

CONAWAY RANCH

Flood Protection. Ecosystem Restoration. Integrated Water Management. Recreation. Open Space. Farmland Protection.

CONSERVATION VISION FOR CONAWAY RANCH: *CONSISTENT WITH STATE / LOCAL PLANNING*

RESOURCE AREA	TITLE / AUTHOR / PAGE	CITATION
FLOOD CONTROL	Title: <i>FLOOD WARNINGS: Responding to California's Flood Crisis</i> (January 2005). Page 20. Authors: Resources Agency / DWR	<u>Implement a multi-objective management approach for floodplains where feasible:</u> ➤ One way to meet environmental requirements in an era of diminishing funding for flood protection projects is to incorporate flood protection practices into multi-objective floodplain management projects. Multi-objective floodplain management projects will enable flood managers to leverage other sources of funding for flood system maintenance. These projects will result in habitat enhancement rather than simply mitigating for environmental impacts, thereby minimizing environmental concerns. Multi-objective management should be the first choice for flood protection where it is feasible and funding partners can be found. ➤ Depending on the circumstances, multi-objective management of floodplains may yield some or all of these benefits: 1) Increased flood protection, 2) Ecosystem restoration, 3) Farmland protection, 4) Groundwater recharge, 5) Recreation, and 6) Open space preservation.
	Title: <i>FloodSAFE CALIFORNIA: Rebuilding the System / Reducing the Risk</i> (February / March 2007 Workshop Presentation). Page 2. Author: DWR	<u>Guiding Principles for a FloodSAFE California:</u> ➤ Support and fund projects that offer multiple or regional benefits including those that restore natural floodplain processes or integrate regional water management
	Title: <i>Bond Expenditure Plan – Fiscal Year 2007-08</i> (February 2007). Page 2. Author: DWR	<u>Flood Management Investment Priorities:</u> ➤ Constructing new or enlarged bypasses, flood corridors, setback levees, and other features that reduce regional flood risks, address climate change or offer multiple benefits.
	Title: <i>SACOG Floodplain Management Strategy</i> (May 2007). Pages 1-2. Author: Sacramento Area Council of Governments	<u>While making improvements to achieve 100-year level of protection, apply all of the above and include:</u> ➤ Development in flood-prone areas will be allowed only where new development flood mitigation is part of a local plan of flood protection. Examples of such mitigation include levee improvements, floodway land acquisition, channel improvements, and reservoir operational improvements. ➤ Identify undeveloped areas where urban areas can purchase flood easements. Where possible, focus on lands that are, or will be, part of a Habitat Conservation Plan or Natural Communities Conservation Plan.
	Title: <i>2007 Flood Management Priorities</i> (May 2007). Page 1 Author: County of Yolo	<u>Priority Level 1:</u> ➤ Regional Flood Management Plan. Work with regional entities, local, state, and federal agencies, and landowners to develop flood management plans that address the region's flood needs for the next 15-20 years. As part of that process, consider alternatives that provide regional benefits, including, but not limited to, new or enlarged bypasses, flood easements, and levee improvements and setbacks. ➤ Floodway Corridor Protection Program. Investigate and develop projects that protect, create, and enhance flood protection corridors through acquiring easements and setting back levees. Projects will preserve the agricultural uses and ecosystem values of the property.
ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION	Title: <i>Potential Interim or "No-Regrets" Delta Projects</i> (June 2007). Page 1 Author: NRDC, NHI, TNC, TBI, ED. The actions have also been discussed in meetings with MWD and CCWD.	<u>Early Action Habitat Restoration Projects: Candidates for early action habitat restoration projects include:</u> ➤ Restore Floodplain Habitat and Fish Migration Through the Yolo Bypass. Authorize constriction of fish passage and flow control facilities at the Fremont Weir. Inundation of the Yolo Bypass provides excellent rearing habitat for juvenile salmon and splittail and critical spawning habitat for the splittail. Presently the bypass is only inundated once every three years on average and sometimes goes for four to five years without inundation. Increasing the frequency of inundation on even a small portion of the bypass could substantially improve conditions for splittail and salmon...This project has been extensively studied by DWR and is called for by PPIC report (p. 79) and CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan.
	Title: <i>Pelagic Fish Action Plan</i> (March 2007). Pages 6, 49-50. Author: Resources Agency, DWR, DFG	<u>Food Web Actions</u> ➤ Provide Flows through Yolo Bypass into Cache Slough. Yolo Bypass has a high primary productivity in summer, but net flows move upstream from Cache Slough. Increase summer flow connectivity from the bypass to downstream areas to provide for net downstream transport of productivity. ➤ Manage Flooding in North Delta for Seasonal Floodplain Habitat. Modify operations or land management to allow increased area and time of floodplain inundation in the Yolo Bypass and Cosumnes River floodplain. These actions would increase productivity of phytoplankton and zooplankton in order to support adults and egg production in fall, egg production in winter, and young delta smelt in spring and summer.
	Title: <i>Yolo Bypass Conceptual Aquatic Restoration Opportunities: Keeping Yolo Bypass Users Whole While Improving Aquatic Conditions</i> (September 2006). Pages 2 – 6. Author: Yolo Bypass Interagency Working Group – DFG, DWR, National Marine Fisheries Service, USFWS	<u>The YBIWG has identified the following potential restoration opportunities for further evaluation:</u> ➤ Additional multi-species habitat development. Provide for controlled localized seasonal inundation on more frequent intervals; identify areas of opportunity only on: the Wildlife Area, other public lands; and private lands where cooperative agreements with willing land owners provide mutual benefits. ➤ Tule Canal Connectivity. Identify passage impediments (e.g. road crossings and impoundments); work with land owners to develop the best options for improving fish passage and ensuring water diversion capability. ➤ Multi-species fish passage structure. Investigate the redesign of the existing fish ladder; evaluate the feasibility of constructing a new fish passage structure, operated to ensure: continued maintenance of flood capacity; no substantial changes in timing, volume, and/or duration of flow; and minimal disturbance to existing land use and agricultural practices.
	Title: <i>Envisioning Futures for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta</i> (February 2007). Pages 77-79. Author: PPIC	<u>How can we create a Delta that supports desirable organisms? Tie the Delta to Adjacent Areas:</u> ➤ Cache Slough region. This area, to the north, adjacent to the Yolo Bypass, is within the legal boundaries of the Delta but is rarely discussed in a Delta context... Yet it has large tidal excursions...a complex, branching channel pattern, and is a known spawning and rearing area for delta smelt and probably for other native fish as well. It is the outlet for water draining from the Yolo Bypass, with potential major interactions ranging from exporting nutrients to rearing juvenile salmon (Sommer et al., 2001a and 2001b). ➤ Yolo Bypass. The Delta doubles in size when the Yolo Bypass is flooded. The problem is that the bypass floods only erratically and not always at times optimal for fish and birds. The bypass presents some major opportunities for ecosystem manipulation (e.g., by gating the Fremont Weir), which are currently under discussion (DFG, 2006). It is also a major spawning and rearing area for splittail and other native fish, a rearing area for juvenile salmon, and a potential source of nutrients for Delta food webs (Sommer et al., 2001a and 2001b). This region could act as a major interface with the Delta ecosystem, especially in the Cache Slough region, a role that will likely grow in importance, both through deliberate manipulations and through the increased frequency of flooding as a result of climate change.