CONSERVATION STRATEGY UPDATE

A key component of the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) that provides system-wide context and direction for DWR’s environmental activities related to improvement of flood management in the Central Valley.

What does the Conservation Strategy provide?

- Improved Science and Planning Information, Specifically for Central Valley Flood System
- Programmatic Permitting Strategy for Capital Improvements and System Maintenance
- Improved Vegetation Management Approach, Reducing O&M Burdens
- Ecological Targets and Measurable Objectives to Track Progress, Facilitate Adaptive Management and Measure Success
- Habitat Planning and Implementation Guidance that can Improve Project Delivery, Reduce Costs, and Contribute Towards Ecological Uplift

What is the purpose?

- Helps DWR and others plan, design, and implement multiple-benefit flood improvement actions
- Expands public support and funding for flood projects, improves project delivery and reduces long-term costs, and attracts funding from other sources
- Supports CVFPP goals by providing a comprehensive, long-term approach to improving riverine habitat and floodplains consistent with CVFPP implementation

How does it support multi-benefit integration?

- Provides tools, data, approaches, and guidance (e.g., ecological goals and targets) for development of multi-benefit projects
- Informs feasibility studies and Regional Flood Management Plans
- Attracts greater cost-sharing attributable to the broader range of benefits it yields

BACKGROUND

2007 - Statewide bonds provided early funding for flood risk management projects in the Central Valley
2008 - State legislature passed the Central Valley Flood Protection Act
2012 - Conservation Framework was developed as a part of the 2012 CVFPP
2016 - Conservation Strategy informed the 2017 CVFPP Update
2021 - Conservation Strategy to inform the 2022 CVFPP Update

April 2020
### 2012 Conservation Framework
Consisted of several technical reports covering biological status and trends, ecological flow modeling and analysis of opportunity areas for restoring floodplain habitat, fish passage assessment, and regional permitting approaches and the establishment of advance mitigation projects.

### 2016 Conservation Strategy
Provided measurable ecological objectives for ecosystem processes, habitats, and species, and for planning and design objectives; it also described the approach for achieving these objectives that includes adaptive management of implementation.

### Conservation Strategy Update
Report on progress toward meeting measurable objectives for improved ecosystem processes, increased habitats, and decreased stressors as part of flood risk reduction projects; describe how climate change may influence ecological conditions and the ability to meet these objectives; and explain how integration with other State and regional efforts can help improve flood system resilience through more effective implementation of multi-benefit projects.

### Ecological Goals

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ecosystem Processes</th>
<th>ECOLOGICAL TARGETS:</th>
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| Improve and Enhance Dynamic Hydrologic and Geomorphic Processes | - Floodplain Inundation  
- Riverine Geomorphic Processes |

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<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>ECOLOGICAL TARGETS:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contribute to the Recovery and Sustainability of Native Species Populations and Overall Biotic Community Diversity</td>
<td>- Improvements are linked to actions that improve ecosystem processes and habitats</td>
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<tr>
<th>Habitats</th>
<th>ECOLOGICAL TARGETS:</th>
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| Increase and Improve Quantity, Diversity, and Connectivity of Riverine Aquatic and Floodplain Habitats | - Shaded Riverine Aquatic Habitat and Cover  
- Riparian, Marsh (and Other Wetlands)  
- Floodplain Agriculture |

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<th>Stressors</th>
<th>ECOLOGICAL TARGETS:</th>
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| Reduce Stressors From Development, Operation, and Maintenance of Flood Management System that Negatively Affect At-Risk Species | - Improvements are linked to actions that reduce  
- Revetment (where unnecessary for flood protection)  
- Levees (where unnecessary for flood protection, disconnect rivers from floodplains or lack capacity to accommodate vegetation)  
- Fish passage barriers  
- Invasive plants |

April 2020