



Yolo Bypass Cache Slough Partnership Projects Workgroup Fact Sheet

Purpose

The Projects Workgroup brings representatives from member agencies of the Yolo Bypass Cache Slough (YBCS) Partnership and project proponents¹ together to advance projects aligned with the Partnership Vision. That Vision imagines a future YBCS landscape improved by projects that work together to deliver benefits across multiple priority areas (also known as the “Partnership Pillars”). The Pillars include agriculture, flood management, habitat, recreation, water supply, and water quality. This Workgroup collaboratively explores proposed projects in the YBCS region to understand their potential consequences to the pillars and to suggest creative approaches to maximize benefits and minimize undesirable effects. This includes sharing Partnership-led technical, environmental, or planning efforts that may help inform the project analysis. The Projects Workgroup promotes proactive, results-oriented communication to improve project outcomes.

Scope

What kind of projects should come to the Workgroup? The Workgroup considers a “project” a proposed concept or activity located in the YBCS region with the potential to result in physical changes on the landscape which may require environmental review. The Workgroup welcomes projects currently included in the YBCS Master Plan and/or Yolo Bypass Comprehensive Study or any project within the YBCS region that may affect one or more of the pillars.

Process

The process can be initiated by either a Partner member agency inviting a project to present and engage with the Workgroup or by a project proponent contacting the Projects Workgroup Chair requesting to present their project. Project proponents are strongly encouraged to engage early at the concept phase and return to the Workgroup for additional input on feasibility, design or implementation thereafter. Project proponents present to the Workgroup voluntarily and in the spirit of developing a project consistent with the Partnership Vision. The Workgroup will include at least one member representing each of the six pillars, each of whom will provide feedback on the project during the Workgroup meeting. This feedback will also be summarized and shared in writing with the project proponent following the meeting. Project proponents are encouraged to return to future Workgroup meetings with updates to help track the progress of the project.

¹ Project proponents can be private companies or individuals or government entities. In many instances, these project proponents will be Partnership member agencies – and the representatives presenting a specific project might even be regular Projects Workgroup representative. However, when a member agency representative attends the Workgroup as a project proponent to present a specific project, they are not expected to “wear multiple hats,” i.e., to also fulfill their regular role as a Workgroup participant and pillar representative.

Discussion Format

Project proponents will provide an overview of the project to the Workgroup, as well as information about the anticipated benefits and undesirable effects of the project on each of the six Partnership pillars (see above). The Workgroup will share a list of key questions to help Project Proponents focus their presentation, and all project proponents are encouraged to complete a form provided beforehand with information about the project, including anticipated or potential benefits and undesirable effects. Project proponents may also provide other informational materials as part of their presentation to the workgroup. Project proponents may also request the Chair's permission to bring experts or interested parties to the meeting to provide new or diverse perspectives and add technical information to the discussion. Workgroup members may provide suggestions for additions or changes to the project as part of the discussion. The Chair will allot equal time to discuss each Partnership pillar.

Discussion Follow Up

The Workgroup Chair will request project proponents voluntarily respond in writing no later than three months after the meeting or at least before the next workgroup review of the proposed project with information about how feedback from the workgroup may have informed changes to the project approach or design. Project proponents are encouraged to continue collaborative discussions with members outside of formal workgroup meetings.

Retention of Authority

By providing feedback about projects in the Projects workgroup, workgroup members are not ceding or waiving their legal and regulatory authorities or making any commitments to issuing certain permits or forgoing other means such as litigation to influence project outcomes. Likewise, project proponents are not bound to any particular proposals or solutions or use of supporting Partnership materials and resources.

About the Partnership

The Yolo Bypass Cache Slough Partnership was formed by a 2016 Memorandum of Understanding between 15 state, federal and local agencies to achieve a common vision for the Yolo Bypass and Cache Slough region. Senate Bill 369 (Pan) passed in 2021, codified the Yolo Bypass Cache Slough Partnership Multibenefit Program into state law.

For More Information

<https://ybcspartnership.org/>

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