

Looking south along the San Joaquin River and Paradise Cut Bypass

Paradise Cut Expansion and South Delta Restoration Project

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Paradise Cut Expansion Project and South Delta Restoration Project is a multi-benefit flood management project that will benefit Stockton and nearby communities along the San Joaquin River. The project will expand and enhance the existing Paradise Cut Flood Bypass, which currently diverts water from the river during flood events, to ensure adequate downstream channel capacity and levee protection and facilitate the passage of increased flood water through the south Delta. By significantly lowering flood stage along nearly 30 miles of the San Joaquin River between Vernalis and Stockton, the Project will greatly improve public safety and protect farmland from uncontrolled flooding. In addition, planned enhancements will provide new and improved habitat for native fish and wildlife. A diverse group of stakeholders is working together to advance this pragmatic, multi-benefit, regional solution for flood management - a shared vision for cities, farms, and wildlife.

Expanding and enhancing the Paradise Cut Flood Bypass will:

- Reduce the risk of catastrophic flooding for communities including Lathrop, Manteca, and Stockton
- Protect farms from uncontrolled flooding

- Restore wetland and riparian habitats for native wildlife
- Increase climate change resiliency by supporting more flexible water supply management

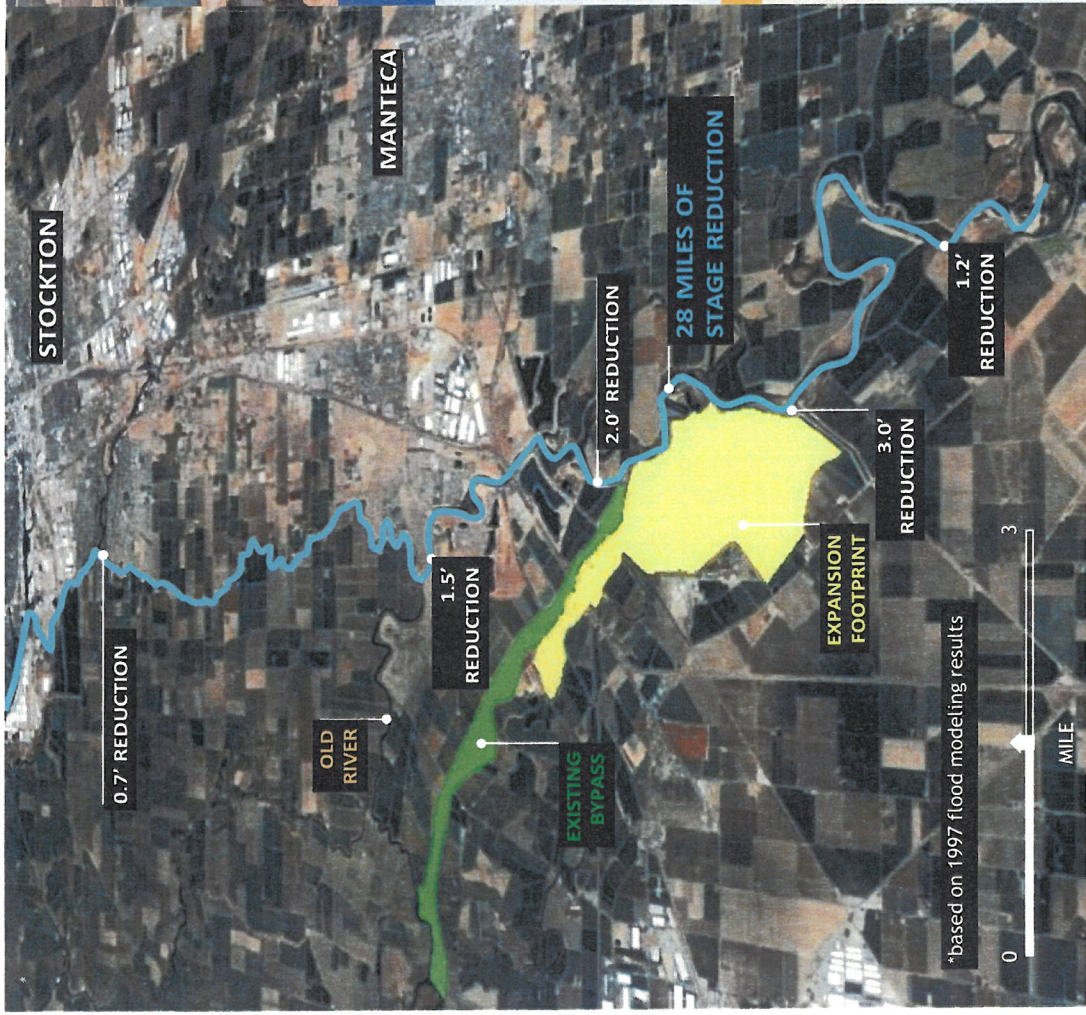
PROJECT STATUS

In 2016, the San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District (SJCRCD) received a grant from the Delta Conservancy to advance project planning by completing Phase 1 of the project. As part of this work, project partners completed the following in coordination with local landowners, engineers, and agencies:

- Existing conditions report
- Extensive hydraulic modeling & design development
- Restoration opportunities report
- Conceptual design technical memo
- Construction cost estimate
- Permitting and compliance strategy

In 2021, the SJCRCD executed a second grant from the Delta Conservancy for Phase 2 of the project, scheduled for completion in June 2022. This phase will:

- Develop a strategy to address local concerns with downstream impacts of the proposed project
- Make recommendations for addressing critical data gaps
- Establish a local engagement structure to help coordinate implementation of future project phases with state agencies



CONSULTANTS:

- Consero Solutions
- ESA
- MBK Engineers
- Larsen Wurzel & Associates

PROJECT PARTNERS:

- Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
- South Delta Water Agency
- American Rivers
- Reclamation District 2062
- CA Department of Water Resources

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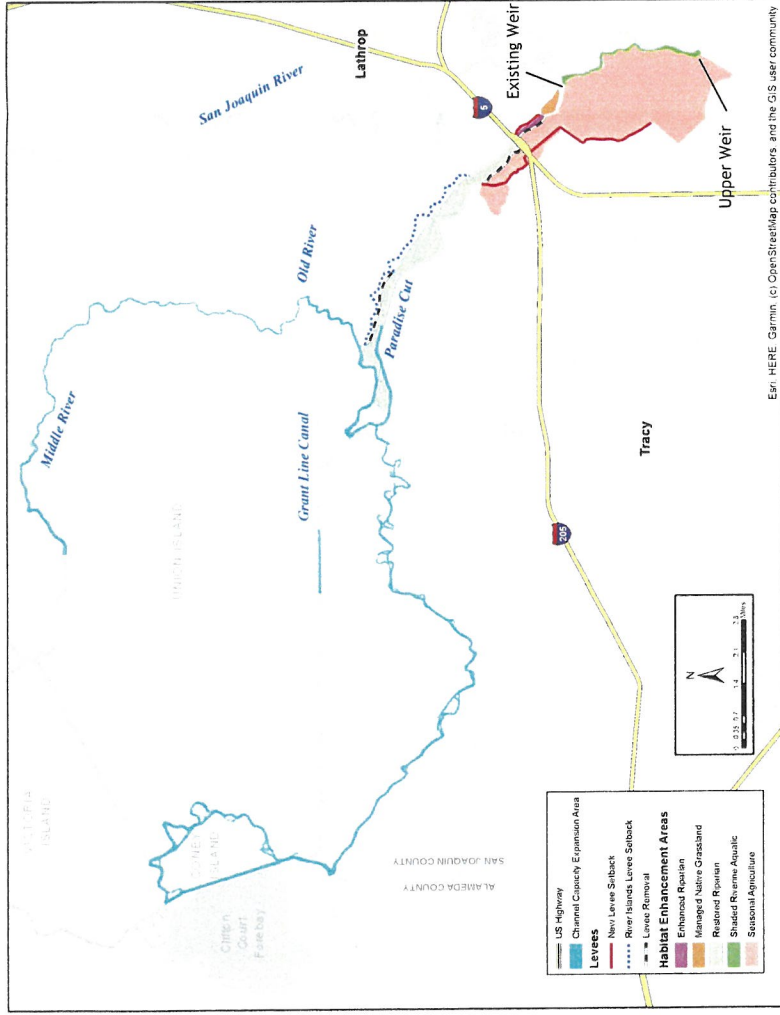
Project Cost Estimate

\$119M
LOW RANGE
(-30%)

\$171M

\$256M
HIGH RANGE
(+50%)

This feasibility-level cost estimate (Class 4) includes acquisition of flood and conservation easements as well as design, permitting, and construction costs within the project footprint. It does not include project costs associated with downstream impacts, including dredging, which will be analyzed in Phase 3 of the project. The estimate was developed for planning purposes only and should not be used as a basis for final design or construction, or as an estimate of construction costs for construction planning or project funding.



Map: HERE, Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community

Timeline of Project Milestones

Phase 1
COMPLETE

2016-2019
conceptual planning, permitting and compliance strategy, local engagement

Phase 2
IN PROGRESS

2020-2022
strategy to address downstream impacts, establish local engagement structure

Phase 3

2018-2024
conservation and flood easement acquisition

Phase 4

2022-2026
engineering design, permitting and environmental compliance

Phase 5

2028
construction, monitoring

FINAL
PARADISE CUT EXPANSION AND SOUTH DELTA RESTORATION PROJECT
PROJECT LEAD OPTIONS

June 28, 2021

The Paradise Cut Expansion and South Delta Restoration Project Phase 2 planning team, organized to implement a Delta Conservancy grant to explore the feasibility of expanding the Paradise Cut Bypass to improve flood protection and enhance habitat, is evaluating options to lead the development and construction of the Paradise Cut Expansion and South Delta Restoration Project (“Project”), as well as any projects to address downstream impacts from the Project. To secure local support for the Project, the planning team recommends expanding the capacity of South Delta channels either before or concurrent with Project construction. The addition of capacity expansion is a new element of the Project, but critical to maintain local support for the overall effort.

Partnerships

In addition to the local agencies considered as project lead options in this memo, the Project’s partners include the City of Lathrop, the Central Valley Flood Protection Board, and the California Department of Water Resources. Without support from these three agencies, the Project cannot move forward. The City of Lathrop benefits from the project because it will reduce flood stage on the San Joaquin River, therefore helping to protect people and property in the event of a flood. The Central Valley Flood Protection Board’s (“Board”) Central Valley Flood Protection Plan lists the Project (without the channel capacity expansion) as a priority in both the 2012 and the 2017 versions. The Board also must serve as the non-federal sponsor for the Project, since it requires involvement of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The California Department of Water Resources similarly will play an important role in the success of the project because it is the mostly likely state agency to assist with funding of the project because of its role as the agency responsible for implementation of the State Plan of Flood Control, of which the Paradise Cut levees are an integral part of the San Joaquin River system. The Department of Water Resources will potentially serve as a sub-applicant for the Federal Emergency Management (FEMA) Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant, which would provide funding for future phases of the Project.

Project Lead Options

The planning team will meet with local reclamation districts and other stakeholders as needed in 2021 to secure feedback on four options: 1) Southern Delta Levee Protection and Channel Maintenance Authority (“Maintenance Authority”); 2) San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency (“SJAFCFA”); 3) formation of new joint powers authority (“new JPA”); and 4) San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (“District”). The team also will ask for alternative suggestions as part of the outreach process.

None of the options the planning team is evaluating possess funding for planning, design, engineering, permitting, or construction of the Project. All agencies would need to hire staff and otherwise expand their agency to lead this Project. All agencies also would need funding for long-term management and maintenance of the Project.

Option 1: Southern Delta Levee Protection & Channel Maintenance Authority

The South Delta Water Agency (“SDWA”) and Reclamation District 2062 (“RD 2062”) formed the Maintenance Authority, a joint powers agency, in 2006 to help local reclamation and water districts fund the maintenance and improvement of South Delta levees and channels to improve flood protection. The Board consists of three members: the President of the South Delta Water Agency, the attorney for the South Delta Water Agency, and the President of RD 2062. The South Delta Water Agency has the authority to assist the following RDs with flood control efforts: 1, 2, 17, 524, 773, 1007, 2058, 2062, 2064, 2075, 2085, 2094, 2095, 2096, and 2107. The Maintenance Authority is funded by River Island homeowners, which each pay \$8/year. This assessment will eventually result in over \$150,000/year in annual revenue. The JPA currently meets as needed and does not have any current projects or staff to support work on projects.

PROS	CONS
Dedicated source of administrative funding to potentially support the Project	Need to update JPA agreement
Framework already in place	No staff
Local agency	Need to add Board members with project expertise
Opportunity to structure agency’s mission as needed to suit the Project	Annual funding may not be sufficient for planning, administration, and technical support for the Project
Positive existing relationships with South Delta RDs and landowners	No track record of successful project construction

Option 2: San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency

The City of Stockton, San Joaquin County, the San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, the City of Lathrop, and the City of Manteca formed SJAFCA as a joint powers agency. SJAFCA’s mission is to “reduce and manage the region’s flood risk, “according to the 2019 Strategic Plan. SJAFCA has an annual budget of about \$1.6 million and five employees.

PROS	CONS
Local agency	No funding for administration and technical support of the Project
Experience with construction of large projects	Less established relationships with South Delta RDs and landowners than the Maintenance Authority
Established Board of Directors	
Established staff structure	
Cities and County among members	
Established reputation with the community	
Established relationship with relevant state agencies	
Multi-benefit projects are listed in Goal 3 of the Strategic Plan and SJAFCA is open to partnerships on multi-benefit projects	
Staff expertise in grant and contract management	
Established relationship with San Joaquin County for operations and maintenance	
Some financial flexibility to fund projects, subject to Board approval	

Maintains significant reserve to use for project cash flow

Option 3: New JPA

The planning team may recommend the formation of a new JPA for the specific purpose of leading the Project.

PROS	CONS
Local agency	No framework in place
Ability to design membership and other elements as needed to suit Project	Significant cost to establish
Focus would solely be on Project	No dedicated funding for planning, technical support, and administration of the Project
	No staff
	No existing Board of Directors

Option 4: San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

The California State Legislature formed the San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (“District”) in 1956 to protect communities throughout San Joaquin County (“County”) from loss of life and property from floods and droughts, as well as to ensure the County’s water supply reliability. The District is a dependent special district, its jurisdiction covers all of San Joaquin County, and the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors acts as the governing body. The County Department of Public Works Water Resources Division provides staffing support for the District. The District’s authorities are detailed in the originating statute, including the ability to form zones of benefit within the County to construct, operate and plan flood control, water supply, drainage, and groundwater recharge projects.

PROS	CONS
Established staff structure	No dedicated funding for planning, administration and technical support of the Project
Framework already in place, including financial policies and procedures	No dedicated staff
Local agency	Board is County only; does not include cities or RDs
Established reputation with the community	Less established relationships with South Delta RDs and landowners than the Maintenance Authority
Established Board of Directors	Project is not in 5-year Strategic Plan
Staff expertise in grant and contract management	
Some financial flexibility to fund project, subject to Board approval	
Qualifies as lead applicant on FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant	