



# MCCORMACK-WILLIAMSON TRACT RESTORATION PROJECT

Sacramento County, CA

## TIDAL MARSH / FLOODPLAIN

The McCormack-Williamson Tract (MWT) island in Sacramento County offers opportunities for restoration of critical tidal freshwater marsh and floodplain habitat. Restoration of MWT is included as part of the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) North Delta Flood Control and Ecosystem Restoration Project ("North Delta FCERP"). The North Delta FCERP will implement flood control improvements principally on and around MWT, Dead Horse Island, and Grizzly Slough in a manner that benefits aquatic and terrestrial habitats, species, and ecological processes. DWR certified the Environmental Impact Report for the North Delta FCERP in 2010, which proposed developing flood control and restoration (Alternative 1A) on MWT with the following goals:

- Provide flood control improvements to reduce damage from overflows caused by insufficient channel capacities and levee failures in the project study area.
- Benefit native species by re-establishing natural ecological functions and habitats.
- Contribute to scientific understanding of ecological restoration.
- Enhance public recreation opportunities in a manner that does not compromise flood protection infrastructure or operations, compromise habitat integrity, or disturb wildlife.

Flood flows and high water conditions in the area downstream of the confluence threaten levees, bridges and roadways. The MWT and Grizzly Slough properties are proposed for restoration to reduce flooding and provide aquatic and floodplain habitats along the downstream portion of the

Cosumnes Preserve along the Cosumnes and Mokelumne Rivers. The project at MWT is intended to allow the passing of flood flows through the Tract, in a way that minimizes flood impacts to the system because MWT's levees are already lower than surrounding neighbor's levees and flooding has occurred on the island historically.

Currently two projects are proposed for MWT:

- The levee re-sloping and tower levee, known as "Project A"
- The levee breach, weir and restoration, known as "Project B"

These projects combine flood surge reduction measures with the construction of habitat friendly levees and a breach on MWT to provide benefits to ecosystem processes and species by recreating tidal marsh, subtidal and floodplain/riparian habitats.

### RESTORATION GOALS / TARGET

The restoration projects on MWT are focused on floodplain restoration and flood control, and creation of tidal marsh habitat.

Approximate acreage goals:

- Upland Floodplain: 71 acres
- Riparian: 103 acres

- ▶ Tidal Marsh: 908 acres

- ▶ Subtidal: 407 acres

- ▶ Total: 1,489 acres

## LOCATION AND LANDOWNER

MWT is a North Delta island located immediately downstream of the confluence of the Cosumnes and Mokelumne Rivers, just northeast of the Delta Cross Channel. The 1,600-acre “island” in Sacramento County is owned by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), which was purchased through a CALFED grant in 1999.

## FUNDING

- ▶ Property Acquisition:
  - CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP) \$5.4M
- ▶ Development for Project A and B:
  - Department of Water Resources
  - Proposition 50
  - CALFED ERP
- ▶ Design/construction:
  - Project A: Proposition 1E \$6M
  - Project B: TBD
- ▶ Ongoing maintenance and monitoring: TBD
  - Planning - a grant from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) will be used to fund TNC to develop of a monitoring plan for the site.

## TIMELINE

Planning and Permitting 2011-2017.

- ▶ Project A: Levee re-sloping and tower levee implementation - 2017-2018
- ▶ Project B: Breach, weir and restoration implementation - 2018-2019

## PERMITTING

- ▶ CEQA: North Delta FCERP EIR completed in 2010 for MWT and Grizzly Slough projects
  - Project A: Addendum completed in 2015
  - Project B: TBD

- ▶ Section 404 Permit Application/Wetland Delineation Verification
  - Project A: Application submitted December 2015
  - Project B: Wetland delineation complete

- ▶ Sacramento County Grading Permit
  - Project A: Completed and submitted in 2016
  - Project B: Formulating

- ▶ Clean Water Act, 401 Water Quality Certification
  - Project A: Completed and submitted in 2016
  - Project B: Formulating

- ▶ Federal Endangered Species Act
  - Project A: Biological Assessment submitted in 2016; currently in formal consultation
  - Project B: Formulating

- ▶ State Historic Preservation Office, Section 106 Consultation/Cultural Resources
  - Project A: Report complete and submitted
  - Project B: Formulating

- ▶ Section 401 Water Quality Certification
  - Project A: Not applicable (N/A)
  - Project B: Formulating

- ▶ Streambed Alteration Agreement/Section 1602 or 1605
  - Project A: N/A
  - Project B: Formulating

- ▶ California Endangered Species Act, Section 2081 Incidental Take Permit
  - Project A: N/A
  - Project B: Formulating

- ▶ Central Valley Flood Protection Board Encroachment Permit
  - Project A: N/A
  - Project B: Formulating

- ▶ California State Lands Commission Lease Agreement
  - Project A: N/A
  - Project B: Formulating



## PROJECT PROPONENT

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## MORE INFORMATION

North Delta Flood Control and Ecosystem Restoration  
Project Final EIR: [http://www.water.ca.gov/floodsafe/fessro/levees/north\\_delta/docs/](http://www.water.ca.gov/floodsafe/fessro/levees/north_delta/docs/)

