multi-Benefit Project (Phase 3) Engagement Strategy

The Paradise Cut Bypass Expansion and Multi-Benefit Project (Phase 3) Engagement Strategy ("Engagement Strategy") will guide efforts to engage interested parties in the completion of a feasibility study, including development of a preferred alternative for the Paradise Cut Bypass Expansion and Multi-Benefit Project (Project). The Engagement Strategy aligns with the requirements outlined in the Phase 3 agreement (2023 Agreement) between the San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency (SJAFCA) and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), which provides funding for the feasibility study and associated community engagement. SJAFCA will oversee implementation of the Engagement Strategy with assistance from the Paradise Cut Management Team and the Paradise Cut Consultant Team, as described in the Project Recommendation Framework.

PROJECT TEAM

The Project Team consists of the Paradise Cut Consultant Team, the Paradise Cut Management Team, the Project Advisory Committee, SJAFCA, and DWR. SJAFCA also is contracting with Consero Solutions for facilitation services, Larsen, Wurzel, and Associates for project management support, and Wood Rodgers for completion of the Project feasibility study. Wood Rodgers is subcontracting with River Partners, MBK Engineers, ICF, HDR, Anchor QEA, and Environmental Science Associates. The Paradise Cut Bypass Expansion and Multi-Benefit Project Recommendation Framework located on the SJAFCA web site further describes the Project Team.

ASSUMPTIONS

The engagement strategy assumes SJAFCA will work with the consultant team and the Advisory Committee to meet all goals and objectives, although this engagement strategy does not assign the work to a particular organization, company, or individual. The engagement strategy also assumes sufficient budget to complete this work. The engagement strategy is a living document, however, and SJAFCA will update the engagement strategy if budget constraints or other conditions necessitate changes.

AUDIENCES

The primary and secondary audiences are the focus of community engagement related to the Project, so the Engagement Strategy is tailored to ensure feedback from these audiences is integrated into key Project deliverables and they receive robust Project updates at regular intervals.

Primary Audiences

The Project Team will actively solicit feedback from primary audiences listed in Engagement Strategy and incorporate any reasonable feedback into the feasibility study, as well as provide regular Project updates.

1) The San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency

2) The Project Advisory Committee, consisting of SJAFCA, the South Delta Water Agency, four representatives from RDs (three downstream of Paradise Cut and RD 2095), a representative from a local municipality, and American Rivers or another non-profit selected

by American Rivers, as well as three non-voting members, the Central Valley Flood Protection Board, the California Department of Water Resource, and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

3) The 21 reclamation districts affected by the Project, both upstream and downstream of the Project, organized into small groups by geographic location, as well as engineering firm/legal representation, as follows:

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
RD 17	RD 1	RD 2058	RD 684
RD 404	RD 2	RD 2064	RD 1007
RD 524	RD 544	RD 2085	RD 2094
RD 773	RD 2062	RD 2095	RD 2096
RD 828	RD 2075		RD 2101
	RD 2089		
	RD 2107		

4) Landowners with property for which easements or fee title acquisition may be necessary to construct the Project

5) Tribal leaders and representatives of tribes with an affiliation to the Project site (in coordination with the California Department of Water Resources and Central Valley Flood Protection Board's Tribal Liaisons)

6) The California Department of Water Resources (the State Water Project Division, The Flood Projects Office, and the Integrated Water Resources Management Division)

7) The Central Valley Flood Protection Board, as the lead state agencies implementing the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan

8) Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

9) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (permitting agencies which also are responsible for regulatory oversight responsibility of the San Joaquin County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation and Open Space Plan)

10) San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

11) Banta-Carbona Irrigation District

12) California State Water Resources Control Board

13) Union Pacific

Secondary Audiences

The Project Team will provide regular Project updates to secondary audiences, as well as answer questions.

1) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Sacramento District)

2) United States Bureau of Reclamation

3) Federal Emergency Management Agency

4) California Wildlife Conservation Board and other potential funding agencies

5) State and federal legislators

6) Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Basin Authority

7) Tracy Subbasin Groundwater Basin Authority

8) San Joaquin County, including the Board of Supervisors, the Planning Department, Office of Emergency Services, and the Water Resources Department

9) City of Manteca, including the City Council

10) City of Lathrop, including the City Council

11) San Joaquin Resource Conservation District

12) Greater San Joaquin County Regional Water Coordinating Committee (IRWM region)

13) Caltrans District 10

14) Delta Stewardship Council

15) Local non-profit or advocacy organizations with an interest in the Project, such as Restore the Delta

16) Educational institutions such as University of California, Davis/ Merced, Delta College, et. al.

17) Upstream water agencies such as Modesto Irrigation District, Turlock Irrigation District, Oakdale Irrigation District, South San Joaquin Irrigation District, Merced Irrigation District et.al.

18) General public, including local landowners and environmental stewards

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Community engagement goals and objectives ensure the Project Team agrees on and is held accountable for completing specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-bound community engagement work.

GOAL 1: Establish shared understanding of the term "feasible" project with local and state decisionmakers prior to starting the feasibility study

Objective 1-1: Secure feedback from primary audiences on the engagement strategy, study area, Project goals, and Project objectives in October 2024.

Objective 1-2: Present suggested definition of "feasible" and refine "feasible" definition in collaboration with primary audiences in October 2024.

GOAL 2: Communicate Project updates consistently and with sufficient detail

Objective 2-1: Create an updated Project overview by September 2024.

Objective 2-2: Complete virtual newsletter every six months through December 2025 for primary and secondary audiences.

Objective 2-3: Update SJAFCA web site page with Project information every six months consistent with release of virtual newsletter for primary and secondary audiences.

Objective 2-4: Complete draft of Frequently Asked Questions by November 2024 and update document every six months or as needed.

Objective 2-5: Develop an environmental justice engagement process by winter 2024/2025.

Objective 2-6: Develop a Tribal engagement process in coordination with DWR and the CVFPB by winter 2024/2025.

GOAL 3: Secure feedback on preliminary and final Project alternatives

Objective 3-1: Implement Tribal and environmental justice related engagement process led by DWR and the CVFPB.

Objective 3-2: Send letters to reclamation districts encouraging them to comment on selected draft deliverables in December 2024 and March 2025.

Objective 3-3: Meet as needed with representatives from primary audiences in spring 2025 to secure feedback on the Draft Alternatives Formulation and Screening Technical Memorandum.

Objective 3-4: Present Draft Alternatives Formulation and Screening Technical Memorandum to the Advisory Committee and SJAFCA in May/June 2025.

Objective 3-5: Meet in person with reclamation districts in organized small groups to secure feedback on the Draft Alternatives Formulation and Screening Technical Memorandum in May/June 2025. These meetings will take place during the Advisory Committee review period.

Objective 3-6: Present final alternatives, including the preferred alternative, and the final Evaluation and Comparison of Alternatives Memo to the Project to the Advisory Committee and SJAFCA in August/September 2025.

Objective 3-7: Meet in person with reclamation districts in organized small groups to secure feedback on the final Evaluation and Comparison of Alternatives Memo, including the preferred alternative, in August/September 2025. These meetings will take place during the Advisory Committee review period.

Objective 3-8: Meet as needed with other representatives of primary audiences in late summer 2025 to secure feedback on the final Evaluation and Comparison of Alternatives Memo.

Objective 3-9: Host a public workshop for primary and secondary audiences to secure feedback on the final Evaluation and and Comparison of Alternatives Memo, including the preferred alternative, in September/October 2025.

Objective 3-10: Present the Draft Feasibility Report to the Advisory Committee and SJAFCA in late 2025.

Objective 3-11: Meet in person with reclamation districts in organized small groups to secure feedback on Draft Feasibility Report in late 2025. These meetings will take place during the Advisory Committee review period.

Objective 3-12: Host a public workshop for primary and secondary audiences to secure feedback on the Draft Feasibility Report in late 2025.

GOAL 4: Secure DWR, CVFPB, SJAFCA, and broad local reclamation district support for a preferred Project alternative, as well as Phase 4 funding requests

Objective 4-1: Communicate Engagement Goal 4 regarding support for a feasible project in all outreach materials.

Objective 4-2: Present to selected reclamation district Board of Directors once SJAFCA approves the preferred alternative to formally request their support for the preferred alternative and funding for Phase 4 by December 2025.

Objective 4-3: Secure letter of support or other official indicator of support from DWR, CVFPB, SJAFCA and reclamation districts for the preferred alternative and funding for Phase 4 by February 2026 (joint letter preferred, individual letters acceptable).

SCHEDULE

The schedule will ensure the Project Team engages the community and secures input on key deliverables consistent with the timeline in the 2023 Agreement.

- **September 2024:** Complete updated project overview
- **October 2024:** Introduce primary audiences to the Project and seek feedback on study area, goals and objectives, and engagement strategy

- **November 2024:** Complete Frequently Asked Questions
- **December 2024:** Send out letter to reclamation districts regarding comments on draft deliverables
- **January/February 2025:** First virtual newsletter
- **January/February 2025:** Update Project page on SJAFCA website
- **March 2025:** Send out letter to reclamation districts regarding comments on draft deliverables
- **May/June 2025:** Meetings with primary audiences regarding Draft Alternatives Formulation and Screening Technical Memorandum
- **June/July 2025:** Second virtual newsletter
- **June/July 2025:** Update Project page on SJAFCA website
- **August/September 2025:** Meetings with primary audiences regarding the final Evaluation and Comparison of Alternatives Memo

- **September/October 2025:** Public workshop #1
- **December 2025:** Meetings with primary audiences regarding Draft Feasibility Report
- **December 2025:** Public workshop #2
- **December 2025:** Third virtual newsletter
- **December 2025:** Update Project page on SJAFCA website

ATTACHMENT E

Decision Recommendation Framework

Paradise Cut Bypass Expansion and Multi-Benefit Project

SAN JOAQUIN AREA
FLOOD CONTROL AGENCY

Introduction

This Decision Recommendation Framework outlines the responsibilities, composition, and governance processes of the entities responsible for advice and recommendations related the Paradise Cut Bypass Expansion and Multi-Benefit Project (Project). The San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency (SJAFCA), in coordination with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), has delegated certain Paradise Cut Project's responsibilities to the Paradise Cut Management Team, Advisory Committee, and Technical Review Panel. The Decision Recommendation Framework constitutes a commitment by the Project's participants to cooperatively contribute to the overall success of the Project. SJAFCA and the Chair of the Advisory Committee will approve this Decision Recommendation Framework and all amendments.

1. Project Background

Local agencies have partnered with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and other organizations to develop the Paradise Cut Bypass Expansion and Mult-Benefit Project for over ten years. The Project will propose an expanded flood bypass to reduce flood risk along the San Joaquin River, channel depth restoration and capacity expansion to increase water supply reliability for in-Delta users, downstream flood risk reduction projects, and floodplain, wetland, and riparian habitat enhancements to help restore the landscape-scale nature-based ecosystem functions necessary for climate change resilience.

Project proponents have successfully worked with numerous state and local entities to engage local agencies and the public about development of the Project, including technical feasibility and quantitative modeling of the impacts and benefits. Phase 1 of the Project, funded with a grant from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy to the San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District (SJCRCD), included preliminary planning and hydraulic modeling, Project outreach and agency coordination, and a detailed permitting strategy. The Project continued into Phase 2 with another grant from the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta Conservancy and included the development of strategies to address concerns of landowners and reclamation districts downstream of the Project, as well as identification of additional technical analyses and studies needed to address local concerns. The Phase 2 Project team also successfully executed a 2022 Memorandum of Understanding (2022 MOU) identifying SJAFCA as the future Project lead. The MOU also created an eight-member Advisory Committee consisting of representatives from SJAFCA, local reclamation districts, a local municipality, the South Delta Water Agency, and American Rivers to recommend actions related to the Project to SJAFCA, a commitment to support South Delta channel restoration, and an agreement to partner on pursuing funding for the Project.

For Phase 3, SJAFCA is partnering with DWR to advance a feasibility study to further develop the Project as described in the 2023 Funding Agreement ("2023 Agreement") between SJAFCA and DWR (effective July 1, 2023). The feasibility study will create a foundational compilation of

analyses, knowledge, and design alternatives used to advance subsequent phases of the Project, including development, evaluation, and selection of preliminary Project alternatives to prepare the Project for environmental compliance and advance design stages in a subsequent phase. The 2023 Agreement also created the Paradise Cut Management Team, consisting of representatives of local and state agencies who participated in the Phase 2 planning process. The Paradise Cut Management Team will be responsible for administering the selection of the Technical Review Panel and will support SJAFCA with completion of the Phase 3 deliverables in the 2023 Agreement.

2. DWR Acknowledgements

DWR recognizes the efforts and investments contributed from the various reclamation districts in the Project area, as well as the various agencies including South Delta Water Agency, SJCRCD, American Rivers, and SJAFCA. DWR acknowledges that many reclamation districts and various agencies are signatories to the 2022 MOU and elected SJAFCA as the lead agency in furtherance of the Paradise Cut Bypass Expansion and Multi-benefit Project. SJAFCA has entered into a funding agreement with DWR and is responsible for deliverables. This Decision Recommendation Framework and the 2022 MOU cannot conflict with the 2023 Agreement or any state law. Discretionary decision-making cannot be delegated to other entities outside of SJAFCA's jurisdiction, SJAFCA is required to exercise independent judgment in its analyses and is responsible for Project deliverables. DWR welcomes and encourages participation through the Advisory Committee to provide feedback and recommendations to SJAFCA and the Project team.

3. Purpose

SJAFCA has entrusted certain responsibilities to the Paradise Cut Management Team, Advisory Committee, and Technical Review Panel described in this Decision Recommendation Framework. This Decision Recommendation Framework develops a process to facilitate the expeditious completion of Project deliverables in the 2023 Agreement between SJAFCA and DWR with the goal of fostering collaborative partnerships that result in a proposed viable, cost-effective alternative for the Project. This framework is intended to be used in tandem with the Paradise Cut Bypass Expansion and Multi-Benefit Project Engagement Strategy.

4. Approval and Amendments

SJAFCA is responsible for approval of the Decision Recommendation Framework and all amendments. The Paradise Cut Management Team will recommend approval of this Decision Recommendation Framework, as well as any subsequent amendments, to the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee will recommend approval of this Decision Recommendation Framework, as well as any subsequent amendments, to SJAFCA. The Executive Director and the Chair of the Advisory Committee will be signatories on the Framework.

5. Dissolution

This Decision Recommendation Framework applies to the entities responsible for advice and decisions related to Project deliverables associated with the feasibility study under the 2023 Agreement between DWR and SJAFCA.

6. Project Team

Figure 1 shows the composition of entities responsible for advice and recommendations related to the Project, namely SJFACA, DWR, the Advisory Committee, the Paradise Cut Management Team, the Technical Review Panel, and the Paradise Cut Consultant Team. Figure 2 illustrates how these entities will interact to make recommendations. The Paradise Cut Management Team, SJAFCA, DWR, and the Consultant Team will handle routine Project decisions and oversee the successful implementation of Project deliverables, while the Advisory Committee will be involved with providing recommendations to the Paradise Cut Management Team and SJAFCA regarding major Project milestones or strategic issues.

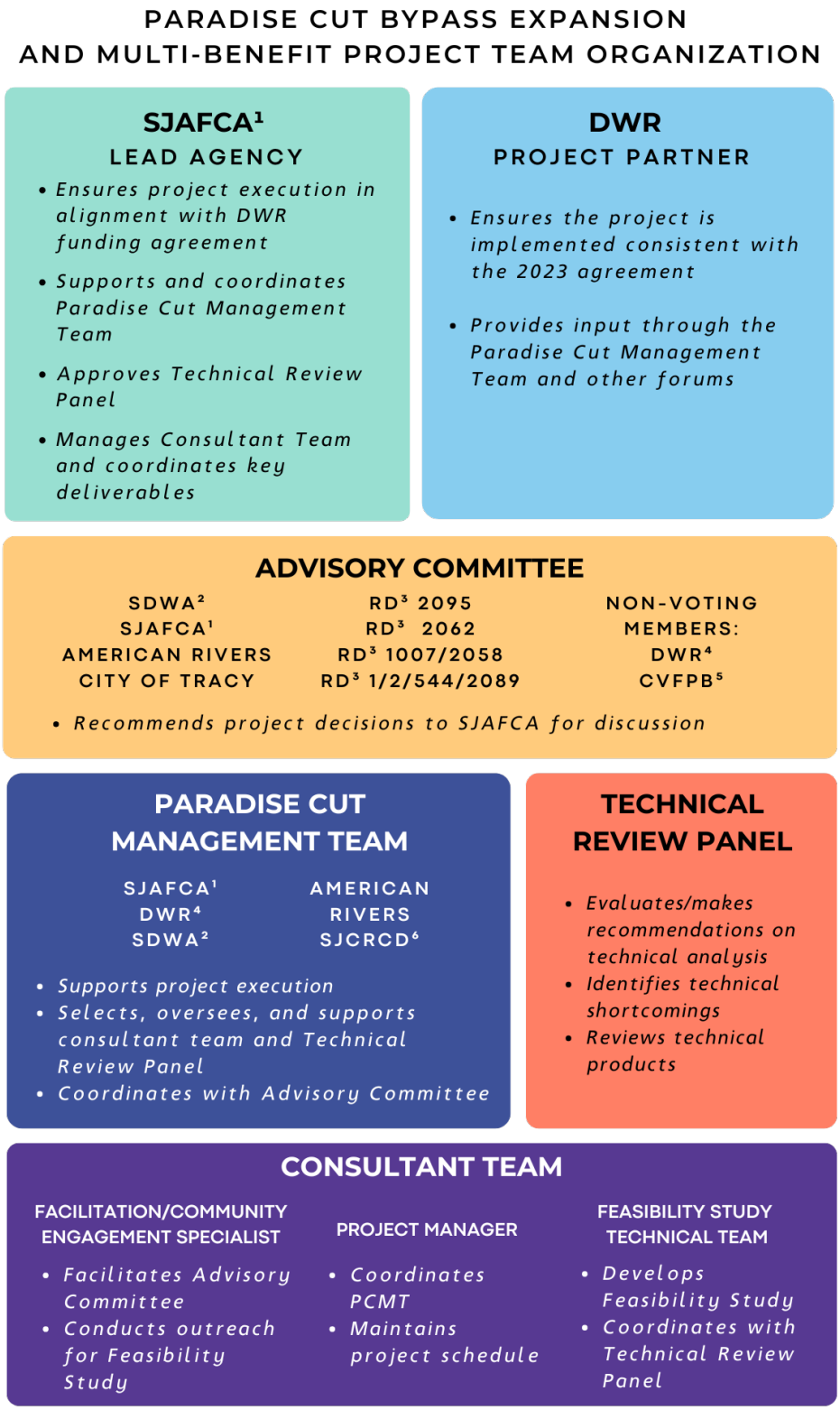


Figure 1: Paradise Cut Team

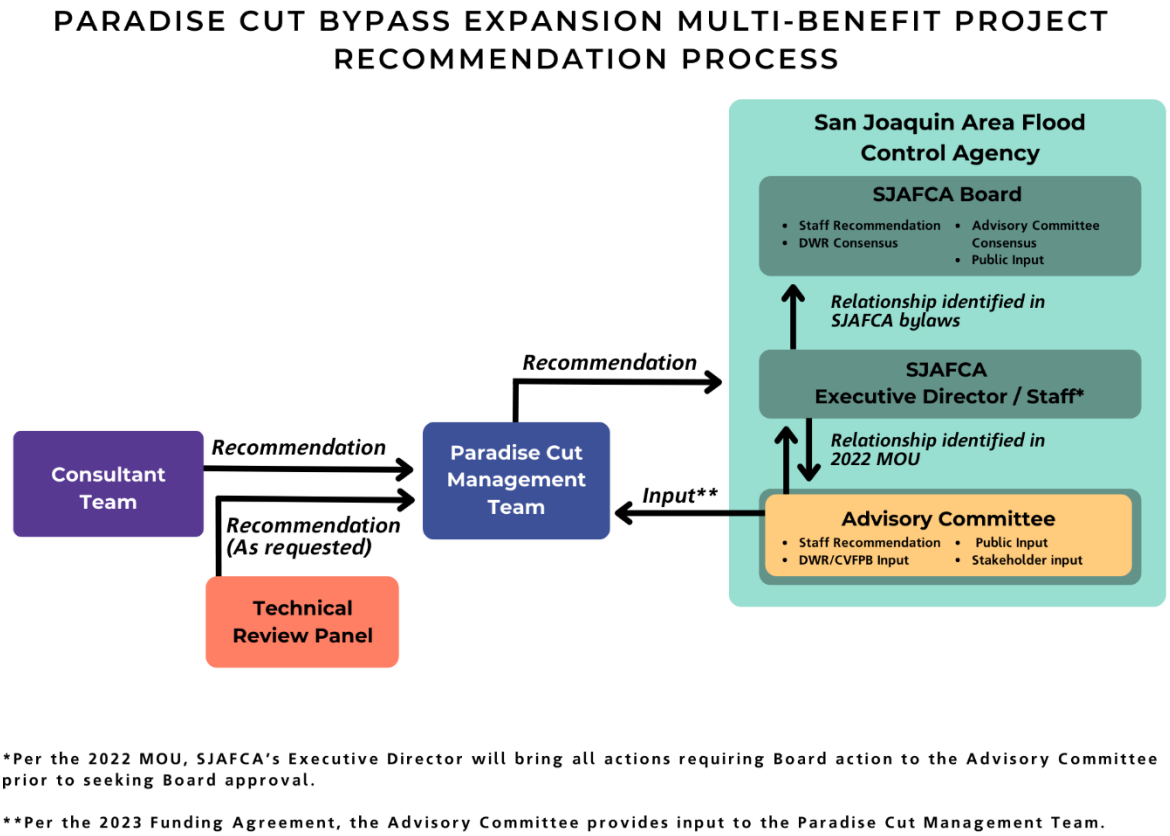


Figure 2: Recommendation Process

5.1 San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency (SJAFCA)

5.1.A Responsibilities

As the lead agency, SJAFCA is responsible for the overall Project execution. SJAFCA will execute contracts with consultants to support Project development, will manage the 2023 Agreement with DWR, and will manage financial agreements with consultants. SJAFCA also will lead the Paradise Cut Management Team and the Advisory Committee, approve the Technical Review Panel selections, and manage the Paradise Cut Consultant Team. The SJAFCA Executive Director or designee will serve as a member of the Advisory Committee and will recommend actions related to the Project to SJAFCA as needed. SJAFCA will work closely with DWR to make decisions and ensure compliance with the 2023 Agreement.

5.1.B Composition

SJAFCA is a Joint Powers Authority between the City of Stockton, City of Lathrop, City of Manteca, San Joaquin County, and the San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water

Conservation District for the purpose of addressing flood protection for the City of Stockton and surrounding County area. The Board of Directors is comprised of one (1) member of the San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District; one (1) member of the Board of Supervisors of the County; two (2) members from Stockton City Council; two (2) members from Lathrop City Council; two (2) members from Manteca City Council; and one (1) member of the public, appointed by a simple majority of the other Board members, who shall reside or work within the boundaries of the Agency. The Paradise Cut region is not currently in SJAFCA's service area, although the Project will provide improved flood protection to jurisdictions within SJAFCA's interest area.

5.1.C Meetings

The SJAFCA Board meets on the third Thursday of the month.

5.1.D Governance

SJAFCA is the lead agency furthering the feasibility study defined in the 2023 Agreement between SJAFCA and DWR. SJAFCA is responsible for all decisions related to the feasibility study subject to DWR approval consistent with the 2023 Agreement. The Decision Recommendation Framework empowers the Paradise Cut Management Team, Advisory Committee, and Technical Review Panel with specific responsibilities and make develop project recommendations. While these entities play crucial roles, SJAFCA retains ultimate authority and accountability for the project's success. The 2023 Agreement describes SJAFCA (the Funding Recipient) as the lead agency and the role of the Advisory Committee on page 11:

> "… the Funding Recipient's Board authorized entry into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with several local interested parties affirming the Funding Recipient as the Lead for the Project. As part of this MOU, representatives of a local collation (sic) that have previously worked on the Project would participate in an advisory committee."

The 2022 MOU defines SJAFCA's role as the lead agency furthering the "Investigation" of the Project, defined as the study of the technical and financial feasibility of the proposed Project as follows:

> "SJAFCA will bring all actions related to the Investigation to the Advisory Committee prior to seeking any needed approval from SJAFCA Board of Directors. If a majority of the Advisory Committee members vote to recommend approval of an action to the SJAFCA Board of Directors, SJAFCA staff will bring that recommendation to the SJAFCA Board of Directors for consideration. If the Advisory Committee does not recommend the action or if SJAFCA Board of Directors disagrees with a recommended action, SJAFCA staff will utilize the dispute resolution process outlined in this MOU to resolve the disagreement."

The Paradise Cut Management Team will make recommendations to the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee and SJAFCA staff will in turn make recommendations to the Paradise

Cut Management Team and SJAFCA. The actions that will be taken before SJAFCA for approval will be 1) the final array of alternatives including the technical analysis, 2) the final recommendation memorandum that includes the technical analysis supporting the selection, 3) and the draft feasibility study report. As the project progresses, SJAFCA and the Paradise Cut Management Team may recommend additional items to be approved by the Board or SJAFCA's Executive Director. Throughout the Project, the Board will be briefed on the status, any project risks, and the outcomes of the strategic outreach. The Paradise Cut Consultant Team, specifically the Facilitator/Community Engagement Specialist, is responsible for facilitating discussion of Project-related actions at the Advisory Committee meetings consistent with SJAFCA direction. SJAFCA is responsible for facilitating discussion of Project-related actions at the Paradise Cut Management Team and SJAFCA Board of Directors meetings.

The MOU also outlines the following dispute resolution process:

> "SJAFCA staff will initially work with the Chair of the advisory committee and the Chair of the SJAFCA Board of Directors to resolve any dispute. If this effort is unsuccessful, SJAFCA staff will utilize a professional mediator to resolve the issue. If no agreement can be reached, the SJAFCA Board of Directors maintains the authority to make the final decision."

5.2 Department of Water Resources (DWR)

5.2.A Responsibilities

DWR is a state agency responsible for managing California's water resources, systems, and infrastructure in a responsible, sustainable way. DWR's mission is to sustainably manage the water resources of California, to benefit the state's people and protect, restore, and enhance the natural and human environments. DWR has delegated responsibility for leading the Project to SJAFCA through the 2023 Agreement but works in partnership with SJAFCA to develop and approve Project deliverables consistent with the 2023 Agreement.

5.2.B Composition

DWR's Director is appointed by the Governor of the State of California. The Lead Deputy Director of DWR oversees the Division of Multi-Benefit Initiatives, the DWR division responsible for administration of the 2023 Agreement.

5.2.C Meetings

DWR staff meet as needed to partner on the Project.

5.2.D Governance

A DWR representative is a voting member of the Paradise Cut Management Team. A DWR representative is a non-voting member of the Advisory Committee.

5.3 Paradise Cut Management Team

5.3.A Responsibilities

The Paradise Cut Management Team provides feedback to the Paradise Cut Consultant Team consistent with SJAFCA direction and recommend Project-related actions to the Advisory Committee, including actions related to selection of consultants, the development of the feasibility study, and community engagement strategies. To support the feasibility study, the Paradise Cut Management Team selects the Technical Review Panel. The Technical Review Panel provides the Paradise Cut Management Team with recommendations regarding Project deliverables.

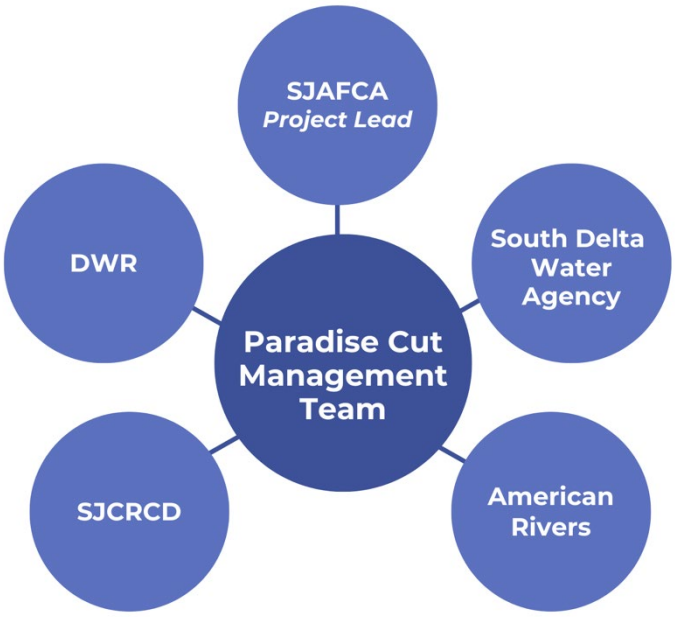


Figure 3: Paradise Cut Management Team

5.3.B Composition

Per the 2023 Agreement between DWR and SJAFCA, the Paradise Cut Management Team will include members from the planning team responsible for implementing Phase 2 of the Project. As shown in Figure 3, the Paradise Cut Management Team will include one representative from SJAFCA, DWR, the San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District (SJCRCD), the South Delta Water Agency, and American Rivers. Other representatives from member organizations may attend, but only one representative from each organization may vote.

5.3.C Meetings

The Paradise Cut Consultant Team, specifically the Project Manager, will facilitate the Paradise Cut Management Team meetings consistent with SJAFCA's direction. The Paradise Cut Management Team will meet as frequently as needed, subject to approval by members, to advance the Project.

5.3.D Governance

The Paradise Cut Management Team will strive for consensus. The Project Manager will develop minutes from every meeting, including actions and recommendations. While the Paradise Cut Management Team does not need to formally vote to recommend an action to the Advisory Committee, the Project Manager may call for a vote on an action if the Paradise Cut Management Team cannot agree on an action. Such recommendations will require a majority vote, defined as more than half of the votes cast by members entitled to vote at a meeting. A quorum is not required to convene the Paradise Cut Management Team, but a quorum is necessary for the Paradise Cut Management Team to vote. Each member present has one vote.

SJAFCA staff, the Project Manager, and the Facilitator/Community Engagement Specialist responsible for convening the Advisory Committee will ensure any disagreement on an action recommended by the Paradise Cut Management Team to the Advisory Committee is communicated in writing to the Advisory Committee, including members present and the results of the vote. If SJAFCA staff disagree with a recommendation of the Paradise Cut Management Team, SJAFCA staff will present information about the Paradise Cut Management Team position to the Advisory Committee, as well as justification for a staff recommendation that is different from the Paradise Cut Management Team recommendation.

5.4 Advisory Committee

5.4.A Responsibilities

The Advisory Committee is responsible for recommending actions related to the Project to the SJAFCA. Per the 2022 MOU, the Advisory Committee agrees to work together in good faith to advance an investigation which is designed to support eventual implementation of a Project" and "the parties agree that SJAFCA will act as the lead in pursuing the Investigation." Also, the Advisory Committee is charged with helping to "maintain a high level of coordination and communication with South Delta reclamation districts during investigation and planning."

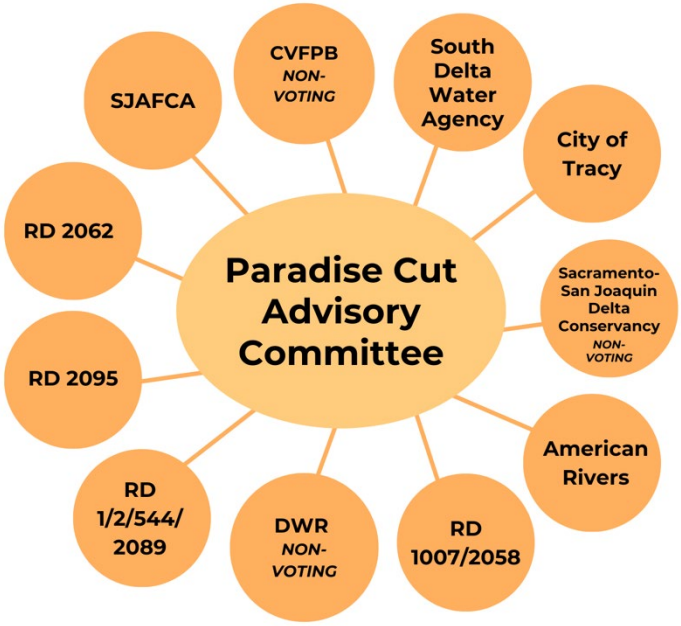


Figure 4: Advisory Committee Members

5.4.B Composition

As illustrated in Figure 4, the Advisory Committee consists of SJAFCA, the South Delta Water Agency, four representatives from RDs (three downstream of Paradise Cut and RD 2095), a representative from a local municipality, and American Rivers or another non-profit selected by American Rivers. The Advisory Committee approved adding DWR, the CVFPB, and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy as non-voting members of the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee's officers shall consist of a Chair and Vice-Chair, who the Advisory Committee will select by majority vote. The Chair shall preside over all meetings and ensure the execution of the Advisory Committee's responsibilities. The Vice Chair shall assist the Chair and assume the Chair's duties in their absence. The Chair and Vice Chair shall serve for the duration of the work to complete the deliverables in the SJAFCA and DWR 2023 Agreement, unless the Chair and/or Vice Chair voluntarily resign, or the Committee votes to replace the Chair and/or Vice Chair.

5.4.C Meetings

The Paradise Cut Consultant Team, specifically the Facilitator/Community Engagement Specialist, will facilitate the Advisory Committee meetings consistent with the Ralph M. Brown Act. The Facilitator/Community Engagement Specialist will schedule the Advisory Committee meetings on the first Monday of each month and reschedule or cancel the meetings as needed in coordination with the Chair and SJAFCA staff.

5.4.D Governance

Advisory Committee recommendations require a majority vote. A majority vote is defined as more than half of the votes cast by members entitled to vote at a meeting at which a quorum is present. A quorum for the purposes of voting is defined as the presence of at least fifty percent of the voting members. The Advisory Committee may not conduct items of business without a quorum. As illustrated in Figure 2 the Paradise Cut Management Team will recommend actions to the Advisory Committee and the Advisory Committee will recommend actions to SJAFCA. The Advisory Committee will consider feedback from the PCMT, DWR, the public, and other interested parties as part of the recommendation process. If SJAFCA staff disagree with a recommendation of the Advisory Committee, SJAFCA staff will present information to the SJAFCA regarding the Advisory Committee position as well as justification for a staff recommendation that is different from the Advisory Committee recommendation. The Advisory Committee will recommend actions to the SJAFCA, but the SJAFCA Board and Directors and DWR will coordinate on final decisions. As part of the 2023 Agreement, DWR approves all project deliverables.

5.5 Technical Review Panel

5.5.A Responsibilities

The Technical Review Panel will evaluate technical analyses, identify any pertinent technical shortcomings of this work, make recommendations on additional technical analyses or model updates required to advance the Project, and review technical products produced under this scope of work. The Technical Review Panel will review grant deliverables as outlined by the quality management plan.

5.5.B Composition

The Technical Review Panel is comprised of individuals with experience relevant to the objectives of the Project and experience in the San Joaquin River and Delta systems. SJAFCA, working within a collaborative selection process administered by the Paradise Cut Management Team, will select and retain independent technical experts to meet this objective as well as to comply with anticipated U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Safety Assurance Reviews and Urban Levee Design Criteria guidelines in future phases of work. The Technical Review Panel includes consultants specializing in key disciplines of the project, such as civil, geotechnical,

environmental and permitting, hydrology and hydraulics, sediment modeling, and Delta and regulatory expertise. The Paradise Cut Management Team may add other independent members and disciplines as the Project advances.

5.5.C Meetings

SJAFCA will convene Technical Review Panel meetings as needed.

5.5.D Governance/ Administration

SJAFCA will direct the work of the Technical Review Panel. The Technical Review Panel will review grant deliverables outlines in the quality management plan prior to Paradise Cut Management Team review.

5.6 Paradise Cut Consultant Team

5.6.A Responsibilities

The Paradise Cut Consultant Team is contracted with SJAFCA and supports completion of work associated with the Project including project management, facilitation of the Advisory Committee, community engagement, and development of the feasibility study for the Project.

5.6.B Composition

The Paradise Cut Consultant Team is comprised of a Project Manager, Facilitator/Community Engagement Specialist, and the Feasibility Study Technical Team.

5.6.C Meetings

SJAFCA will convene meetings as needed.

5.6.D Governance/ Administration

SJAFCA will direct the work of the Paradise Cut Consultant Team.

7. Approval

As Chair of the Advisory Committee, I have reviewed and approve this Decision Recommendation Framework, affirming my agreement with the responsibilities, composition, and governance processes of the entities responsible for advice and decisions related the Paradise Cut Bypass Expansion and Multi-Benefit Project.

Date

John Herrick
Chair, Advisory Committee
South Delta Water Agency

As Executive Director of SJAFCA, I have reviewed and approve this Decision Recommendation Framework, affirming my agreement with the responsibilities, composition, and governance processes of the entities responsible for advice and decisions related the Paradise Cut Bypass Expansion and Multi-Benefit Project.

Date

Chris Elias
Executive Director
San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency

8. Amendments

Amendments to the Decision Recommendation Framework are documented below.

Amendment Number	Date	Changes Made	Reason for Amendment	SJAFCA Executive Director Signature