

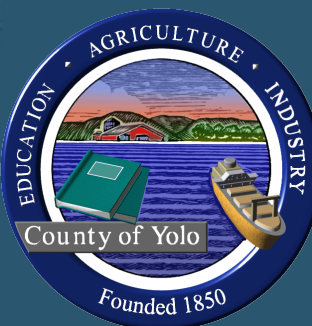
Delta and Yolo Bypass Water Resources Program Update

Position Statement Impact · Emerging Initiatives · 2026–2027 Priorities

September 8, 2026

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County Counsel

Sabrina Snyder
Senior Management Analyst



Presentation Purpose

Connecting County policy, current regional initiatives, and the Board actions requested today.

UPDATE

Position Statement

Review implementation of the County’s water supply, flood protection & habitat restoration policy framework.

HIGHLIGHT

Regional Initiatives

Show the major flood, habitat, and water-supply initiatives now affecting Yolo County.

RECOMMEND

Policy + Governance

Present recommended updates to the Position Statement and Yolo Bypass Ad Hoc Charter.

BOARD ACTIONS REQUESTED

1

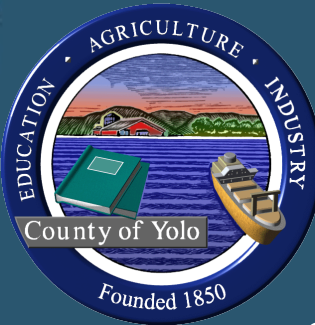
Adopt recommended updates to the Position Statement.

2

Direct staff to develop comment letters in response to covered emerging topics pursuant to the Position Statement.

3

Adopt the updated Yolo Bypass Ad Hoc charter.



Yolo County is at the Center of Regional Water Investments

Growing statewide investments in flood protection, habitat restoration, and water reliability are increasingly focused in Yolo County.

Californians Depend on the Delta



25 Million drinking water users

4.5 Million acres of farmland

Critical flood protection infrastructure

Challenges Facing the Delta System



Ecosystem decline

Aging flood infrastructure

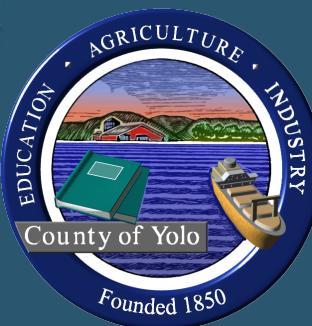
Climate change

These challenges are driving unprecedented investment in:

Flood Protection · Habitat Restoration · Water Supply Reliability

Why in Yolo County?

- ✓ **Home to the Yolo Bypass—the heart of California's flood management system.**
- ✓ **Abundance of preserved agricultural landscapes.**
- ✓ **Extensive Sacramento River frontage and direct Delta connectivity.**
- ★ ***Uniquely positioned to host California's highest-priority water investments.***



Yolo County Position Statement

Water Supply · Flood Protection · Habitat Restoration Projects

Adopted December 3, 2024

PURPOSE

- 1) **Establish the County's policy framework** for engaging on projects proposed within Yolo County.
- 2) **Recognize Yolo County's unique role** as the only suitable location for large scale projects.
- 3) **Provide a roadmap for collaboration** so regional benefits are achieved while local impacts are addressed.

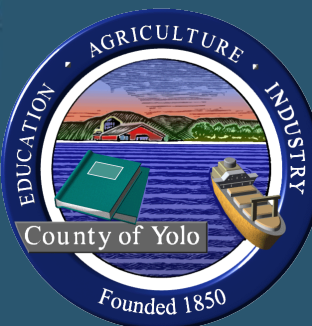
ENGAGE: Early, transparent communication

PROTECT: Agriculture, working lands & recreation

ADDRESS: Avoid, minimize, mitigate local impacts

INVEST: Offset impacts and provide local benefits

"Yes" to regional solutions – through collaboration, local protections, and equitable benefits.



Position Statement in Action

From Policy Framework to tangible County protections, investments, and partnerships.



2025 CA Department of Water Resources MOU

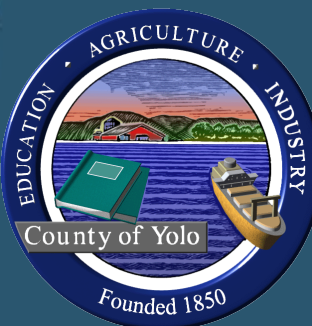
- ✓ Ongoing engagement and collaboration
- ✓ **\$3M** for small community flood protection
- ✓ **\$5M** for agricultural sustainability, habitat enhancement, and recreational that benefits Yolo County community.



2026 Fair Ranch MOU

- ✓ Groundwater protection
- ✓ Continued Agricultural production
- ✓ Protection of local tax base
- ✓ Climate-resiliency support
- ✓ Potential local flood-protection project contribution
- ✓ County + RD 108 + YSGA collaboration

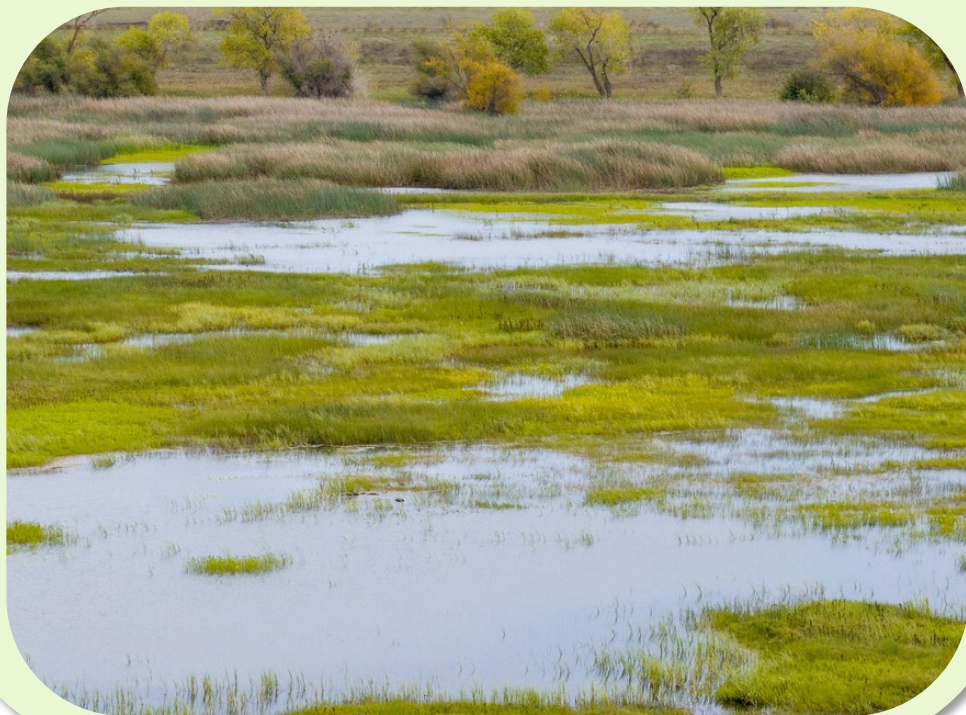
POSITION STATEMENT → AGREEMENTS → LOCAL BENEFITS



REGIONAL INITIATIVES SHAPING YOLO COUNTY

HABITAT

- Big Notch Operations and Adaptive Management
- Conaway Tule Canal Enhancement Project
- Fair Ranch
- Tides End
- Nigiri 2.0
- Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Drainage Improvement Project



FLOOD PROTECTION

- Central Valley Flood Protection Plan Update
- Lower Elkhorn Levee Setback Floodplain Project
- Woodland Multibenefit Project
- **Yolo Bypass Comprehensive Study, Upper Yolo Bypass Plan**



WATER SUPPLY

- Delta Conveyance Project
- Fair Ranch
- **Bay Delta Plan Update/ Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program**



Yolo Bypass Comprehensive Study

REGIONAL BENEFITS

CONGRESSIONAL CHARGE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT 2020

Study comprehensive management of the Yolo Bypass system for:

- Flood risk management
- Ecosystem restoration
- Water supply
- Hydropower
- Recreation

WHO IS LEADING THE STUDY?

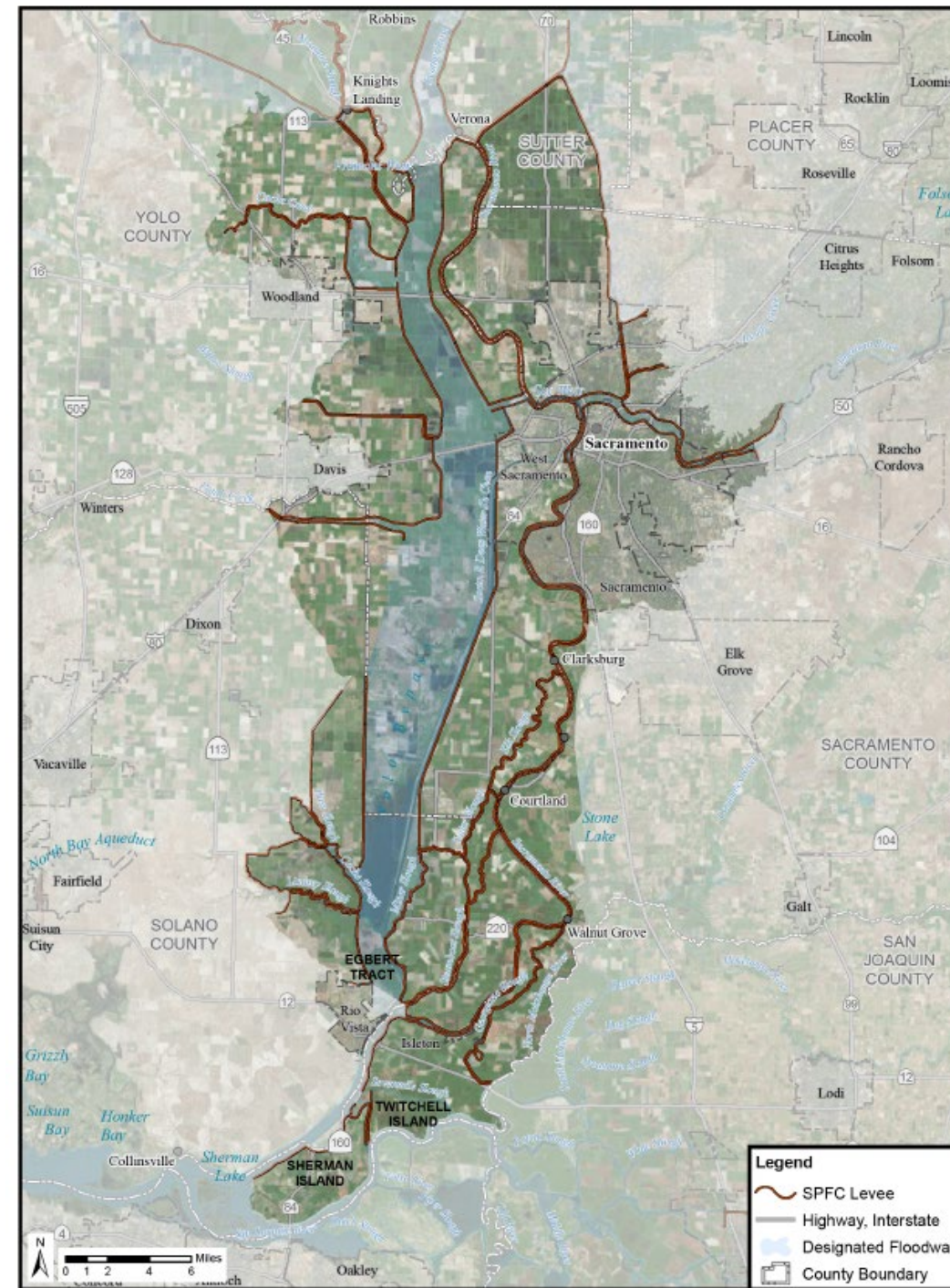
FEDERAL LEAD
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

NON-FEDERAL SPONSORS

Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency
Central Valley Flood Protection Board

STATE SUPPORT

CA Department of Water Resources



Yolo Bypass and Vicinity
Sacramento River Flood Control Project

LOCAL IMPACTS

WHY YOLO COUNTY IS ENGAGED POTENTIAL LOCAL IMPACTS

- ~ 4,000 acres of Prime Ag Land
- Increased inundation in Yolo Bypass
- County roads, drainage
- Reclamation District sustainability
- Property interests, access and emergency response
- Compatibility with existing Conservation Easements
- Long-term O&M

Yolo County hosts the infrastructure and affected lands while much of the flood-risk reduction accrues to the Sacramento regional system.

Yolo Bypass Comprehensive Study

Congress authorized a comprehensive look at the Bypass — the current federal plan is now much narrower.

NEW MILESTONE

Draft Feasibility Report + NEPA Environmental Assessment released for public review on August 20, 2026

TENTATIVELY SELECTED PLAN | ALTERNATIVE 1 Fremont Weir Expansion + Setback Levee

~1 MILE

Weir expansion

3.8 MILES

Setback levee

1,200 ACRES

Prime Ag Land

0

Significant
Impacts

\$564.4 M

Initial Costs

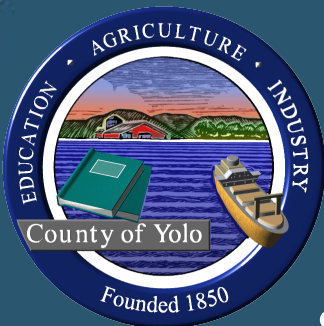
1,326 ACRES

New Federal
Property Interests

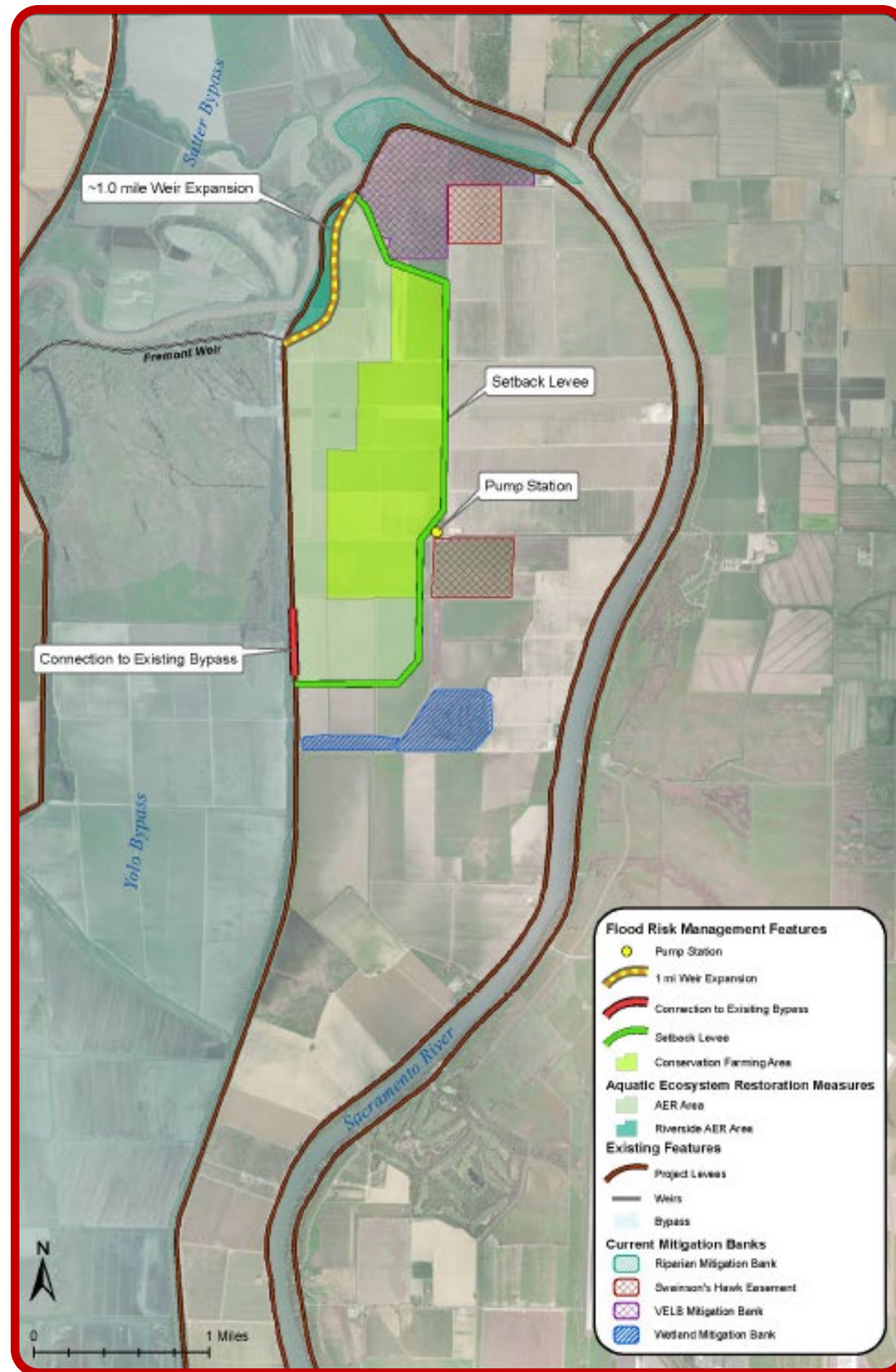
WHAT THIS MILESTONE MEANS

The study has moved from broad alternatives toward a specific federal recommendation.

- RAPID feasibility process is accelerating decision-making
- Draft Study proposes Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI) rather than a more detailed Environmental Impact Study (EIS)
- Public comments will inform completion of the federal study
- FONSI adoption anticipated May 2028
- Proponents aiming to make a WRDA 2028 request for implementation funds
- If authorized + funded, construction est. to begin in 2033

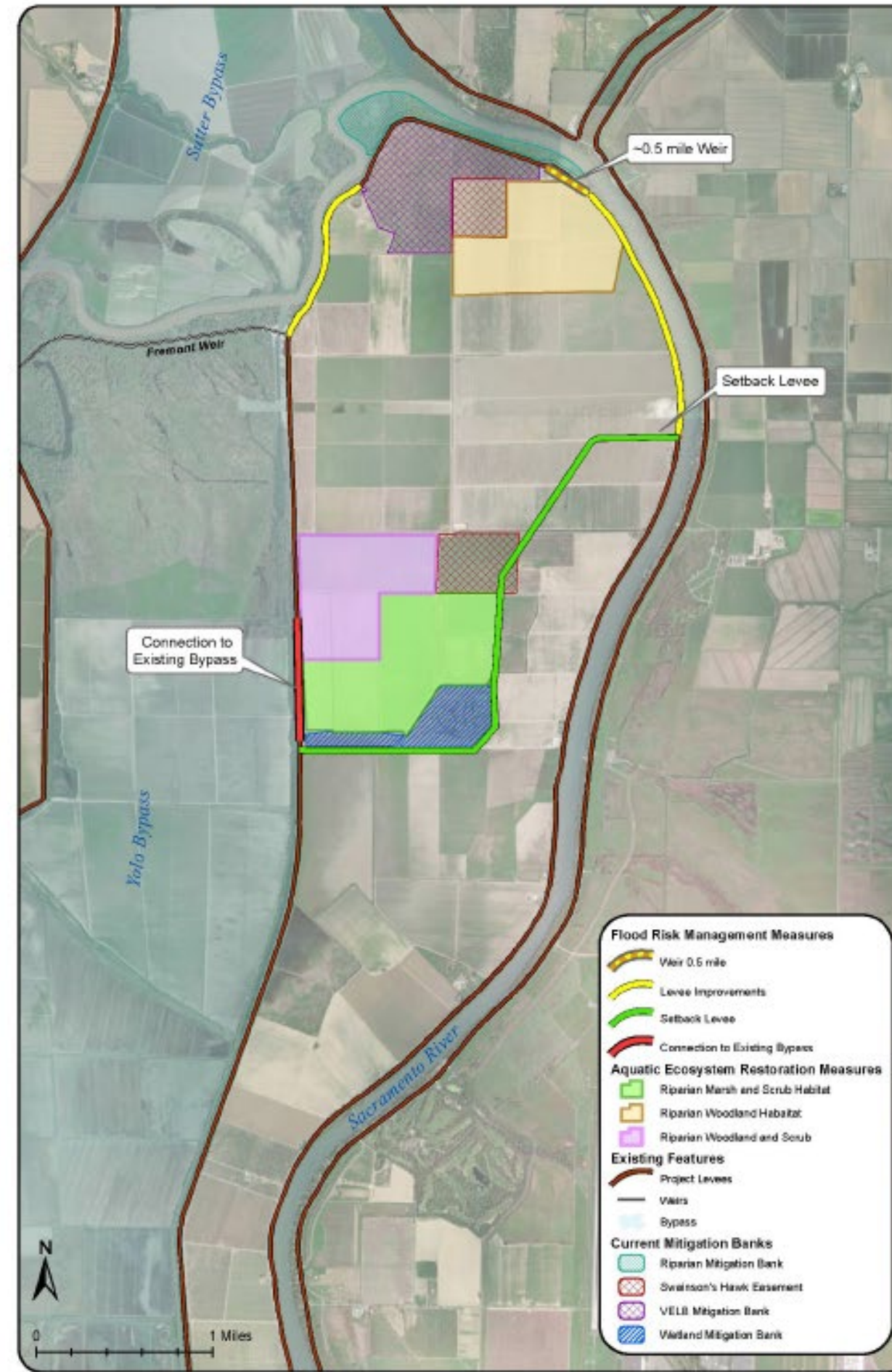


Alternative 1 1-Mile Weir Adjacent to Fremont Weir

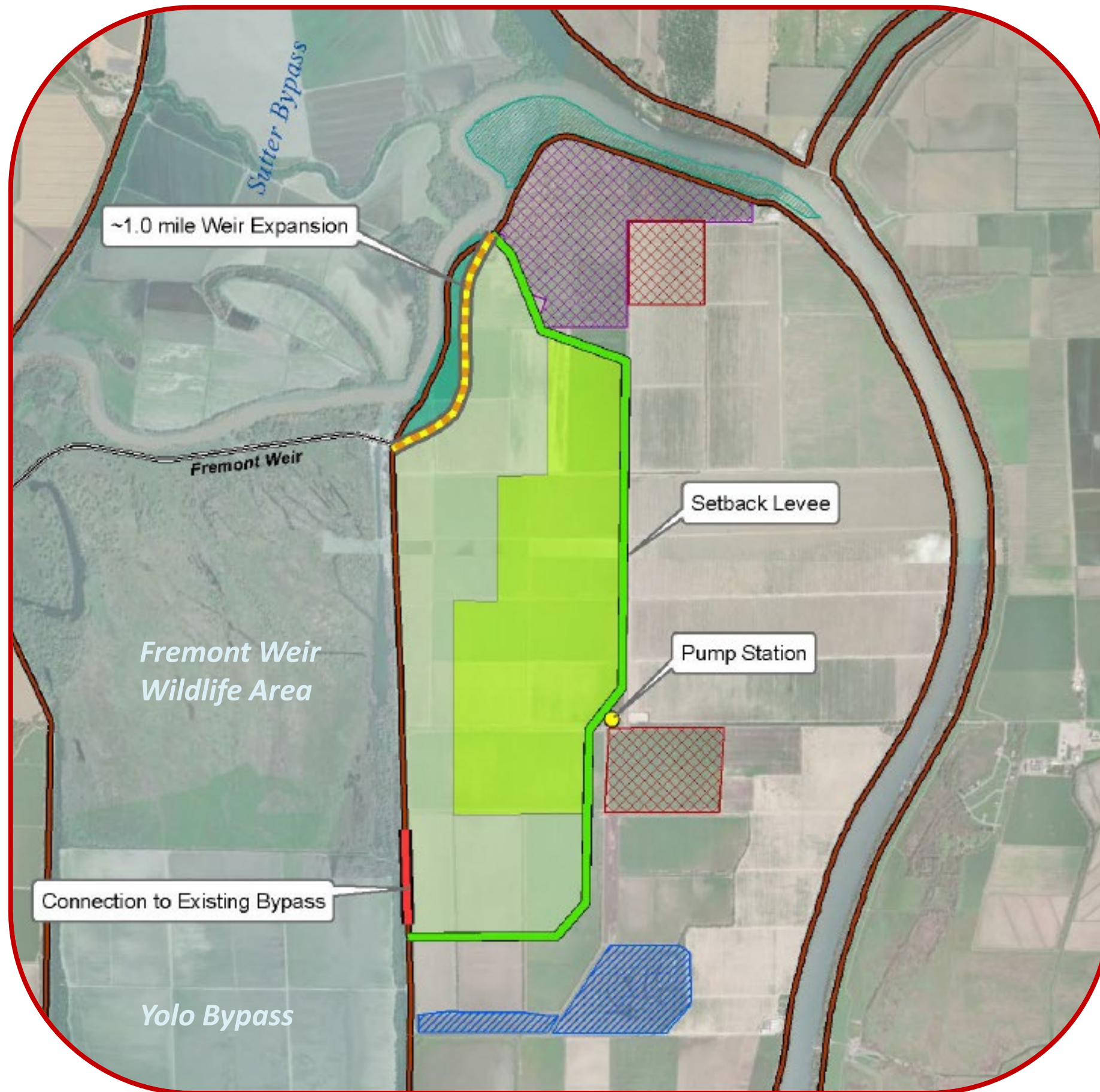


UPPER ELKHORN BASIN BYPASS - ALTERNATIVE 1 - 1.0M WEIR
YOLO BYPASS COMPREHENSIVE STUDY

Alternative 2 0.5-Mile Weir at Natomas Cross Canal



UPPER ELKHORN BASIN BYPASS - ALTERNATIVE 2 - 0.5M WEIR
YOLO BYPASS COMPREHENSIVE STUDY



Flood Risk Management Features

-  Pump Station
-  1 mi Weir Expansion
-  Connection to Existing Bypass
-  Setback Levee
-  Conservation Farming Area

Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Measures

-  AER Area
-  Riverside AER Area

Existing Features

-  Project Levees
-  Weirs
-  Bypass

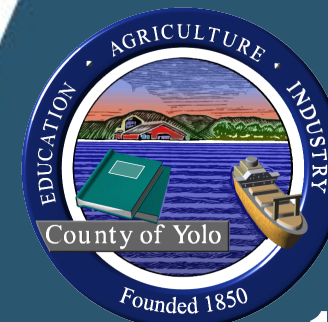
Current Mitigation Banks

-  Riparian Mitigation Bank
-  Swainson's Hawk Easement
-  VELB Mitigation Bank
-  Wetland Mitigation Bank

Datum: NAD 83
Projection: CA (Teale) Albers
Units: Feet

Date Saved: 4/24/2026

UPPER ELKHORN BASIN BYPASS - ALTERNATIVE 1 - 1.0M WEIR YOLO BYPASS COMPREHENSIVE STUDY



Bay-Delta Plan Update + Healthy Rivers & Landscapes

A statewide water-quality decision with direct implications for habitat investment and land use in Yolo County.

NEW MILESTONE

Final Draft Bay-Delta Plan released for public review on August 19, 2026, Adoption hearing October 28-29, 2026

THE DECISION

The State Water Board is considering two implementation pathways:

Enforceable Unimpaired flows OR Healthy Rivers & Landscapes (HRL) pathway combining flows with habitat restoration.

WHY IT MATTERS

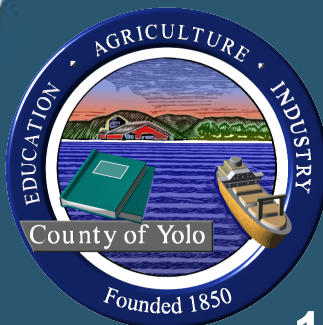
- **\$2.9B in habitat restoration**
- More than 40,000 acres of aquatic habitat statewide.

YOLO COUNTY CONNECTION

- The Yolo Bypass is already a major focus for habitat restoration
- **Many conceptual projects are based in Yolo County.**

COUNTY PRIORITIES

- Tangible benefits to Yolo communities and working lands
- Maintain agricultural compatibility
- **Partner with the County on project opportunities**
- Fund stewardship and O&M.



Yolo Bypass–Cache Slough Partnership

The governance model intended to improve collaboration in agriculture, habitat, flood, recreation, water supply, and water quality interests.

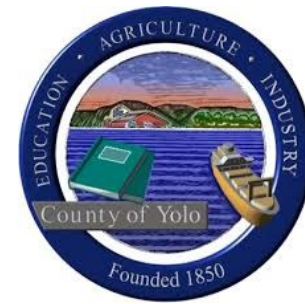
WHY THE PARTNERSHIP MATTERS

Created in 2016, the Partnership brings federal, state and local agencies together to coordinate multi-benefit planning across one shared landscape.

2026 RENEWAL: COUNTY FOCUS

- Reaffirm shared goals
- Define clear roles and commitments
- Ensure meaningful local government role
- Develop actionable Implementation Plan
- Deliver tangible benefits to affected communities

15 FOUNDING PARTNER AGENCIES



Yolo County



City of West Sacramento



Solano County



Solano County Water Agency



Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency



State Water Resources Control Board



Reclamation District 2068



CA Department of Fish & Wildlife



U.S National Marine Fisheries Service



U.S Fish & Wildlife Service



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board



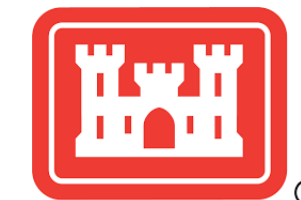
CA Natural Resources Agency



CA Department of Water Resources



Central Valley Flood Protection Board



U.S Army Corps of Engineers



— BUREAU OF RECLAMATION —

U.S Bureau of Reclamation



YOLO COUNTY POSITION STATEMENT

COUNTY POLICY • CONDITIONS • LOCAL BENEFITS

YOLO BYPASS
COMPREHENSIVE
STUDY

BAY DELTA PLAN /
HEALTHY RIVERS AND
LANDSCAPES

YOLO BYPASS CACHE
SLOUGH
PARTNERSHIP

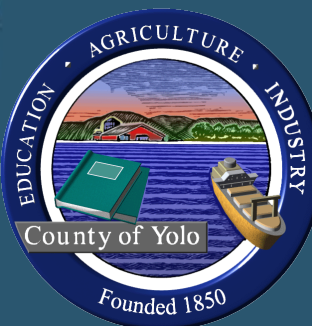
KEY COUNTY INTERESTS

- Knights Landing Flood Protection
- Agricultural Sustainability
- Financial Security
- Existing Habitat Protections

- Elkhorn Regional Park
- Regional & Local Benefits
- Long-term Stewardship
- Local Partnerships

- Shared Goals & Policy Commitments
- Meaningful Local Government Role
- Implementation Accountability
- Long-Term Coordination & Stewardship

BALANCED LOCAL & REGIONAL INVESTMENT & IMPLEMENTATION



Position Statement: Evolving with the Water Policy Landscape

Building on the County’s 2024 foundation to reflect today’s regional landscape and opportunities for partnership.

2024 FOUNDATION

Protect County Interests

- ENGAGE** Early and transparently
- PROTECT** Agriculture, working lands & recreation
- ADDRESS** Avoid, minimize & mitigate impacts
- INVEST** Offset impacts and provide local benefits



2026 UPDATE

Engage In Meaningful Partnership

- Elevate expectations for meaningful and formal agreements with project proponents.
- Require coordination with affected local partners, including YSGA and reclamation districts.
- Make local benefits and long-term commitments more explicit.

THE APPROACH: “Avoid harm” AND “Regional solutions require local partnerships.”

This update preserves the original posture while strengthening expectations for implementation.



Updating the Yolo Bypass Ad Hoc Committee Scope

Aligning Board Oversight with Today’s Water Resources Program

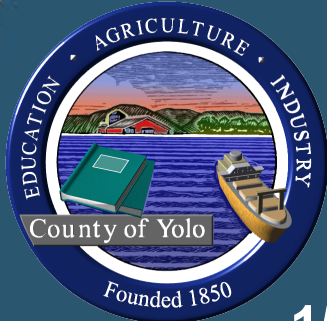


WHY UPDATE THE SCOPE?

The County is increasingly engaged in multiple interconnected regional initiatives with significant local implications.



PURPOSE: Provide consistent Board-level direction, interagency coordination, and timely engagement across the Water Resources Program.



Thank You

BOARD ACTIONS REQUESTED

1

Adopt recommended updates to the Position Statement.

2

Direct staff to develop comment letters in response to covered emerging topics pursuant to the Position Statement.

3

Adopt the updated Yolo Bypass Ad Hoc charter.

