

BDCP Yolo Bypass Fishery Enhancement Planning Team

The approach to Conservation Measure 2 of the Working Draft of the BDCP, known as “Yolo Bypass Fishery Enhancement” is a key issue that requires resolution prior to the completion of the BDCP. This presents an ideal opportunity to work collaboratively with interest groups from the local community and to ensure that their working knowledge of, and considerations about, the Bypass help determine the final version of Conservation Measure 2 and the subsequent Yolo Bypass Fishery Enhancement Plan that is anticipated will be required within 6 months of the BDCP Record of Decision.

Overall Approach:

Create a small working group, called the Yolo Bypass Fishery Enhancement Planning Team, comprised of representatives of various interest groups within and around the Bypass. Team members will be responsible for representing the opinions of their constituencies. The Team will consider the input of their constituencies as well as input received through public workshops hosted to engage the wider community at key milestones. The purpose of the Team will be to provide decision-makers with informed, thoughtful input from knowledgeable local interests. Ultimately, decisions must be made by the HCP and NCCP applicants, and decisions about granting the permits will be made by the state and federal fish and wildlife agencies. The Yolo Bypass Planning Team’s recommendations will be given serious consideration. The Team’s meetings will be open to the public.

Objective:

The Yolo Bypass Fishery Enhancement Planning Team will be charged with two specific objectives. In Phase 1, the Team will be charged with helping to bring development of Conservation Measure 2 to a close by providing recommended language for the measure that is consistent with the requirements of conservation planning. In Phase 2, the Team will be charged with making recommendations about the development of the Yolo Bypass Fishery Enhancement Plan.

Phase 1 – Focus on Conservation Measure 2

To bring the writing of Conservation Measure 2 to a close, there are several important areas needing attention, discussion, and input by the Planning Team, including biological goals and objectives, location and footprint of inundation, timing and duration of inundation, and the role that pilot projects could have in improving the overall process. The measure should result in substantial habitat improvement for salmonids, lamprey, sturgeon, splittail; no loss of flood control capacity; consider the potential for improvements in water supply for Fazio refuge and no net loss of refuge productivity; and no substantial loss of agricultural productivity that cannot be mitigated.

To assist the Planning Team in this discussion, a separate working group of fish experts will be convened to further refine biological goals and objectives, and monitoring metrics.

Phase 2 – Focus on the Yolo Bypass Fishery Enhancement Plan

In Phase 2, the Planning Team will be charged with determining how to integrate aquatic restoration with agricultural, wildlife, recreational, and flood protection purposes of the Bypass and how to identify and mitigate for any impacts. Specifically, the Team will be charged with:

- Recommending a range of project options
- Recommending options to model
- Modeling recommended options
- Recommending a preferred option (through a scoring system determined by the Team)
- Ensuring compatibility with the flood protection and other mixed-use functions of the Bypass

- Discussing regulatory and legal constraints and determining how to address
- Identifying specific implementation funding sources
- Providing an implementation schedule

Staffing:

The Planning Team will be staffed by the California Natural Resources Agency with support from DWR, DFG, and SWC. This staffing/coordination group will be responsible for assembling the resources needed to complete the YBFEP and overall project management. They will develop timelines, assist in preparing meeting agendas and draft materials, provide technical support, review stakeholder proposals for consistency, conduct outreach as necessary, and provide facilitation.

Preliminary Schedule and Agenda Topics for the Planning Team

Meeting 1	Early June	Introductions; review charge; review groundrules; review workplan; review Fish Technical Team approach; review current draft of CM2; review anticipated needs of permitting agencies with regard to the requirements of conservation plans
Meeting 2	Late June	Receive presentation about Fish Technical Team on biological goals and objectives; discuss needs of land managers for all mixed uses in the Bypass.
Meeting 3	Early July	Discuss pilot projects and potential role they may play in helping to develop the YBFEP.
Meeting 4	Late July	Discuss issues related to inundation: timing, duration, location, footprint
Meeting 5	August 1	Discuss recommendations pertaining to completing Conservation Measure 2
Meeting 6	August 31	Organize and launch approach to develop the Yolo Bypass Fishery Enhancement Plan