

MC 09-072



WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION OF YOLO COUNTY

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March 2, 2009

Mr. Mike Chrisman, Secretary
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

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Dear Mr. Chrisman and the Bay Delta Conservation Plan Steering Committee:

The Bay Delta Conservation Planning (BDCP) effort is considering actions that will have a profound impact on the Yolo Bypass. Two actions of great concern are: 1) modification of the Fremont Weir and Yolo Bypass to provide higher frequency and duration of inundation, and 2) large scale tidal marsh restoration in the Cache Slough area. On behalf of the Water Resources Association of Yolo County I urge you to ensure that the BDCP work engages the existing planning and management efforts in the Yolo Bypass, and specifically request that the newly formed Conservation Measures Committee of the Lower Yolo Bypass Planning Forum (Planning Forum) be consulted and utilized as the BDCP planning process proceeds.

The Water Resources Association of Yolo County (WRA) is a consortium of entities established to provide a regional forum to coordinate and facilitate solutions to water issues in Yolo County (Attachment A). In 2007, the WRA developed the Yolo County Integrated Regional Water Management plan which names the Yolo Bypass as one of eight integrated actions that are seen as major priorities for the planning area (Attachment B). The Yolo Bypass Integrated Project (YBIP) focuses on multiple related improvements including improvements in water quality, public and private wetlands, aquatic and riparian habitats and education and recreation in the Yolo Bypass. All of these improvements are developed in the context of maintaining and enhancing the flood control function of the Bypass. The WRA established the Yolo Bypass subcommittee, a formal group of Bypass stakeholders, to coordinate YBIP actions. The Yolo Basin Foundation serves as the lead for the Yolo Bypass subcommittee.

The Planning Forum has been established as a venue for working through various management issues in the Lower Bypass. The Planning Forum recently established the Conservation Measures Committee which is comprised of a diverse group of members (Attachment A) including the WRA's Yolo Bypass subcommittee so that stakeholder interests throughout the length of the Bypass are involved.

The Conservation Measures Committee, supported by the broader Planning Forum and the WRA, provides an effective group of key stakeholders to assess and improve conservation measures being considered by the BDCP. The committee provides an entry point for communication with private landowners and offers the expertise and collective wisdom of many state and local agencies. We therefore believe that establishing the Conservation Measures Committee as an important point of contact for BDCP conservation measures in Yolo County will create an efficient partnership that

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benefits both Yolo County interests and the State. The WRA recognizes the importance of regional partnerships to find solutions to Delta issues and looks forward to establishing a working partnership with those involved in the effort.

Please contact Robin Kulakow, Yolo Basin Foundation, (530) 756-7248, robin@yolobasin.org for more information regarding the Conservation Measures Committee of the Lower Yolo Bypass Planning Forum.

Sincerely,



William L. Marble, Chair
Water Resources Association of Yolo County

cc: Senator Lois Wolk, District 5
Assemblymember Mariko Yamada, District 8
Assemblymember Jim Nielsen, District 2
Lester Snow, Director, CA Department of Water Resources
Karen Scarborough, Undersecretary, CA Natural Resources Agency
Donald Koch, Director, CA Department of Fish & Game
John McCammon, Chief Deputy Director, CA Department of Fish & Game
Supervisor Mike McGowan, Chair, Yolo County Board of Supervisors
Robin Kulakow, Executive Director, Yolo Basin Foundation

Water Resources Association of Yolo County Membership

- City of Davis
- City of West Sacramento
- City of Winters
- City of Woodland
- County of Yolo
- Dunnigan Water District
- Reclamation District 108
- Reclamation District 2035
- University of California, Davis
- Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District

Lower Yolo Bypass Planning Forum Conservation Measures Committee

- Robin Kulakow, Yolo Basin Foundation
- Julia McIver, Yolo County
- Maria Wong, Yolo Natural Heritage Program
- Jan Vick, City of Rio Vista
- Don Stevens, Glide In Ranch
- Bob Webber, Reclamation District 999
- Regina Cherovsky, Reclamation District 2035
- David Okita, Solano County Water Agency
- Kathy Barnes Jones, Solano County
- Brad Burkholder, Department of Fish and Game
- Butch Hodgkins, Central Valley Flood Protection Board
- Karla Nemeth, Bay Delta Conservation Plan



YOLO COUNTY

Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
MAY 2007



Step 4. Creation of a Strategy for Implementation

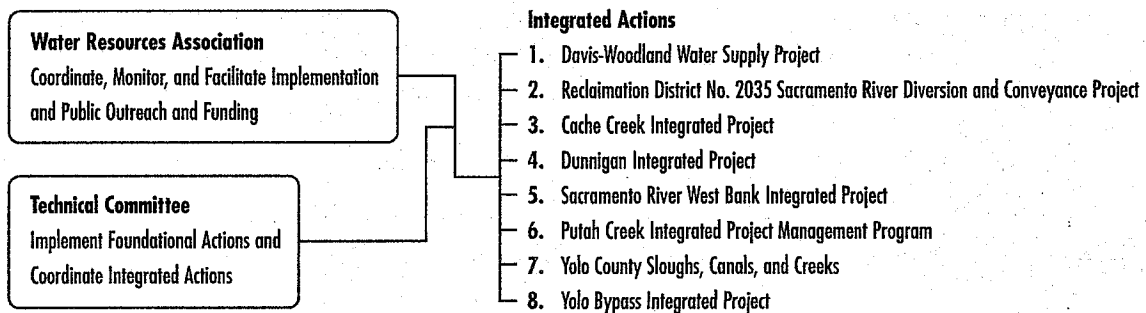
Work plans for the foundational and integrated actions cover the next three to five years. The work plans identify the lead agencies or partners, the specific tasks or activities, and the anticipated budgets and timeframes. These are explained in detail in Section 7.0.

The principal elements of the institutional structure envisioned for implementing the IRWMP are presented in Figure ES-1.

The responsibility for managing Yolo County's water resources is currently distributed among a large and diverse group of public agencies. Moreover, several non-profit organizations have important roles in protecting and enhancing aquatic ecosystems. The WRA has succeeded in engaging these various entities in the shared development of this integrated plan. All of the participants in the process have gained a comprehensive view of the issues and the opportunities that will affect outcomes in the coming years. But the success of this IRWMP will be measured by the extent to which the Integrated Actions are implemented.

FIGURE ES-1

YOLO COUNTY IRWMP IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURE



Foundational Actions	West								
	Winters	Davis	Woodland	UCD	County	Sacramento	YCFCWCD	DWD	RD 2035
Groundwater Monitoring Program	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	⊗	▲	▲
Surface Water Monitoring Program		▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	⊗		▲
Subsidence Monitoring Program	▲	⊗	▲	▲	▲		▲		▲
Groundwater Model Enhancement Program	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲		⊗	▲	▲
Water Resources Infrastructure Database Enhancement Program	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	⊗	▲	▲
HCP/NCCP Development	▲	▲	▲	▲	⊗		▲	▲	▲
Aquatic Habitat and Fish Opportunities Assessment	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲		⊗	▲	▲
Topographic Mapping (LiDAR Project)	▲	▲	▲	▲	⊗		▲	▲	▲

⊗ INDICATES LEAD ENTITY FOR THE RESPECTIVE FOUNDATIONAL ACTION ▲ INDICATES POTENTIAL BENEFITS FROM FOUNDATIONAL ACTION

THIS FIGURE IS FIGURE 6.1 IN THE IRWMP