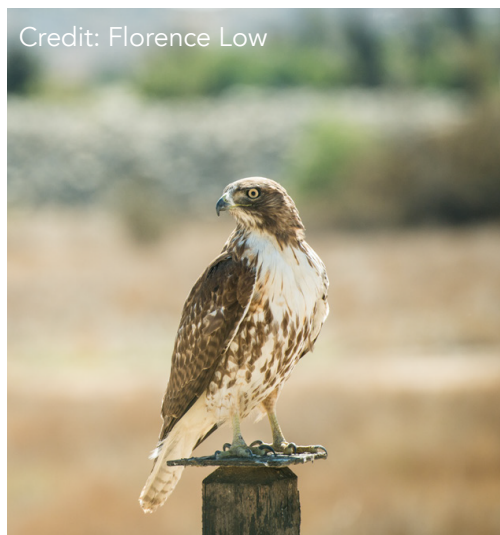
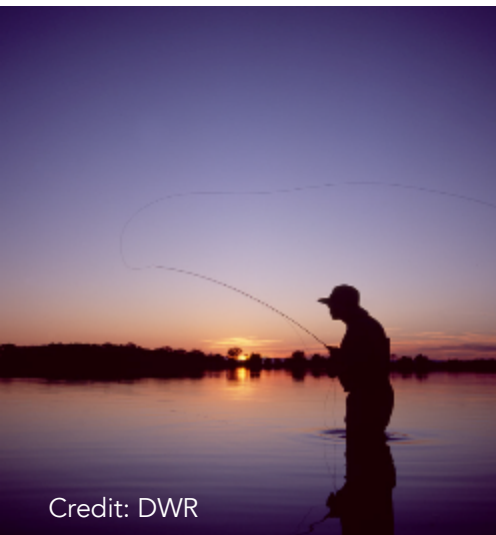


Paradise Cut Bypass Expansion and Multi-Benefit Project (Phase 3)

ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Approved by SJAFCFA on November 26, 2024



SAN JOAQUIN AREA
FLOOD CONTROL AGENCY

CONSEROSOLUTIONS

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 (SJAFCFA) and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), which provides funding for the feasibility study and associated community engagement. SJAFCFA 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 Decision Recommendation Framework.

PROJECT TEAM

The Project Team consists of the Paradise Cut Consultant Team, the Paradise Cut Management Team, the Project Advisory Committee, SJAFCFA, and DWR. The Paradise Cut Bypass Expansion and Multi-Benefit Decision Recommendation Framework located on the SJAFCFA web site describes individual members of the group which comprise the Project Team. SJAFCFA 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 Project Team is responsible for Engagement Strategy implementation and each organization on the team will execute specific tasks.

ASSUMPTIONS

The Engagement Strategy assumes SJAFCFA 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 SJAFCFA 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 SJAFCFA, 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 19 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 2064	RD 684
RD 404	RD 2	RD 2085	RD 1007
RD 524	RD 544	RD 2095	RD 2058
RD 773	RD 2062		RD 2094
	RD 2075		RD 2096
	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) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Sacramento District)
- 11) San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (San Joaquin County)
- 12) San Joaquin Council of Governments (San Joaquin County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation and Open Space Plan)
- 13) Banta-Carbona Irrigation District
- 14) California State Water Resources Control Board
- 15) Union Pacific
- 16) Delta Stewardship Council
- 17) Delta Protection Commission

Secondary Audiences

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

- 1) United States Bureau of Reclamation

- 2) Federal Emergency Management Agency
- 3) California Wildlife Conservation Board and other potential funding agencies
- 4) State and federal legislators
- 5) Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Basin Authority
- 6) Tracy Subbasin Groundwater Basin Authority
- 7) San Joaquin County, including the Board of Supervisors, the Planning Department, Office of Emergency Services, and the Water Resources Department
- 8) City of Manteca, including the City Council
- 9) City of Lathrop, including the City Council
- 10) San Joaquin Resource Conservation District
- 11) Greater San Joaquin County Regional Water Coordinating Committee (IRWM region)
- 12) Caltrans District 10
- 13) Local non-profit or advocacy organizations with an interest in the Project, such as Restore the Delta
- 14) Educational institutions such as University of California, Davis/ Merced, Delta College, et. al.
- 15) Upstream water agencies such as Modesto Irrigation District, Turlock Irrigation District, Oakdale Irrigation District, South San Joaquin Irrigation District, Merced Irrigation District et.al.
- 16) 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/December 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 April/May 2025. These meetings will take place during the Advisory Committee review period.

Objective 3-6: Present final alternatives, including the preferred alternative, and as part of the draft Evaluation and Comparison of Alternatives Memo 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 draft 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 draft Evaluation and Comparison of Alternatives Memo.

Objective 3-9: Host a public workshop for primary and secondary audiences to secure feedback on the draft Evaluation 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 the outcome of support for a feasible project in all outreach materials and future funding requests.

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.

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 (DONE)
- **October 2024:** Introduce primary audiences to the Project and seek feedback on study area, goals and objectives, and engagement strategy (DONE)
- **November/December 2024:** Complete Frequently Asked Questions
- **December 2024:** Send out letter to reclamation districts regarding opportunity to review interim deliverables
- **December 2024:** Advisory Committee meeting (December 2, 2024)
- **January/February 2025:** First virtual newsletter
- **January/February 2025:** Update Project page on SJAFCA website

- **March 2025:** Send out letter to reclamation districts regarding opportunity to review interim deliverables
- **April 2025:** 10-day review period (April 2, 2025 – April 15, 2025) for Draft Alternative Formulation and Screening Technical Memorandum
- **April 2025:** Advisory Committee meeting (April 21, 2025)
- **April/May 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 SJAFCFA website
- **August 2025:** 10-day review period (August 6, 2025 – August 20, 2025) for final Evaluation and Comparison of Alternatives Memo
- **August 2025:** Advisory Committee meeting (August 25, 2025)
- **August/September 2025:** Meetings with primary audiences regarding the final Evaluation and Comparison of Alternatives Memo
- **September 2025:** Advisory Committee meeting to receive preliminary Draft Feasibility Report (September 22, 2025)
- **September/October 2025:** Public workshop #1
- **November/December 2025:** 10-day review period (November 19, 2025 – December 10, 2025) for Draft Feasibility Report
- **November/December 2025:** Meetings with primary audiences regarding Draft Feasibility Report
- **December 2025:** Advisory Committee meeting (December 15, 2025)
- **December 2025:** Public workshop #2
- **December 2025:** Third virtual newsletter
- **December 2025:** Update Project page on SJAFCFA website