Origin of Sacramento River Flood Control

- Concept of bypass system derived in 1870 by a Colusa area reporter
- Bypass system designed and implemented by Corps in 1920’s
Major water sources include:

- Overflow from Sacramento River and all tributaries north of Fremont
- American river and all it’s tributaries when Sacramento Weir is open
- Cache, Willow, Putah, and Ulatis Creeks

Design Capacity of 343,000 at Fremont to 500,000 CFS at Rio Vista
Yolo Bypass Function

- Transports flood water that would otherwise breach levees and inundate populated areas.
- Acts as transitory storage and helps recharge groundwater.
- Land use consists of wildlife, grazing, and agricultural areas.
Yolo Bypass Flood Maintenance Issues

• Capacity issues at the bottom end complicated by the construction of the deepwater ship channel

• Ongoing erosion issues along the borrow and irrigation canals that skirt the levee toes both land and water side

• Windwave erosion of levees during storm events

• Ongoing sediment build up

• Influx of mercury laden soils from tributaries on the west (Cache, Willow, and Putah Creeks)
Yolo Bypass Multi-Benefit Issues

• Improved habitat function and value, or other project modifications cannot make maintenance more difficult

• Yolo Bypass must safely pass the design flow for flood carrying capacity

• Any proposed modifications to the Yolo Bypass must hold flood protection as paramount

• Increased vegetation or inundation frequency must not interfere with maintenance access or activities