



Yolo Bypass-Cache Slough Partnership

Planning for an Integrated, Resilient Future

PHOTO: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES



FLOOD



HABITAT



WATER
SUPPLY



WATER
QUALITY



AGRICULTURE



RECREATION

A New Era

The Yolo Bypass is a 40-mile long, 59,000 acre federal flood management facility, built in the 1930s to protect lives and property across the Sacramento metropolitan region. Today, the Yolo Bypass - Cache Slough (YBCS) region is a microcosm of challenges and opportunities facing water managers and planners around California. The YBCS Partnership is a dynamic and results-focused response to those challenges. Local, state, and federal agencies and their stakeholders are jointly prioritizing and overcoming obstacles to implementing projects capable of delivering multiple benefits across a shared YBCS landscape. Flood risk management, fisheries and wildlife habitat, water supply, water quality, agricultural land preservation, and recreation are all part of collaborative planning for a vibrant future for the region's residents, businesses, and ecosystem.

Understanding the Importance of the YBCS Region

Centered between the Sacramento and American Rivers and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the YBCS is the heart of a vast watershed – and central to a robust regional agricultural economy, reliable water supply, and resilient ecosystem, in addition to flood risk reduction.



- The Yolo Bypass conveys 80% of Sacramento River watershed flows during floods, reducing risk to \$68 billion in property and 650,000 people in the Sacramento Metropolitan area.
- Agricultural land within and protected by the Yolo Bypass supports the local and state economy, provides wildlife habitat, and functions as part of the flood protection system. Approximately 268,000 acres of productive farmland in Solano, Yolo, and Sacramento Counties, approximately 47,000 acres of that within the YBCS, contribute to California's economic engine.
- The Delta region—a designated ecosystem of national importance which includes most of the YBCS—provides critical habitat for millions of waterfowl and supports a range of terrestrial and aquatic species, including those that are listed as endangered or threatened.
- Numerous habitat restoration projects in the YBCS mitigate for the continued operation of the State Water and Central Valley Projects, which provide drinking water to 25 million Californians and irrigation to 4.5 million acres of agricultural land. The North Bay Aqueduct, a decentralized component of the State Water Project, delivers drinking water from Cache Slough to over 500,000 residents in Napa and Solano Counties.
- Efforts on Cache Creek, a tributary to the YBCS, represent an opportunity to reduce mercury inputs to the Bay Delta system.
- The YBCS provides local and regional recreation and tourism opportunities, including the Great California Delta Trail, sport fishing, hunting, wine tasting, boating, and exploring the nearly 16,000-acre Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, which also provides unique environmental education programs.

PHOTOS: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RD 2068, US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS



Partnership Goals

In recognition of the advantages of an integrated approach, a new era of multi-benefit collaborative planning began in 2016 when representatives of 15 agencies executed the Yolo Bypass-Cache Slough Partnership Memorandum of Understanding. Since 2016, the Partner agencies have been developing a program that encourages collaboration on regional solutions to implement landscape-level change.

THE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM SEEKS TO:



FLOOD

- Expand the flood conveyance capacity of the YBCS system, to include investments in local communities' measures to meet existing and future flood risk management standards.
- Establish a more predictable regulatory and funding framework to enable effective, affordable, and sustainable operations and maintenance of a flood risk management system that accommodates other Partnership goals.



HABITAT

- Improve habitat quality and quantity to achieve multiple benefits for ecosystems.
- Align ecological improvements and environmental sustainability with existing and future land uses.
- Improve permitting efficiency of multi-benefit projects.



RECREATION

- Increase opportunities for recreation, outdoor education, outreach, and access in the YBCS.



AGRICULTURE

- Actively engage agricultural and land use agencies in the full lifecycle of projects.
- Use good neighbor policies and incorporate measures that promote agricultural sustainability into project planning and implementation.
- Establish regulatory protection for existing agricultural irrigation diversions.



WATER SUPPLY

- Preserve continued access to cost effective and resilient water supplies in the YBCS for local agriculture and regional municipal users.
- Pursue a multi-benefit solution that improves the regional water supply resilience of facilities such as the North Bay Aqueduct and also protects and enhances investments in fisheries and habitat resources.



WATER QUALITY

- Minimize discharge and production of toxic contaminants into the YBCS, starting with methyl mercury.
- Improve drinking water quality by reducing the impacts of increased organic carbon and bromide in Cache Slough source water and submerged aquatic vegetation near drinking water intakes in the Cache Slough Complex.

YBCS STAKEHOLDER AGENCIES:

- U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
- U.S. NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
- U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
- U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICES
- CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
- CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
- CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
- CENTRAL VALLEY FLOOD PROTECTION BOARD
- CALIFORNIA STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
- CENTRAL VALLEY REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
- COUNTY OF YOLO
- COUNTY OF SOLANO
- SACRAMENTO AREA FLOOD CONTROL AGENCY
- SOLANO COUNTY WATER AGENCY
- RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 2068
- WEST SACRAMENTO AREA FLOOD CONTROL AGENCY

A Landscape Transformed

The YBCS Partnership aims to transform a facility designed with a single project purpose into a landscape that can be used for all six of the Partnership's priorities and benefit even more stakeholders.

