

1 INTRODUCTION

The **Yolo Bypass** (Bypass) is a unique resource that provides substantial environmental, social, and economic benefits to the people of the state of California. It is located in Yolo and Solano counties, west of the Sacramento River. The Bypass conveys seasonal high flows from the Sacramento River to control river stage and protect the cities of Sacramento, West Sacramento, and Davis and other local communities, farms, and lands from flooding (Exhibit 1-1). This Land Management Plan (LMP) addresses a key area of the Bypass, the California Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) **Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area** (Wildlife Area) (Exhibit 1-2). The Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area comprises approximately 16,770 acres of managed wildlife habitat and agricultural land within the Yolo Bypass, an area dedicated to providing flood protection to the Sacramento Valley. The Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area is unique in the way agriculture, wildlife habitat and flood protection objectives are achieved in a highly compatible manner while also providing ample opportunities for public access, recreation, and natural resource education.

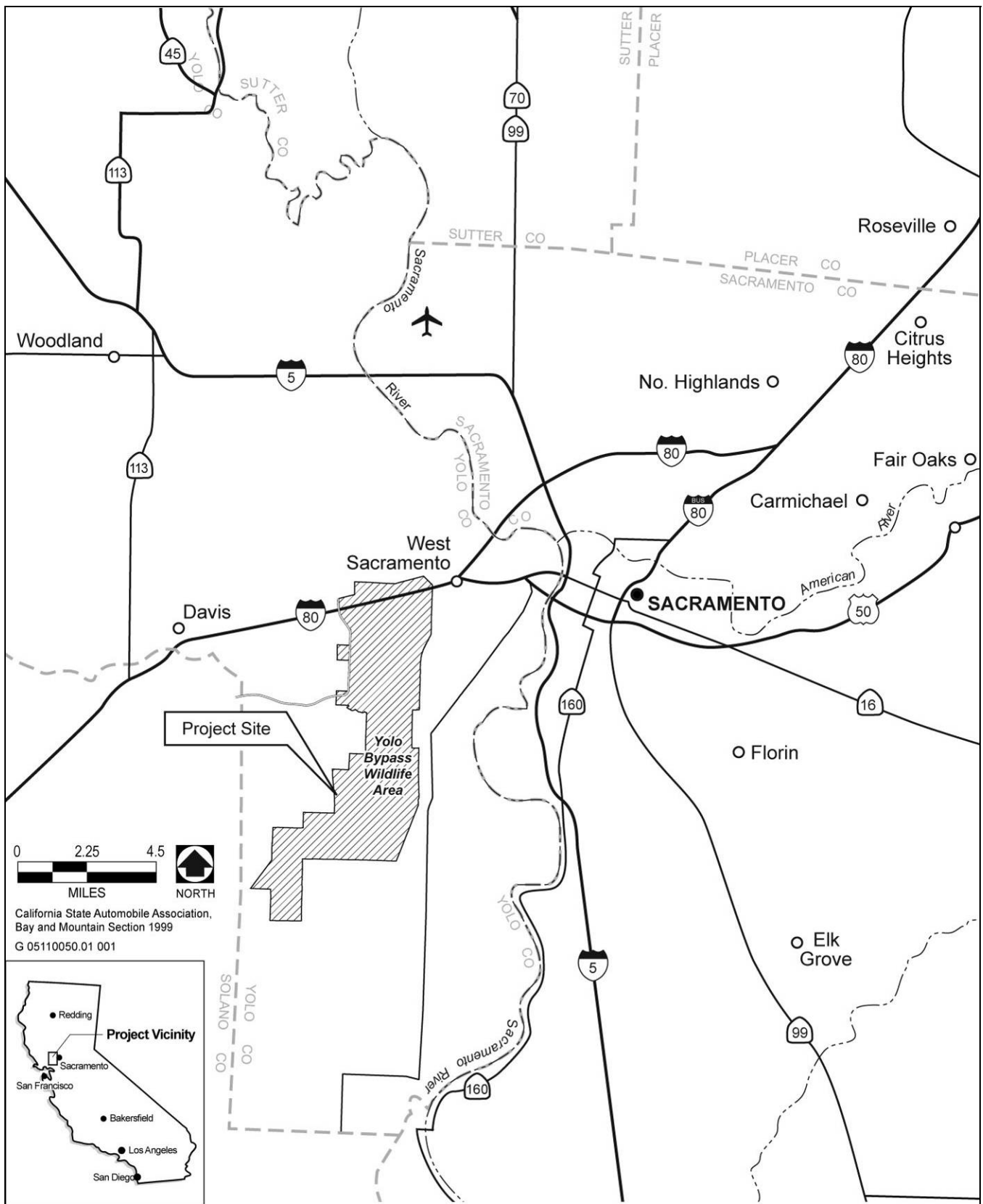
The **Yolo Basin** is the name of the natural basin that for thousands of years has been receiving flood waters from the Sacramento River. Within this Basin lies the Yolo Bypass, a flood control channel constructed in the early part of the 20th century to direct these flood waters to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and away from reclaimed farmland and Sacramento Valley settlements. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) project to restore wetlands in the Yolo Bypass was called the **Yolo Basin Wetlands**. This restoration project was renamed the **Vic Fazio Yolo Wildlife Area** in honor of the Northern California Congressman who helped make the project a reality. The official name of the Wildlife Area established in 1997 remains the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. This title is used throughout this document.

HISTORY OF THE YOLO BASIN

The Yolo Basin was once a nearly 80,000-acre wetland teeming with wildlife, from herds of tule elk roaming its marshes to dense clouds of migratory waterfowl seeking winter food and shelter (Exhibit 1-3). Yolo was one of several basins located within the Sacramento River floodplain. All the basins received water during high winter and spring flows as a normal occurrence. Migratory birds came from the far north to feed on seeds and invertebrates produced in the wetlands. Several native fish species used the seasonally inundated floodplain for vital spawning and rearing habitat. The resources found in the Yolo Basin also sustained many small groups of Native Americans through the winter and spring months. The seasonal presence of waterfowl and fish provided food, while the wetlands provided materials for cultural use and building, such as willow and tules. To this day, the seasonal hydrological and other conditions of the Yolo Basin drive its use by people and wildlife (Yolo Basin Foundation and California Department of Fish and Game 2007).

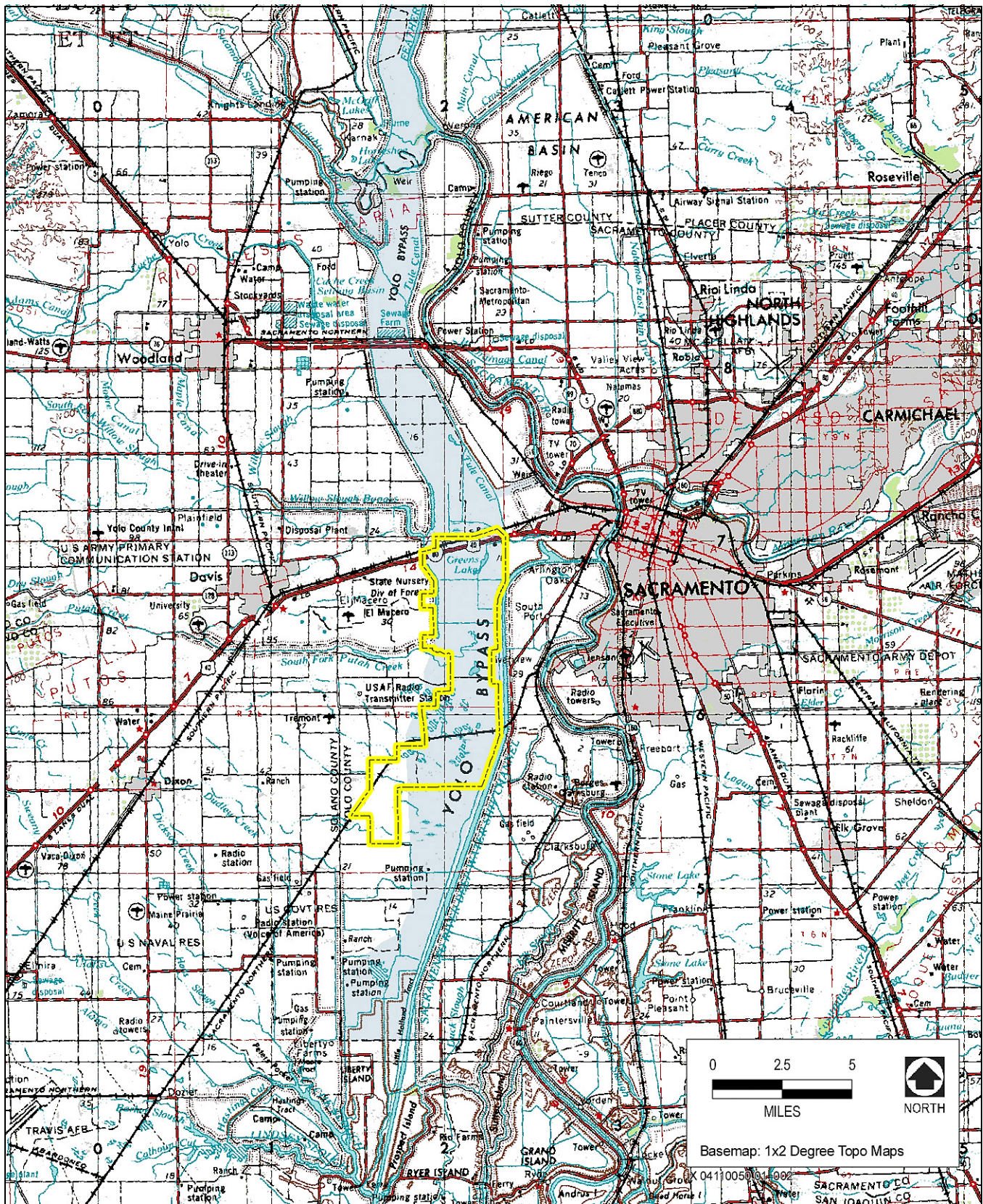
Over time the Yolo Basin ecosystem has been profoundly altered by human activity. Beginning in 1860, the adverse effects of hydraulic mining for gold upstream in the Sierra Nevada (which caused tremendous accumulation of sediment in rivers and on floodplains downstream of the mining) and the increased amount of lands reclaimed for use in agriculture led to the implementation of large-scale flood control projects to protect private lowlands. Large levees were eventually constructed along both sides of the Yolo Basin from Cache Slough north to the Fremont Weir (Thompson 1957). The construction of these levees and flood control structures, including the Sacramento Weir, formed what is now known as the Yolo Bypass.

In more recent history, the majority of lands within the Bypass have been used for grazing and farming with limited wetland management taking place on private waterfowl hunting club lands. The historic culture of waterfowl hunting on private clubs continues to this day on properties neighboring the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. The goals of reestablishing wetland habitat for water birds and other wildlife in the Yolo Bypass, while still maintaining the agricultural character and flood control function, are at the core of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area's mission.



Regional Location of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area

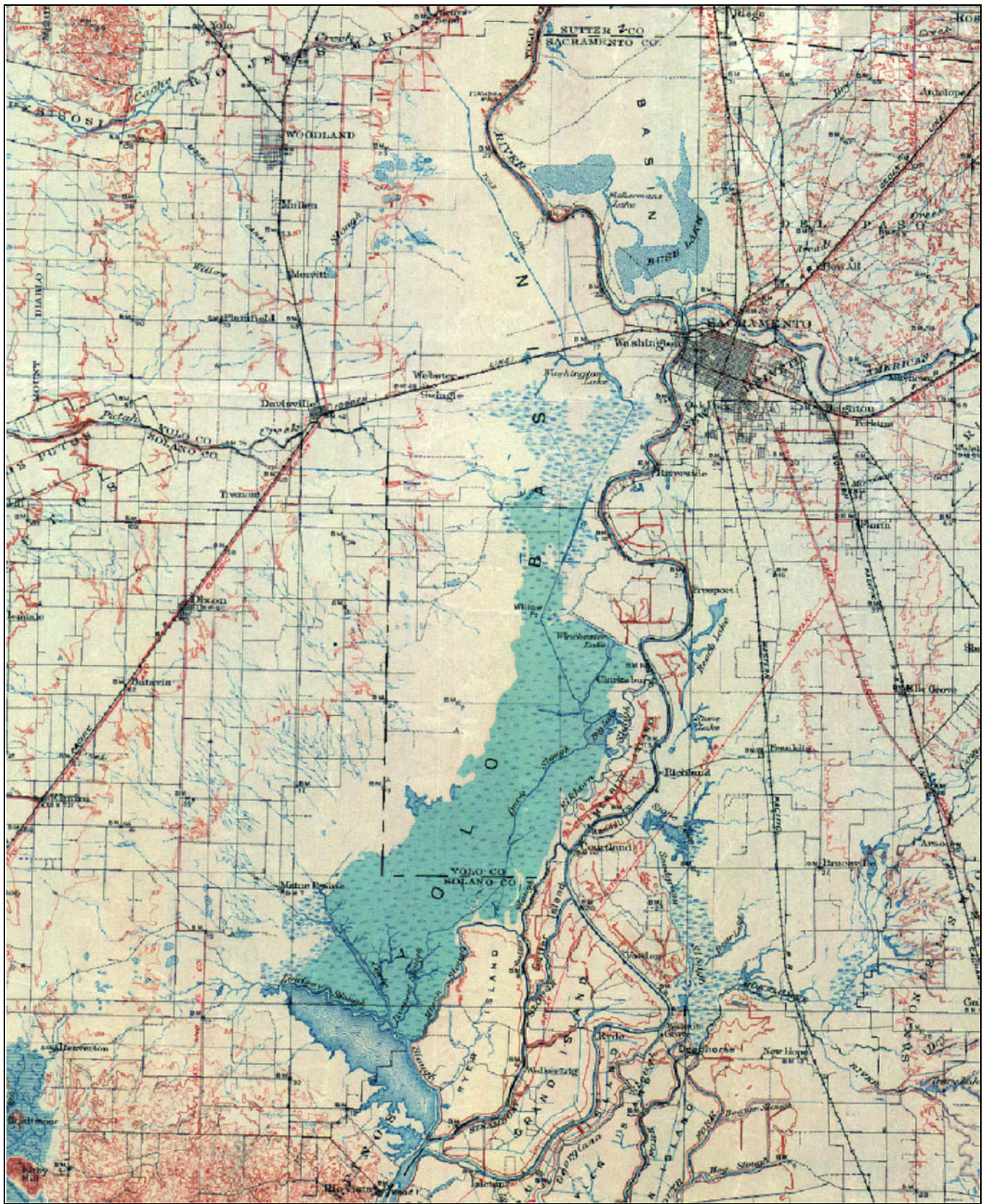
Exhibit 1-1



Source: U.S. Geological Survey

Map of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (Yolo Bypass)

Exhibit 1-2



Source: PWA 2005

Historic Map of the Yolo Basin (1903–1910)

Exhibit 1-3

CURRENT WILDLIFE USE OF THE YOLO BYPASS WILDLIFE AREA

Over 200 species of birds have been seen on the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area ranging from migratory arctic breeders in search of a more temperate winter home to species that breed locally and then fly south to the tropical climates of Central and South America. The brilliantly colored orioles, blue grosbeaks, and western kingbirds are still feeding their young when the first Alaskan shorebirds arrive on their Yolo wintering grounds. Following on the heels of the shorebirds are waterfowl, arriving in tremendous waves through the fall and winter in search of food and shelter. Thousands of northern pintails, American widgeons, mallards, snow geese, and white-fronted geese swarm onto the flooded rice and seasonal wetlands of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area with a backdrop of the Sacramento skyline (Yolo Basin Foundation and California Department of Fish and Game 2007). Several species of raptors including the rare Swainson's hawk can also be found foraging on fresh cut alfalfa or soaring over flooded fields in search of prey in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area.



Coyotes, raccoons, gray fox, and mule deer may occasionally be spotted at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Waterways are home to resident aquatic mammals, such as beaver, mink, and river otters. The extensive water system maintained on the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area harbors large numbers of fish, amphibians, and invertebrates. Resident fish include many introduced species, such as catfish, largemouth bass, carp, and smaller species, such as inland silversides and threadfin shad. With the arrival of fall flows, native Chinook salmon travel upstream into the Yolo Bypass. Some return to their ancestral spawning grounds in Putah Creek, while others continue north to the Sacramento River and its tributaries. White sturgeon and striped bass also move into the Yolo Bypass on a seasonal basis. Habitat in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area ranges from managed seasonal wetlands to remnant riparian forests along Putah Creek. Further west on the higher parts of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, flood inundation is less common and a unique vernal pool community has thrived in the presence of many years of cattle grazing. Rare species inhabit the vernal pool areas, including grasshopper sparrows,

Ferris' alkali milk vetch, and conservancy fairy shrimp (Yolo Basin Foundation and California Department of Fish and Game 2007).

DEVELOPMENT OF THE YOLO BYPASS WILDLIFE AREA LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

This LMP represents the commitment of DFG to manage the resources of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area in accordance with the laws of the United States and the State of California, incorporating the best available scientific information and professional judgment. It also incorporates the commitment of DFG to coordinate and cooperate with Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area neighbors, other local interests, and other conservation entities that are active throughout the region. This LMP proposes practical, science-based management and conservation of the natural resources, consistent with the necessary flood water conveyance purpose of the Bypass, including provisions for compatible agriculture and public recreation use. It is based on an ecosystem approach to habitat management consistent with the principles of the Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP) included in the CALFED Bay-Delta Program (CALFED) as implemented by the California Bay-Delta Authority (CBDA) and DFG. This LMP is intended to contribute to habitat management that utilizes natural processes to create a sustainable system over the long term. This ecosystem-based management approach is intended to benefit both common and sensitive species of wildlife and plants. It may also contribute to the recovery of state and federally listed species. The LMP has been developed with guidance from the DFG's *Guide and Annotated Outline for Writing Land Management Plans*, February 2003 (updated in 2006) (California Department of Fish and Game 2003, 2006).

1.1 THE MISSION OF THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

The mission of DFG is to manage California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public.

DFG manages fish, wildlife and plant species, and natural communities for their intrinsic and ecological value and their benefits to people. This includes the goal of habitat protection and maintenance in a sufficient amount and quality to ensure the survival of all native species using the area and natural communities that support those species. DFG is also responsible for the diversified use of fish and wildlife, including recreational, commercial, scientific, and educational uses.

1.2 PURPOSE OF WILDLIFE AREAS

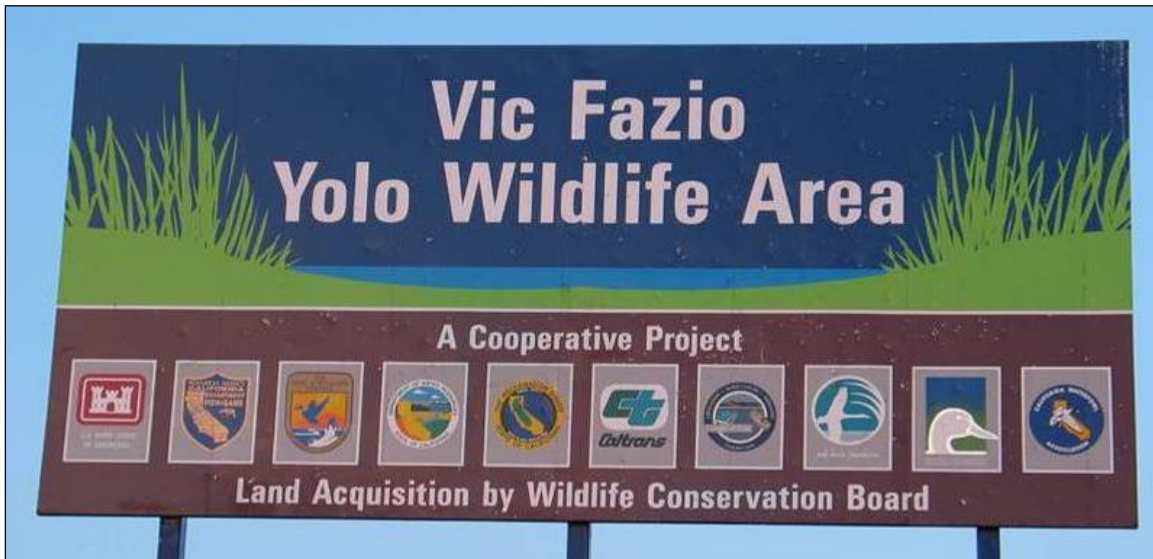
California is renowned as a land of magnificent natural scenery and a wealth of wildlife. Some of the state's most important sites for wildlife are designated DFG wildlife areas. These wildlife areas, including the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, provide habitat for a wide array of plant and animal species, including many that are listed for protection under state and federal endangered species acts or otherwise protected due to their rarity.

Consistent with its mission, DFG administers 108 state wildlife areas and ecological reserves encompassing approximately 650,000 acres of wildlife habitat. These areas are located throughout the state, with most located in central and northern California. Major facilities in the Central Valley include Upper Butte, Gray Lodge, Los Banos, North Grasslands, Grizzly Island, and Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. DFG's stated purpose in managing these wildlife areas is: "*to protect and enhance habitat for wildlife species, and to provide the public with compatible, wildlife-related recreational uses.*"

The protection and enhancement of habitat for wildlife is the principal natural resource management consideration for the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Because DFG is also committed to providing appropriate public recreation uses within the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, this LMP also focuses on the management of wildlife-related recreation activities that are compatible with the diverse mosaic of habitats.

1.3 HISTORY AND PURPOSE OF YOLO BYPASS WILDLIFE AREA

Establishment of the current Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area in 2001 was a result of a 12-year-long cooperative effort to restore wetlands and associated habitats in the Yolo Basin that involved the DFG, Yolo Basin Foundation (Foundation); several local, state, and federal agencies; and other private-sector entities. Beginning in 1989, a broad coalition of conservationists; hunters; farmers; business people; elected officials; and local, state, and federal agencies worked to restore the wetlands of the Putah Creek Sinks located in the Yolo Bypass and provide outdoor education opportunities to the public. The Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area was founded by a community working together as it restored a critical link in the Pacific Flyway through cooperative, innovative partnerships.



1.3.1 THE YOLO BASIN FOUNDATION

The Foundation has its roots in the establishment of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, a project achieved through public education and collaborative efforts of many people, agencies, and organizations. The Foundation was created in 1990 as a community-based organization to facilitate the creation of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area.

- ▶ The mission of the Foundation is to promote the stewardship and appreciation of wetlands and wildlife through education and innovative partnerships.

The Foundation's board of directors represents a diverse group of interests, from agriculture and waterfowl conservation to local government and the business community. The Foundation is universally credited with being the driving force behind the partnerships that created the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and continues as the communication link between many people and organizations involved in creating wetlands and managing land in the Yolo Bypass. The Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, first opened to the public in 1997, is the physical embodiment of the Foundation's mission: *it restored a critical link in the Pacific Flyway through cooperative, innovative partnerships and is the principal focus of the Foundation's educational programs.*

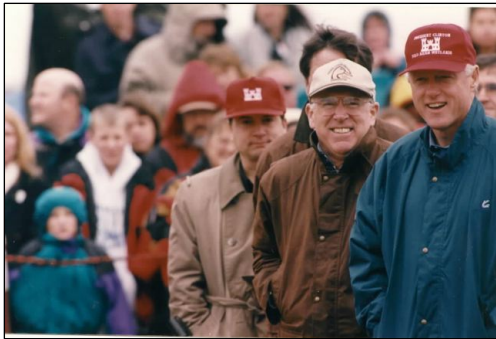
A principal goal of the Foundation is facilitating environmental education at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. In August 1997, the Foundation held the first of its *Discover the Flyway* teacher workshops, which introduced area teachers to the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and prepared them to bring their classes out for exciting and hands-on field studies. In its first year, the *Discover the Flyway* school program hosted 800 students between October 1997 and June of 1998. Since the pilot year, the school program has expanded to over 4,000 kindergarten through 12th-grade students annually. Foundation staff, interns, and dedicated volunteers assist students in hands-

on learning activities at demonstration wetlands at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Headquarters and lead students on exploratory walks throughout the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area.

In addition, the Foundation facilitates the Yolo Bypass Working Group meetings, which provide a focused opportunity for farmers, land owners, and agencies within the Yolo Bypass to discuss Bypass related issues, as well as provide guidance and opinions on such issues. The Yolo Bypass Working Group meetings have been the primary forum to gather stakeholder input towards the development of this land management plan (see below for additional information on the Yolo Bypass Working Group).

1.3.2 HISTORY AND PURPOSE OF LAND ACQUISITIONS

The Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) approved DFG’s original acquisition of approximately 2,917 acres, establishing the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, recorded on December 31, 1991. The WCB approved the first expansion, consisting of approximately 390 acres, recorded on April 8, 1994, and the second expansion, approximately 182 acres of wetland area and 14 acres for a headquarters site, recorded on October 12 and September 29, 1994, respectively.



President Bill Clinton dedicated the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area in November 1997, hailing the project as a national model for meeting the challenge of “trying to improve our economy and lift our standard of living while improving, not diminishing, our environment.” He also acknowledged the extraordinary collaboration and effort that have enabled the mosaic of seasonal and year-round ponds, grasslands, and riparian forest to thrive.

The largest expansion consisted of the acquisition from two separate ownerships, the Glide Foundation and Los Rios Farms, totaling approximately 13,062 acres, recorded on December 14, 2001 (Glide Ranch) and February 1, 2002 (Los Rios Farms). The Glide Ranch consisted of three separate ranches, commonly known as the Causeway Ranch, Geiberson Ranch, and Tule Ranch. An initial option to purchase was first acquired by the Nature Conservancy, which immediately relinquished this option to the Wildlife Conservation Board who made this historic acquisition. Additional expansions included the 100-acre Parker Unit recorded on September 20, 2002 and the 119 acre Cowell Pond Unit approved on February 19, 2004. A description of all management units within the entire Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area is provided in Chapter 2, “Property Description.”

The purpose of the acquisition resulting in the largest expansion of the Wildlife Area was expressly stated by the WCB on August 30, 2001 (Wildlife Conservation Board 2001):

“Expansion of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area will allow for the preservation of historic wetlands, wintering habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, threatened and endangered species and other wetland associated species.”

The purchase was exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Section 15313 of the State CEQA Guidelines as a Class 13 Categorical Exemption for the acquisition of land for wildlife protection. The Notice of Exemption for the Glide Ranch and Los Rios Farms acquisition was filed with the State Clearinghouse on July 17, 2001.¹

¹ Pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15313, “Acquisition of Lands for Wildlife Conservation Purposes.” Class 13 consists of the acquisition of lands for fish and wildlife conservation purposes, including preservation of fish and wildlife habitat; establishing ecological reserves under California Fish and Game Code Section 1580; and preserving access to public lands and waters where the purpose of the acquisition is to preserve the land in its natural condition.

1.4 LAND ACQUISITIONS AND ROLE OF THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

The various acquisitions of lands for the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area were carried out by the WCB with funding from Propositions 12, Proposition 13, and the General Fund. (California Public Resources Code [Section 5096.310{7}{m}] designates funding to the WCB for various acquisition and restoration projects.) The WCB was created by legislation in 1947 to administer a capital outlay program for wildlife conservation and related public recreation. The WCB is an independent board with authority and funding to carry out an acquisition and development program for wildlife conservation (California Fish and Game Code Section 1300 et seq.). The primary responsibilities of the WCB are to select, authorize, and allocate funds for the purchase of land and waters suitable for recreation purposes and for the preservation, protection, and restoration of wildlife habitat. The three main functions of the WCB are land acquisition, habitat restoration, and development of wildlife-oriented, public-access facilities. The acquisition program is administered pursuant to the WCB's original enabling legislation, the Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947 (Fish and Game Code Section 1300 et seq.), and land acquisition is a component of all WCB programs. The WCB acquires real property or rights in real property on behalf of DFG and can also grant funds to other governmental entities or nonprofit organizations to acquire real property or rights in real property. The acquisition activities are carried out in conjunction with DFG, with DFG recommending priorities for proposed acquisitions.

1.5 PURPOSE OF THE LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

The stated purposes of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Land Management Plan are to:

- ▶ guide the management of habitats, species, appropriate public use, and programs to achieve DFG's mission;
- ▶ direct an ecosystem approach to managing the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area in coordination with the objectives of the CALFED ERP;
- ▶ identify and guide appropriate, compatible public-use opportunities within the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area;
- ▶ direct the management of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area in a manner that promotes cooperative relationships with adjoining private-property owners;
- ▶ establish a descriptive inventory of the sites and the wildlife and plant resources that occur in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area;
- ▶ provide an overview of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area's operation, maintenance, and personnel requirements to implement management goals, and serve as a planning aid for preparation of the annual budget for the Bay-Delta Region (Region 3); and
- ▶ present the environmental documentation necessary for compliance with state and federal statutes and regulations, provide a description of potential and actual environmental impacts that may occur during plan management, and identify mitigation measures to avoid or lessen these impacts.

1.6 PLANNING PROCESS

This LMP was prepared through a partnership between DFG and the Foundation and with the benefit of an extensive public-input program and substantial coordination with other public and private entities that operate in the immediate region. DFG provided overall guidance to the planning process and was responsible for all decisions regarding the content of the LMP. The Foundation was responsible for coordinating substantial stakeholder outreach and facilitating stakeholder input in the LMP development. The Foundation has been instrumental in the development of environmental education and interpretation programs at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and facilitated the documentation of these programs in this plan. The Foundation's participation

was funded in part through a CALFED ERP grant. The majority of the funding for the development of the land management plan consisted of Proposition 40 monies accessed through the WCB. The planning process was also coordinated with other resource agencies, stakeholders within the Yolo Bypass, including participants in the Yolo Bypass Working Group, and the public.

The planning process was guided by the general policy parameters that direct DFG, including compliance with all state and federal laws. DFG’s mission, the purpose of the wildlife areas, and the purposes of the LMP, as stated in this chapter, provided broad direction for the development of this LMP. Finally, the objectives established through the CALFED ERP were considered as guidelines for this LMP. The ERP goals include recovering endangered and other at-risk species, maintaining ecological processes, restoring expanses of habitat to support species, limiting nonnative invasive species, and improving water and sediment quality. A list of applicable CALFED ERP targets and actions is provided in Appendix B to show the relationship between the CALFED ERP and the proposed LMP.

The planning process focused on the development of three major forms of input that all contributed to the LMP:

- ▶ Public input
- ▶ Science and analysis
- ▶ Integrated planning

Public input was obtained through an extensive public-outreach program as described below. **Science and analysis** was established through the development of a detailed property inventory for all of the units within the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Information was obtained through a literature search, meetings with knowledgeable individuals, on-site field analysis, and review of various technical studies. **Integrated planning** included meetings with local, state, and federal districts and agencies that manage and regulate other public properties along the Yolo Bypass. Integrated planning was also generated through the Yolo Bypass Working Group meetings (discussed under “Public-Outreach Program” below). Exhibit 1-4 depicts the key information inputs to the planning process.

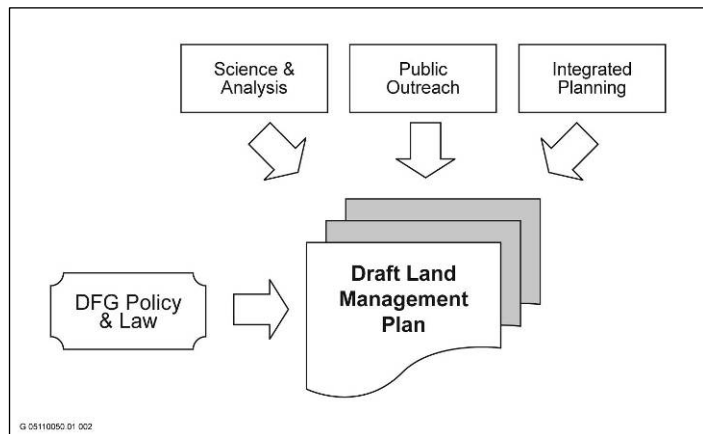
1.6.1 PUBLIC-OUTREACH PROGRAM

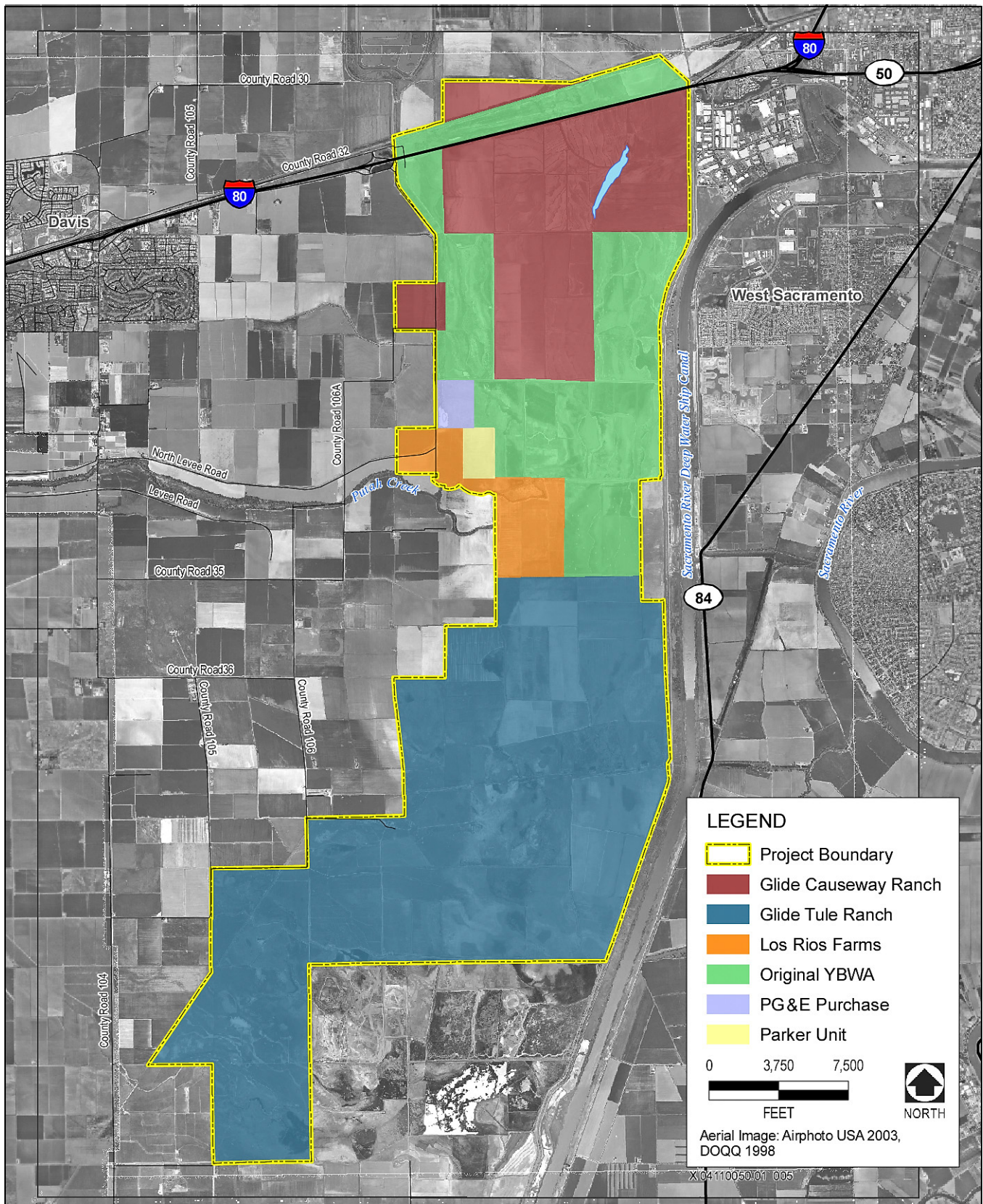
A public-outreach program was designed as a key element of the planning process to ensure that there would be ample opportunities for local interests and the general public to be a part of the development of this LMP. DFG made a

commitment to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors and the Delta Protection Commission at the time of the Glide Ranch and Los Rios Farms purchases to involve Yolo Bypass stakeholders in the development of the LMP. It was recognized that a wide range of people considered themselves stakeholders in the planning process.

Substantial efforts were made to identify stakeholders, contact them, and solicit their ideas regarding the future of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. The public-outreach program featured the following components:

- ▶ six focus group meetings conducted before initiation of LMP development (2002);
- ▶ a total of 37 Yolo Bypass Working Group Meetings (1999 to present; updates on developments at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area have been a frequent topic of discussion);
- ▶ one advertised public meeting for initial input (December 12, 2005, in Davis, attended by 30 persons); and
- ▶ five additional focus group meetings to receive input on the Preliminary Draft LMP (March and April, 2006).





Source: Department of Fish and Game, City of Davis 2005 CaSIL 1993

Land Acquisitions to the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area

Exhibit 1-4

Appendix A provides a summary of the comments received at the initial public meetings and examples of the various communication devices that were used to publicize the planning process.

YOLO BYPASS WORKING GROUP

The Foundation initiated the Yolo Bypass Working Group (Working Group) in 1998 under a CALFED ERP grant. This ad hoc stakeholder group has been very successful and continues to meet approximately every 2–4 months. More than 30 people representing a wide range of stakeholders with an interest in the Yolo Bypass regularly attend these meetings, including representatives from many local, state, and federal agencies. Participants include landowners and their tenants (farmers, ranchers, duck hunters), DFG, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), State Reclamation Board, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), California Department of Food and Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District (SYMVCD), Dixon and Yolo Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs), Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA), Yolo County, Cities of West Sacramento, Woodland and Davis, California Waterfowl Association (CWA), Ducks Unlimited (DU), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Weather Service (NWS), Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District (SYMVCD), and the Port of Sacramento.

The Working Group meetings serve as a forum to educate and inform all parties interested in the Yolo Bypass. Information on Bypass-related land use, flood management, resource policy, proposed projects, economics, and ecological issues is presented and openly discussed by members of the Working Group. Guest speakers have included representatives from USFWS (also a landowner/stakeholder), SAFCA, Northern California Water Association, DWR, DFG (also a landowner/stakeholder), State Reclamation Board, Port of Sacramento, U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Farm Services Agency (FSA), NRCS, SYMVCD, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), CWA, University of California, Davis (UCD), a variety of project proponents, and several technical consultants on ecological and hydrologic issues.

It should be noted that before the Working Group was formed, many landowners and other stakeholders were often not informed about issues and decision-making processes that directly affected the Yolo Bypass in general and their interests in particular. These meetings give local stakeholders the chance to provide direct input, helping to protect their interests, and guide projects proposed by others. The Working Group has been meeting regularly since 1998, supported during this entire period by CALFED ERP funding. The Working Group provided the guidance for the development of the document published by the Foundation in August 2001, "*A Framework for the Future: Yolo Bypass Management Strategy*" (Yolo Basin Foundation 2001), which can be viewed on the Foundation's website (www.yolobasin.org).

The group has identified and discussed numerous issues regarding natural resources and public uses in the Yolo Bypass. These issues are addressed in greater detail in Chapters 2, 3, and 4.

1.7 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

An Initial Study (IS) pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines has been prepared in conjunction with the Draft LMP. This assessment evaluates the potential environmental impacts of the continued operation of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area under the provisions of the Draft LMP. The IS for the LMP is found in Appendix H, "Environmental Review." This assessment recommended that a Negative Declaration be approved for the project with a finding that the project would not have a significant impact on the environment.

1.7.1 RELATIONSHIP OF THIS LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN TO CALFED

The *CALFED Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and Environmental Impact Report* (CALFED Final PEIS/EIR) provides a very broad, programmatic analysis of the general effect of implementing the multiple components of CALFED over a 30-year period (2000–2030) across two-thirds of the state of

California. The analysis of impacts in the CALFED Final PEIS/EIR is not intended to address any site-specific environmental effects of individual projects; therefore, the analyses of direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts contained in the CALFED programmatic document are not sufficiently detailed by itself to evaluate effects of the proposed LMP on the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Preparation of the Draft LMP for the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area included reviews of applicable chapters and sections contained in the CALFED Final PEIS/EIR and the Record of Decision (ROD) on the Final PEIS/EIR to develop background information, assess consistency of the proposed LMP with the CALFED Preferred Program Alternative, and provide mitigation guidance.

The LMP is intended to be consistent with the programmatic guidance contained in the CALFED programs and Final PEIS/EIR. Furthermore, it is intended to be consistent with the *Multi-Species Conservation Strategy* (MSCS), which is part of the comprehensive regulatory compliance strategy that is integrated with the CALFED Final PEIS/EIR.

Review of the resource sections of the CALFED Final PEIS/EIR included identification of mitigation strategies, which addresses potential significant impacts on special-status wildlife species, important wildlife use areas, and agricultural lands. These mitigation strategies serve as the basis for development of strategic elements that are incorporated into the LMP management goals and tasks, thereby avoiding potential significant impacts. (Refer to Chapter 5, “Management Goals,” of this Draft LMP for further discussion.)

1.8 ORGANIZATION OF THIS LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

This LMP for the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area is organized as follows:

- ▶ *Chapter 1, “Introduction,”* summarizes the purpose of the land acquisition for the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, acquisition history, purpose of the LMP, and the planning process; explains the scope and uses of this LMP; and describes the relationship of this LMP to CALFED.
- ▶ *Chapter 2, “Property Description and Management Setting,”* summarizes the most current information available to describe the geographical setting, property boundaries and easements, existing infrastructure, and management setting, including any legal constraints and existing agreements and descriptions of existing working partnerships with other agencies, and nonprofit groups. This chapter (along with Chapter 3) also will serve as part of the environmental setting of the IS.
- ▶ *Chapter 3, “Environmental Setting,”* describes the primary existing resource conditions on the property and includes a discussion on planning influences and considerations. It will also serve as the environmental setting of the IS.
- ▶ *Chapter 4, “Compatible Resource Management and Public Use,”* describes and evaluates opportunities and constraints associated with compatible resource management and public uses throughout the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area.
- ▶ *Chapter 5, “Management Goals,”* describes the resource management direction of the LMP and the project description necessary for performing environmental review pursuant to CEQA. The chapter includes conceptual descriptions of management actions.
- ▶ *Chapter 6, “Operations and Maintenance,”* guides the budget preparation and work plans for the property; summarizes the number of existing staff employed at the property and any additional requirements for personnel; summarizes all estimated operations and maintenance costs associated with management of the property; identifies potential funding sources.
- ▶ *Chapter 7, “Future Revisions to the Plan,”* describes a process that will be implemented to update and accommodate revisions to the LMP.

- ▶ *Chapter 8, “Document Preparers,”* lists the agencies involved in preparation or review of the LMP and individuals who prepared this LMP.
- ▶ *Chapter 9, “References and Personal Communications,”* lists the sources of information cited throughout this LMP.
- ▶ *Appendix A, “Public-Outreach Summary,”* includes news releases for the public-input meetings; a summary of the December 12, 2005 and August 16, 2007 public scoping and comment meeting; including written comments received; a summary of focus group meetings to be held on March 27 and 30, and April 4 and 7, 2006; a list of public presentations; and a news release for the Draft LMP.
- ▶ *Appendix B, “Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area–Related Targets and Programmatic Actions from the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan,”* presents the verbatim Yolo Bypass–Related CALFED Targets and Programmatic Actions that appear to be relevant to issues addressed in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area LMP.
- ▶ *Appendix C, “Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area–Hydraulic Modeling Workplan,”* presents a specific hydraulic modeling workplan for guiding the design of future restoration projects in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and confirming achievement of performance criteria (i.e., confirmation that project-related adverse affects to flow conveyance will not occur).
- ▶ *Appendix D, “Existing Memorandums of Understanding and Agreements,”* presents existing Memorandums of Understanding and Agreements between DFG and the Yolo Basin Foundation (regarding public education programming and facilities); DFG, USACE, DWR, and The Reclamation Board (regarding flood control); DFG, State Reclamation Board, DWR, and USFWS (regarding management for flood control and endangered species); DFG and Dixon RCD (regarding management of agricultural leases), and the Mace Ranch Irrigation System and Water Delivery Agreement.
- ▶ *Appendix E, “Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Program History and Overview,”* provides an overview of public use programs, site history, and a description of interpretive resources.
- ▶ *Appendix F, “Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Agricultural Plan,”* presents the Agricultural Plan for the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area.
- ▶ *Appendix G, “Species List for the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area,”* presents a species list for the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area.
- ▶ *Appendix H, “Environmental Review,”* presents the Initial Study / Negative Declaration for the Draft LMP.