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Yolo Bypass Cache Slough Partnership

NOVEMBER 2024 Newsletter



PURPOSE: To inform interested parties about activities surrounding the Yolo Bypass Cache Slough Partnership (YBCS).

You are receiving this email because you are a member of the Yolo Bypass Cache Slough Partnership Forum and/or take part in the Partnership workgroups. To opt out or manage your preferences please see links below.

Partnership Planned Activities*

- ◆ Organizing Committee meeting – November 2024
- ◆ Partnership Forum – January 2025
- ◆ DWR Master Plan Public Draft release – February 2025
- ◆ CVFPB Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) Draft release– Spring 2025
- ◆ CVFPB Public PEIR meeting – Spring 2025
- ◆ CVFPB and DWR continued Tribal engagement on Master Plan and PEIR
- ◆ USACE continued engagement for the Federal Comprehensive Study
- ◆ DWR and CVFPB release of the Final Draft of the Master Plan and PEIR

*Staff from Partner agencies are working to coordinate these upcoming planned activities. Dates and topics, subject to change.

Organizing Committee

The YBCS Partnership Organizing Committee and interested Tribes have received two drafts for review and comment as part of developing the YBCS Master Plan. This planning process began in December 2023 and will include ongoing opportunities for continued engagement with the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) and the Department of Water Resources (DWR). The Organizing Committee will continue to collaborate throughout the Public Draft YBCS Master Plan review process.

Partnership Forum

The YBCS proposed Partnership Governance Framework created a Partnership Forum to increase communications and outreach with interested parties and the public. The Partnership Forum now includes over 1,100 subscribers to the GovDelivery Partnership Listserv.

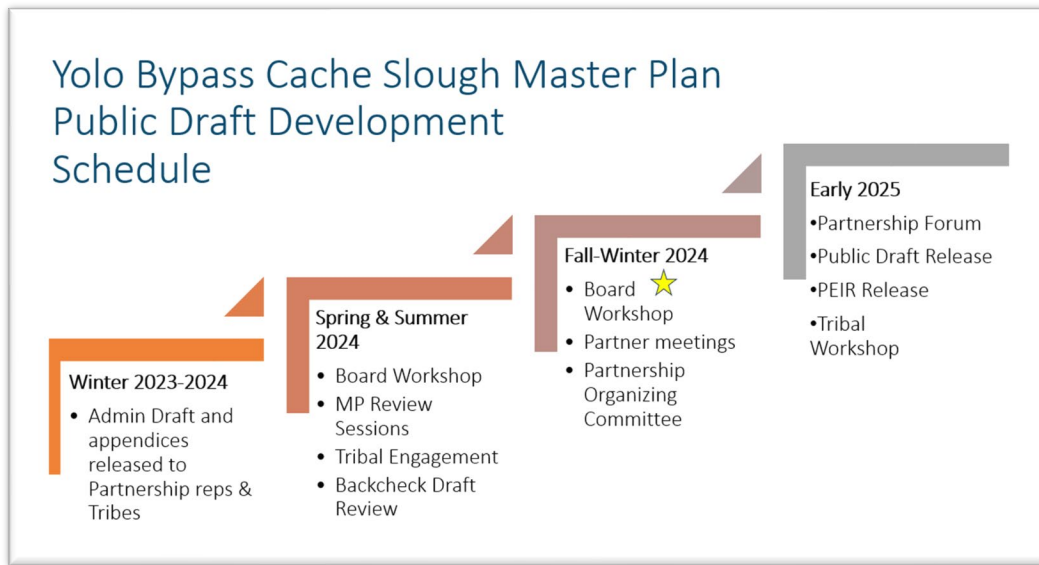
The Organizing Committee is planning the next Partnership Forum Meeting in January 2025 to provide an opportunity for updates from Partnership agencies; including CVFPB and DWR providing an update on the Public Draft of the Master Plan.

Master Plan

The Master Plan team, led by DWR, continues to develop the Yolo Bypass Cache Slough Master Plan and is preparing for the public release of the draft in early 2025.

The release of the Public Draft Master Plan will be announced using this GovDelivery Listserv and on the YBCS Partnership website. We will also have additional public draft briefings with Partner agencies and interested parties, as needed.

Master Plan Timeline as of July 2024



Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR)

CVFPB is leading the PEIR development that will follow the public release of the Master Plan and is anticipated for release in early 2025. Once the Draft PEIR is prepared and ready for public review, a Notice of Availability will be distributed, and the Public Review Period will begin. This review period would extend for 45 days to allow for review of the PEIR's analysis and provide comments. The Board will hold at least one meeting to both inform the public of the key results of the environmental analysis, as well as receive feedback. At the end of the Public Review period, a Final PEIR will be prepared.

At the end of this process, the Board, as CEQA Lead Agency, will consider certifying that the Final PEIR has been completed in compliance with CEQA and to approve the program as described in the Final PEIR.

Tribal Engagement

CVFPB is leading the YBCS Partnership Tribal engagement, with the support of DWR's Office of the Tribal Policy Advisor, for the Master Plan and the related PEIR. This has been the focus of Tribal consultation and engagement efforts thus far.

The Yolo Bypass holds cultural importance for many Tribes as a sacred and ceremonial place with traditional gathering areas and ancestral sites. Based on information provided by the Native American Heritage Commission and DWR, there are 14 Tribes that have cultural or traditional affiliation with the Yolo Bypass Cache Slough planning area. Additional Tribes upstream and downstream of the Yolo Bypass Cache Slough may also have interest in the region.

With that in mind, CVFPB and DWR are working with all interested Tribes through Assembly Bill 52 (referred to as AB52) consultation and other engagement, per the California Natural Resources Tribal Consultation Policy adopted by CVFPB and the DWR Tribal Engagement Policy. Any information shared and discussed by Tribes through AB52 consultations is confidential and protected.

CVFPB and DWR will continue to engage with Tribes during the next steps of the Yolo Bypass Cache Slough public release of the Master Plan and development of the PEIR, and likely host another Tribal workshop in early 2025.

Federal Comprehensive Study

The 2020 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) authorized the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to conduct a Comprehensive Study of the Yolo Bypass System. WRDA also directed USACE to consult the Yolo Bypass Cache Slough Partnership and other interested parties. The goal of the study is to develop long-term and short-term recommendations to address a variety of water resource management challenges and opportunities within the Yolo Bypass.

- ◆ **Study Purposes:** Flood Risk Management and Ecosystem Restoration
- ◆ **Sponsors:** CVFPB and Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA)
- ◆ **Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement Executed:** 25 September 2023
- ◆ **Estimated Cost and Schedule:** The Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works approved the proposed cost and schedule for \$13.9M for a 5.5 year study period.
- ◆ **Mega Study:** Designated by the Corps as a Mega Study due to scope and complexity of the study

Links:

YBCS Partnership: www.ybcspartnership.org

Federal Comprehensive Study: <https://www.spk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Yolo-Bypass>

Thank you for your interest in the Partnership. Please reach out with questions, comments, or suggestions.

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