

Date: October 28, 2015
To: Distribution
From: Curt Aikens, General Manager
Yuba County Water Agency
Re: Supplemental Notice of Public Scoping Meetings for the Yuba River
Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study

This package transmits to all county clerks within, or adjacent to, the study area for the above-referenced project, the following public notices:

- Supplemental Notice of Public Scoping Meetings

The enclosed Supplemental Notice of Public Scoping Meetings is being sent pursuant to CEQA §21104 and §21153, and YCWA requests that you post the Supplemental Notice of Public Scoping Meetings in the area where legal notices are posted for the county for a period of 30 days following receipt of this notice.

Please contact me at (530) 741-5000 if you have any questions about these materials.

Enclosures (1)

Distribution- County Clerks

Butte County
El Dorado County
Lassen County
Nevada County
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Sacramento County
Sierra County
Sutter County
Yuba County

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OCT 30 2015

KATHLEEN WILLIAMS,
PLUMAS CO. CLERK-RECORDER



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SACRAMENTO DISTRICT
1325 J STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-2922

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Environmental Resources Branch

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District (Corps) and the Yuba County Water Agency (YCWA) will be holding a series of Public Scoping meetings to provide information on the Yuba River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study and to solicit input from the public to incorporate into the planning process. The Yuba River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study is authorized under the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1962, Public Law 87- 874, Section 209.

The Corps intends to prepare an integrated Feasibility Report and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (FR & DEIS) to identify and respond to problems and opportunities associated with ecosystem restoration in the Yuba River watershed. The YCWA will serve as non-Federal sponsor, partnering with the Corps in developing this feasibility study. The Corps will serve as the lead agency for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The YCWA will serve as lead agency for compliance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). A series of Public Scoping meetings will be held in late October and early November 2015 to satisfy NEPA and CEQA requirements as follows:

Meeting #1 – Wednesday, October 28, 2015, 1 – 3 p.m. at John E. Moss Federal Building Stanford Room (650 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, CA 95814).

Meeting #2 – Thursday, October 29, 2015, 5 – 7 p.m. at Nevada County Library Community Room (980 Helling Way, Nevada City, CA 95959).

Meeting #3 – Wednesday, November 4, 2015, 5 – 7 p.m. at Yuba County Government Center Marysville and Wheatland Conference Room (915 8th Street, Marysville, CA 95901).

The Yuba River Watershed is located in northern California on the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range. The watershed encompasses 1,340 square miles in portions of Sierra, Placer, Yuba, and Nevada counties. The Yuba River is a tributary of the Feather River which, in turn, flows into the Sacramento River near the town of Verona, California. The study area begins in the city of Marysville and extends upstream approximately 90 miles, past Sierra City, California, in Sierra County. The study area map for the Yuba River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study is enclosed (Enclosure 1).

Some preliminary measures, potential components of alternatives to be carried forward in NEPA and CEQA analyses, have been identified from previously completed studies. Ensuring consideration of public input in compiling and evaluating a complete set of reasonable potential measures and alternatives is the purpose of the Scoping meetings. Most of the measures being considered thus far focus on aquatic habitat, including riparian forests and wetlands, which have been fragmented, degraded, and/or lost in the study area. The Corps and its non-Federal sponsor are scoping and designing various measures, which will be packaged into alternatives for analysis of their relative merits in addressing the problems and opportunities associated with ecosystem restoration within the study area. These preliminary measures are conceptual in nature, but all contain potential for ecosystem restoration benefits.

Your input is greatly appreciated and may be communicated at a Public Scoping meeting or in writing to the Corps. This information will be used throughout our planning and environmental impact analysis process, especially to:

- a. Further determine the scope of the analysis in the FR & DEIS.
- b. Refine the range of measures and alternatives to be evaluated in the FR & DEIS.
- c. Assist us in selecting the most beneficial and cost effective plan.

Staff from the Corps and YCWA will be on hand at the Public Scoping meetings to accept comments and address questions regarding the proposed project.

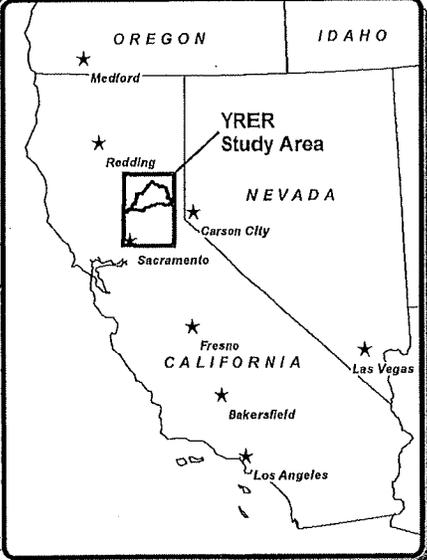
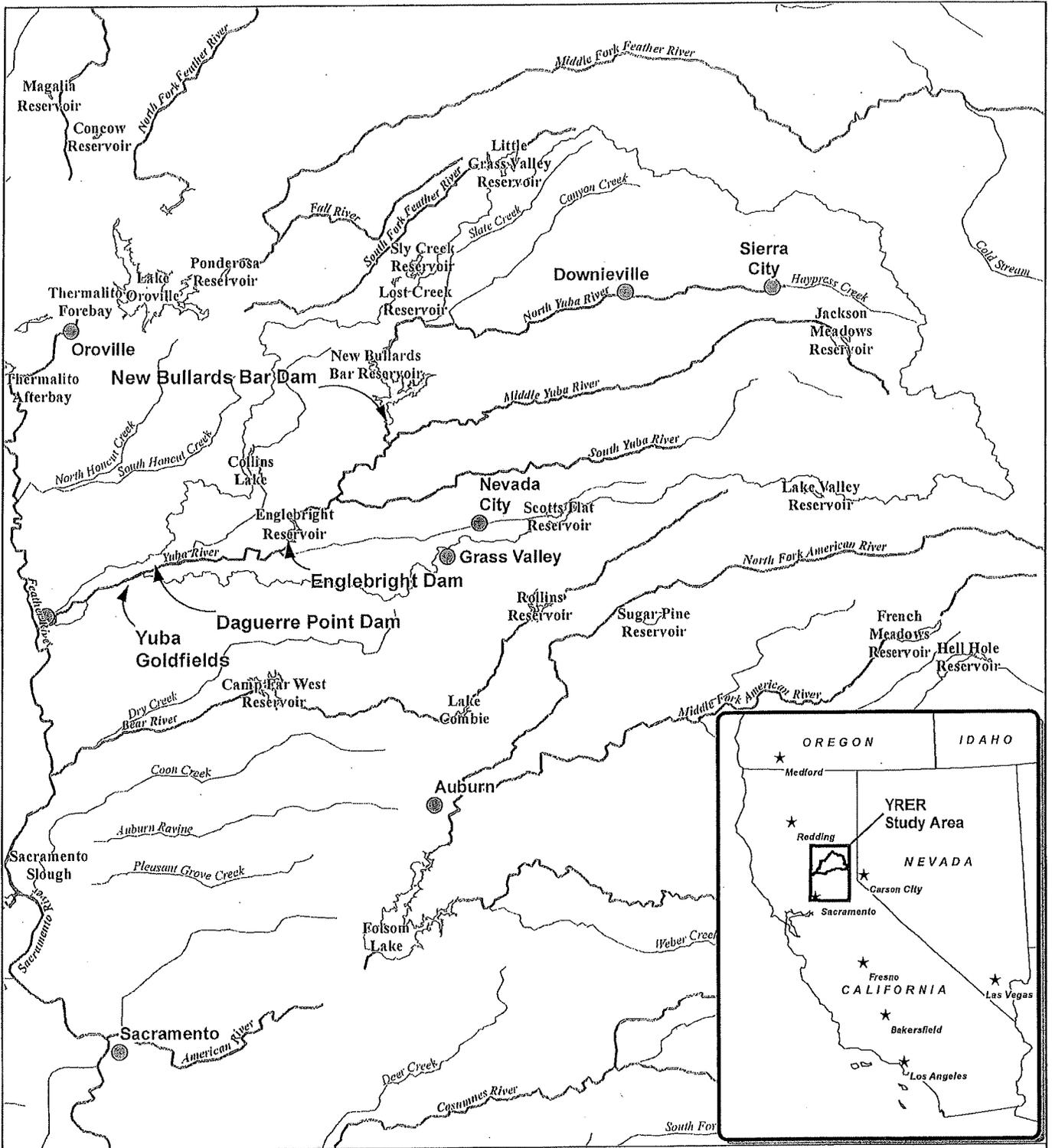
A Notice of Intent to prepare a DEIS pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act has been published in the Federal Register. The notice is available online at the Federal Register website (<https://www.federalregister.gov/>).

Written comments and suggestions about the Yuba River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study may be addressed to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, Attn: Michael Fong, CESP-K-PD-RP, 1325 J Street, Sacramento, CA, 95814-2922 or submitted by e-mail to Michael.R.Fong@usace.army.mil. Requests to be placed on the mailing list should also be sent to this address. For e-mailed comments, please include "Yuba River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study" in the subject line and include the commenter's U.S. Postal Service mailing address.

Sincerely,

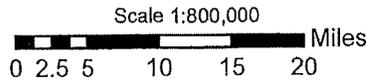


Alicia E. Kirchner
Chief, Planning Division



-  City
-  Lake/Reservoir
-  Major River
-  Stream/Canal
-  Study Area

YUBA RIVER ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION FEASIBILITY STUDY



**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS
YUBA RIVER ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION FEASIBILITY STUDY
OCTOBER 28, 2015**

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Yuba County Water Agency
PROJECT TITLE: Yuba River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study

CEQA LEAD AGENCY: Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Yuba County Water Agency (YCWA), as the CEQA lead agency, is preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on the Yuba River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study (Feasibility Study). The Feasibility Study is evaluating opportunities for ecosystem restoration in the Yuba River Watershed, located in portions of Sierra, Placer, Yuba, and Nevada counties.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District (Corps) intends to prepare an integrated Feasibility Report and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (FR & DEIS) to identify and respond to problems and opportunities associated with ecosystem restoration in the Yuba River Watershed. YCWA plans to be the non-Federal sponsor, partnering with the Corps in developing the feasibility study. The Corps will be the lead agency for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). YCWA will be lead agency for compliance with CEQA.

On October 12, 2015 YCWA issued a Notice of Preparation and Notice of Public Scoping meetings for the Yuba River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study ("Notice"). As stated in that Notice, YCWA is interested in receiving comments from Federal, state and local public agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the general public on the scope and content of the Draft EIR. Public agency responses to the Notice of Preparation (NOP) should be limited to information related to the agency's area of statutory responsibility or area of expertise in connection with the proposed project. NGOs and the public also are invited and encouraged to submit responses to the NOP. In addition, the October 12, 2015 Notice stated that three public scoping meetings will be held on the following dates.

- Wednesday, October 28, 2015, 1 - 3 p.m. at John E. Moss Federal Building Stanford Room (650 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, CA 95814).
- Thursday, October 29, 2015, 5 - 7 p.m. at Nevada County Library Community Room (980 Helling Way, Nevada City, CA 95959).
- Wednesday, November 4, 2015, 5 - 7 p.m. at Yuba County Government Center Marysville and Wheatland Conference Room (915 8th Street, Marysville, CA 95901).

In response to a request from interested parties in Sierra County, a fourth public meeting will be held on the following date.

- Thursday, November 5, 2015, 4 - 6 p.m. at Downieville Community Hall 327 Main Street, Downieville, CA.

The following 12 pages contain YCWA's October 12, 2015 CEQA Notice of Preparation. Please provide your response at the earliest possible date and, in any event, not later than 30 days after your receipt of this Supplemental Notice. (See CEQA Guidelines, Subsection 15082(b).) Please send your response to one of the two individuals listed below:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
Attn: Michael Fong, CESP-K-PD-RP
1325 J Street
Sacramento, CA, 95814-2922

Dianne Simodynes
HDR Engineering, Inc.
2365 Iron Point Road, Suite 300
Folsom, CA 95630
ATTN: Yuba River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study NOP

E-mail comments should be submitted within 30 days and addressed to:

Michael.P.Fong@usace.army.mil

or

YPER_Feasibility_Study_CEO@hdrinc.com

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS
YUBA RIVER ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION FEASIBILITY STUDY
OCTOBER 12, 2015**

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District (Corps), in cooperation with the Yuba County Water Agency (YCWA), is conducting a cost-shared Feasibility Study to identify and respond to problems and opportunities associated with ecosystem restoration in the Yuba River Watershed. The authority to study the Sacramento River Basin, including the Yuba River watershed, for flood control and allied purposes, was granted in the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1962, Public Law 87-874, Section 209. A reconnaissance study of ecosystem restoration opportunities in the Yuba River watershed was conducted during 2014 under the authorization of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of 2014, Division D of Public Law 113-76, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014. The Civil Works study process provides a systematic and rational framework for developing and analyzing alternative plans. The Feasibility Study will be conducted under the Corps' "SMART" Planning framework, an efficient, risk-informed process.

The Corps will be the lead agency for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). As the Federal lead agency for NEPA compliance, the Corps intends to prepare an integrated Feasibility Report and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (FR & DEIS) to identify and respond to problems and opportunities associated with ecosystem restoration in the Yuba River Watershed. A Notice of Intent to prepare a FR & DEIS pursuant to NEPA has been published in the Federal Register. The notice is available online at the Federal Register website (<https://www.federalregister.gov>). YCWA plans to be the non-Federal sponsor, partnering with the Corps in developing the Feasibility Study.

CEQA LEAD AGENCY DETERMINATION

YCWA has determined that it will be the lead agency for California Environmental Compliance Act (CEQA) compliance purposes. Pursuant to CEQA, where a project is to be carried out or approved by more than one public agency, only one agency, referred to as the lead agency, shall be responsible for preparation of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project (CEQA Guidelines Section 15050). According to CEQA criteria for identifying the lead agency, YCWA is the appropriate lead agency for the Yuba River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study (Feasibility Study) because: (1) YCWA plans to be the non-Federal sponsor for the Feasibility Study; (2) YCWA, as the non-Federal cost-share partner, may share responsibility with the Corps for implementing the selected alternative, or the selected suite of measures, that may be identified as an outcome of the Feasibility Study; and (3) YCWA is the only non-Federal public agency involved in the study and, thus, may have responsibility for supervising or approving the selected alternative or the selected suite of measures under CEQA (14 CCR § 15051).

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of the Feasibility Study is to identify and respond to problems and opportunities associated with ecosystem restoration in the Yuba River Watershed. Ecosystem restoration is one of the primary missions of the Corps' Civil Works program (Corps 2014). The Corps' ecosystem restoration planning objective is to contribute to national ecosystem restoration (NER), and the stated objective of Civil Works ecosystem restoration is to "*restore degraded ecosystem structure, function, and dynamic*

processes to a less degraded, more natural condition” (Corps Engineering Regulation 1105-2-100). Contributions to NER outputs are increases in the net quantity and/or quality of desired ecosystem resources over the period of analysis (e.g., 50 years).

Preliminary data indicate that there are significant NER benefits associated with the restoration of structures, functions, and processes in the Yuba River. In addition to the Corps’ NER, the non-Federal sponsor may develop a Locally Preferred Plan (LPP). The Feasibility Report will identify both the Federal NER plan and the non-Federal sponsor’s LPP.

Based on the problems and opportunities identified for the study area during the Corps’ reconnaissance study, project objectives were preliminarily developed to address the following two broad categories of problems:

- (1) the quality and quantity of aquatic, riparian, and general floodplain habitat have been diminished and ecosystem structure, functions, and dynamic processes are degraded; and (2) aquatic habitat, including riparian vegetation and wetlands, is fragmented,

and the following three broad categories of opportunities:

- (1) there is an opportunity to create spatial structure to provide for reproductive isolation among Chinook salmon runs or stocks; (2) there is an opportunity to reintroduce anadromous salmonids into the upper Yuba River watershed; and (3) there is an opportunity to restore high-quality, complex side-channel habitat in the lower Yuba River.

Specific planning objectives will be developed by the Corps and YCWA, with input from other stakeholders, during the Feasibility Study process. Specific objectives will identify how the Corps’ NER and the non-Federal sponsor’s LPP can reduce the risk of continued undesired outcomes (e.g., anadromous salmonid species decline) or increase the likelihood of desired outcomes (e.g., expand miles of accessible riparian habitat).

PROJECT LOCATION

The Yuba River Watershed is located in northern California on the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range. The watershed encompasses 1,340 square miles in portions of Sierra, Placer, Yuba, and Nevada counties. The Yuba River is a tributary of the Feather River which, in turn, flows into the Sacramento River near the town of Verona. A vicinity map (**Figure 1**) and a study area map (**Figure 2**) for the Yuba River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study are included at the end of this notice.

The primary watercourses of the upper Yuba River Watershed are the North Yuba River, the Middle Yuba River and the South Yuba River. The South Yuba River flows into Englebright Reservoir. The Middle Yuba River flows into the North Yuba River and, at their confluence, the upper Yuba River begins. The upper Yuba River then flows approximately 7.8 miles downstream to Englebright Dam. Englebright Dam’s reservoir extends approximately 8 miles from its high water surface elevation at RM 32.2 to the Englebright Dam at RM 24 (YSF 2013). Below Englebright Dam, the lower Yuba River reach extends approximately 24 miles downstream to its confluence with the Feather River. The study area begins in the city of Marysville and extends upstream approximately 90 miles, past Sierra City, California, in Sierra County.

Daguerre Point Dam is located on the lower Yuba River approximately 11.5 river miles (RM) upstream from the confluence of the lower Yuba and lower Feather rivers near Marysville (USACE 2013). Owned by USACE, Daguerre Point Dam is a 25 feet (ft) tall, low-head dam across the lower Yuba River. There is

no reservoir associated with this dam. Englebright Dam, located approximately 12.3 miles upstream of Daguerre Point Dam, is a 260-ft tall concrete dam also owned by USACE. Located on the Yuba River approximately 18 miles upstream of Englebright Dam, the 645 ft high New Bullards Bar Dam (owned by YCWA) is the tallest man-made structure in the Yuba River Watershed.

The Yuba River flows through forest, foothill chaparral, and agricultural lands. Levees are absent from most of its course except for near the lower Yuba River's confluence with the Feather River. At that point, the lower Yuba River is bounded by setback levees for approximately six miles (USACE 2014).

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The Feasibility Study is a cooperative effort between the Corps and YCWA that will identify and respond to problems and opportunities associated with ecosystem restoration in the Yuba River Watershed.

The Corps and YCWA are currently in the early stages of developing preliminary measures for consideration during the Feasibility Study process. A measure is a feature or an activity that can be implemented at a specific geographic location to address one or more planning objective (Corps 2014). According to the Civil Works ecosystem restoration process, measures are generally components that are grouped together to form alternatives.

Most of the measures presently being considered focus on aquatic habitat, including riparian vegetation and wetlands, which have been fragmented and lost in the study area. The Corps and YCWA, as the non-Federal sponsor, are presently in the process of scoping and designing various measures, which will be packaged into alternatives for analysis of their relative merits in addressing the problems and opportunities associated with ecosystem restoration within the study area. The preliminary measures identified to date are conceptual in nature, but each of them contains ecosystem restoration benefits. Examples of opportunities that could be addressed by the current list of potential measures include the following:

- Restoring aquatic habitat connectivity, including fish passage and restoring floodplain connectivity.
- Restoring aquatic habitat quantity and quality, including restoring riparian vegetation and structure, improving anadromous salmonid adult spawning habitat, and improving anadromous salmonid juvenile rearing habitat.

Several potential measures were identified during the Corps' reconnaissance study and are presented in the document titled "*Yuba River Ecosystem Restoration Section 905(b) Analysis*" (Corps 2014). These preliminary measures may be considered to conceptually represent a range of measures that could be applied to ecosystem restoration within the Yuba River Watershed. The final form of a measure, or a suite of measures that could be combined to form an alternative, may be different from those that are listed below.

Aquatic Habitat Connectivity

- Reconstruct fish ladders at Daguerre Point Dam
- Construct step pools up to Daguerre Point Dam
- Construct a fish bypass around Daguerre Point Dam
- Remove Daguerre Point Dam
- Notch Englebright Dam and install a partial fish ladder
- Remove Englebright Dam
- Construct a second dam as step to Englebright Dam
- Install a full fish ladder at Englebright Dam
- Construct a fish bypass around Englebright Dam
- Collect and transport fish around Englebright Dam
- Collect and transport fish around New Bullards Bar Dam
- Hallwood-Cordua fish screen improvement
- South Yuba/Brophy fish screen improvement

Habitat Restoration

- Sinoro Bar shot-rock removal, gravel placement
- Shot-rock stabilization
- Deer Creek gravel augmentation
- Gravel placement
- Upper Rose Bar improvement with local gravel
- Native riparian vegetation plantings
- Address predator control issues at Daguerre Point Dam, and/or throughout the river in general
- Daguerre Alley side-channel or other side-channel constructions
- Rice field juvenile anadromous salmonid rearing habitat
- Floodplain juvenile anadromous salmonid rearing habitat restoration
- Natural habitat features (such as root wads, whole trees, and wood jams) installation
- Engineered riffles or boulder fields to reduce velocities and restore channel complexity
- Bioengineering features to facilitate vegetation establishment
- Install new security features or reconstruct existing barriers, etc. to limit public access (where access is currently prohibited) at Daguerre Point Dam to reduce poaching.
- Genetic Integrity
- Segregation structure (weir or gate) for spring- and fall-run Chinook salmon downstream of Englebright Dam
- Segregation structure for wild and hatchery fish
- Collect and transport fish around Englebright Dam
- Collect and transport fish around New Bullards Bar Dam and Reservoir
- Coordinated management with Feather River operations and hatchery

Genetic Diversity/Integrity

- Segregation structure (weir or gate) for spring- and fall-run Chinook salmon downstream of Englebright Dam
- Segregation structure for wild and hatchery fish
- Collect and transport fish around Englebright Dam
- Collect and transport fish around New Bullards Bar Dam and Reservoir
- Coordinate management with Feather River operations and hatchery

Potential measures will be evaluated and compared to determine how well they would meet specific ecosystem restoration planning objectives, and to what degree the measures would result in restoration of a functioning, self-sustaining ecosystem within the study area.

Together with the Corps, and as the CEQA lead agency, YCWA believes that it is important to provide interested stakeholders and members of the public with an opportunity to provide input into the identification and development of potential measures and alternatives for consideration in the Feasibility Study, and, subsequently, the Public Review Draft EIR for the project. Information received through public comments on this NOP and during the public scoping process will be used to: (1) further determine the scope of the Feasibility Study and the Public Review Draft EIR; (2) refine the range of measures and/or alternatives to be evaluated; (3) assist in the development of the environmental analyses; and (4) assist the Corps and YCWA in selecting the most beneficial and cost effective proposed plan.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AND CONSIDERATIONS

The scoping process is designed to elicit comments from CEQA responsible, trustee and commenting agencies, other interested organizations, and members of the public on the scope of the potential environmental effects and issues to be addressed in the Public Review Draft EIR. Comments on potential effects will be noted and addressed as appropriate in the Public Review Draft EIR.

The Public Review Draft EIR will focus on potential effects that could result from implementation of the activities identified in the Feasibility Study for the proposed plan. The EIR will assess the physical changes to the environment that would likely result from the construction and operation of proposed restoration activities, including direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts.

The Public Review Draft EIR will analyze the beneficial and adverse effects of implementing the alternatives (or suite of measures) that are developed and proposed as part of the Feasibility Study. A brief initial list of issues anticipated to be discussed in the EIR is presented below.

- **Aesthetics** - Potential impacts could occur both during construction and after potential restoration measures are built and operating. Potential issues associated with aesthetics in relation to the proposed ecosystem restoration measures could obstruct high quality or important views of the landscape during either construction or operation of ecosystem restoration measures.
- **Agriculture and Forestry Resources** - Potential impacts could occur as a result of construction and operation of ecosystem restoration activities on agricultural and forestry resources.
- **Air Quality** - Construction and operation of ecosystem restoration activities could emit air emissions, which could impact air quality.
- **Biological Resources** - Construction and operation of ecosystem restoration activities could occur within existing sensitive habitats, and could have the potential to affect biological resources, particularly those associated with wetland and riparian areas. The proposed project could result in changes to wildlife habitat, natural movement corridors, and disturbance of sensitive species during construction.
- **Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (including but not limited to Federal and/or state listed species)** - Potential impacts could occur as a result of construction and operation of ecosystem restoration activities.

- **Cultural Resources** - Construction and operation of the ecosystem restoration activities could require construction of measures both above and below ground. Issues regarding cultural resources during construction activities could include disturbance of known or unknown archeological sites, paleontological resources, or human remains where groundbreaking activities occur, as well as disturbance or alteration of structures with historical importance.
- **Geology and Soils** - The construction and operation of potential ecosystem restoration measures could be subject to potential seismic and geologic hazards, including ground shaking, liquefaction, soil stability conditions, soil erosion rates, expansive soils, and landslides.
- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions** - Construction and operation of the ecosystem restoration activities could generate greenhouse gas emissions that would result in direct or indirect impacts, or could conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.
- **Hazards and Hazardous Materials** - Excavation during construction of proposed restoration activities could uncover contaminated soils or hazardous substances that pose a substantial hazard to human health or the environment.
- **Hydrology and Water Quality** - Construction and operation of proposed ecosystem restoration activities may change local drainage patterns at construction sites, which could affect the volume and quality of surface runoff which, in turn, could affect local surface water resources. Considered cumulatively, the proposed restoration activities may also change regional drainage patterns, which could affect the hydrology, hydraulics, and water quality of streams and rivers. Potential impacts related to flood control also should be considered.
- **Land Use and Planning** - Issues associated with land use and planning could result from construction and operation of proposed ecosystem restoration activities. Issues associated with these components could include compatibility with adjacent land uses or zoning designations, consistency with relevant land use policies, and access to adjacent land during new construction.
- **Mineral Resources** - Potential direct and indirect impacts on mineral resources could occur as a result of potential ecosystem restoration measures.
- **Noise** - Potential noise-related impacts may occur as a result of construction and operation of ecosystem restoration activities.
- **Population and Housing** - Proposed ecosystem restoration activities could result in impacts on population and housing or induced growth.
- **Public Services** - Construction and operation of the proposed ecosystem restoration activities is unlikely to affect demand for public services, or, by itself, to require new or expanded facilities for public service providers. However, the EIR will assess the potential for the proposed restoration measures to affect police and fire protection services, schools, parks, and recreational facilities, such that new or expanded buildings or structures may be required that would, in turn, affect the environment.
- **Recreation** - Potential direct and indirect impacts, particularly to water-oriented recreation, could occur both during construction and after potential ecosystem restoration measures are constructed and operational.

- **Transportation/Traffic** - Construction of the proposed ecosystem restoration measures could affect traffic on local roadways as a result of vehicle trips associated with hauling of material and equipment, road closures and detours, increased demand for parking to serve construction workers, and increase in traffic hazards caused by construction activities.
- **Utilities and Service Systems** - Potential issues related to the construction and operation of proposed ecosystem restoration measures include the temporary disruption or impediment of utilities services surrounding areas where the proposed measures would be constructed or operated.

In compliance with CEQA, the Public Review Draft EIR will also examine a reasonable range of alternatives to the proposed project, including the CEQA-mandated No Project Alternative, and other potential alternatives that may be capable of avoiding or substantially reducing any of the significant effects of the project. In addition, the Public Review Draft EIR will describe the indirect effects and the cumulative effects of the alternatives (or suite of measures) that are proposed as part of the Feasibility Study in conjunction with other past, present and reasonably foreseeable actions. Other CEQA mandated sections (e.g., growth inducement, etc.) will also be included in the EIR.

PROCESS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Joint Scoping Process for the Corps' EIS and YCWA's EIR

For the Feasibility Study, a joint scoping process is being conducted to obtain public input in a manner that is convenient, efficient, and integrated. Because the Corps (the NEPA Lead Agency) will need to comply with Federal environmental law requirements, and because YCWA (the CEQA Lead Agency) will need to comply with California environmental law requirements, it is anticipated that the Corps' actions result in an EIS, and that YCWA's actions will result in an EIR, for the proposed project. The lead agencies will seek public input during scoping meetings in October and November 2015 on topics, issues, and measures and alternatives to be considered in YCWA's EIR and in the Corps' EIS.

Scoping is an open process of eliciting comment on the contents of the EIR and the EIS from responsible, trustee, commenting, cooperating and reviewing agencies, and interested parties. The views of your agency, relative to the statutory responsibilities of your agency in connection with the proposed project, are being solicited in an effort to determine the scope and content of the environmental document. The Corps' integrated feasibility report and Public Review Draft EIS is scheduled to be available for public review and comment during December 2016. YCWA's Public Review Draft EIR also is anticipated to be available for public review during December 2016.

Public Scoping Meetings

Dates and Locations: Three public scoping meetings will be held on the following dates and locations:

- Meeting #1 – Wednesday, October 28, 2015, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. at John E. Moss Federal Building Stanford Room (650 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, CA 95814).
- Meeting #2 – Thursday, October 29, 2015, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Nevada County Library Community Room (980 Helling Way, Nevada City, CA 95959).
- Meeting #3 – Wednesday, November 4, 2015, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Yuba County Government Center Marysville and Wheatland Conference Room (915 8th Street, Marysville, CA 95901).

Special Assistance. If you require special assistance during public meetings, please contact Dianne Simodynes at HDR Engineering, Inc., (916) 817-4734 or by email: DianneSimodynes@hdrinc.com. Please notify Ms. Simodynes as far in advance of the scoping meetings as possible to enable the provision of the needed services. If a request cannot be honored, the requestor will be notified.

Representatives from YCWA and the Corps will be present during the Public Scoping meetings to receive comments and to address questions regarding the proposed project.

Response to Notice of Preparation

Written comments on the scope and content of the environmental information to be addressed in the Public Review Draft EIR, should be sent to Dianne Simodynes, HDR Engineering, Inc., 2365 Iron Point Road, Suite 300 Folsom, CA 95630 by November 13, 2015. Written comments also may be submitted by e-mail to: YRER_Feasibility_Study_CEQA@hdrinc.com

For e-mailed comments, please include “ATTN: Yuba River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study NOP” in the subject line, attach comments in MS Word format, and include the commenter’s U.S. Postal Service mailing address.

Requests to be placed on the Project mailing list should also be sent to the mailing or e-mail address listed above.

Disclosure of Public Comments

YCWA’s practice is to make comments, including names and addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their addresses from public disclosure, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There may be other circumstances in which we would withhold a respondent’s identity from public disclosure, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make available for public disclosure all submissions, in their entirety, from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses.

Yuba River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study Documentation

Documents related to the Yuba River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study are available for public viewing at the Yuba County Water Agency (including its website <http://www.ycwa.com>) and at: <http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/Portals/12/documents/environmental/Yuba%20River%20905b%20Analysis%2010-20-14.pdf>. For additional information regarding viewing of related documentation contact: Jeanene Upton, Yuba County Water Agency, 1220 F Street, Marysville, CA 95901 – (530) 741-5000.

Intended Uses of the EIR

CEQA requires that state and local government agencies consider the environmental effects of proposed projects over which they have discretionary authority before taking action on those projects. CEQA also requires that each public agency avoid or mitigate to less-than-significant levels, wherever feasible, the significant environmental effects of projects it approves or implements. The purpose of an EIR is “to identify the significant effects on the environment of a project, to identify alternatives to the project, and to indicate the manner in which those significant effects can be mitigated or avoided” (Pub. Res. Code Subsection 21002.1(a)). YCWA will consider the information containing in the EIR prior to taking any

action to implement the project being proposed (i.e., Yuba River ecosystem restoration measures). The EIR also will provide information for other agencies that may have permitting authorities or interests in the Yuba River Watershed.

A responsible agency is a public agency with discretionary approval authority over a portion of a CEQA project (CEQA Guidelines Section 15381). Responsible agencies under CEQA may include, but are not limited to:

- Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
- California State Mining and Geology Board
- Central Valley Flood Protection Board

A trustee agency is a state agency having jurisdiction by law over natural resources affected by a project which are held in trust for the people of the State of California (CEQA Guidelines Section 15386). Trustee agencies under CEQA with jurisdiction over resources within the study area include:

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- California State Lands Commission
- California State Parks

A commenting agency is a public agency with "jurisdiction by law" over a particular natural resource, but is neither a lead agency nor a responsible agency. Commenting agencies under CEQA may include, but are not limited to:

- Feather River Air Quality Management District
- Northern Sierra Air Management District
- Placer County Air Pollution Control District

Federal agencies with jurisdiction over resources within the study area that may be potentially affected by the alternatives (or suite of measures) that are proposed as part of the Feasibility Study include:

- U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- United States Forest Service
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Bureau of Land Management

Draft EIR Public Review

Following receipt of all written and verbal comments, including those provided at the Public Scoping meetings identified above, YCWA will begin preparation of a Draft EIR that will evaluate the issue areas identified above. The Public Review Draft EIR will be circulated for a 45-day public review period. Public hearings/meetings will be held during the public review period to receive comment on the Public Review Draft EIR.

NEPA Compliance

The Corps is the Federal lead agency for the Feasibility Study and will be responsible for ensuring that the EIS will satisfy the requirements of NEPA. The Corps' NEPA processes include issuance of a Notice of Intent (NOI), public scoping, Public Review Draft EIS review and comment period, public meetings to receive comments on the Public Review Draft EIS, preparation of a Final EIS including responses to comments received on the Public Review Draft EIS and preparation of a Record of Decision (ROD).

This NOP has been distributed to responsible agencies, trustee agencies, potentially involved Federal agencies and other interested parties.

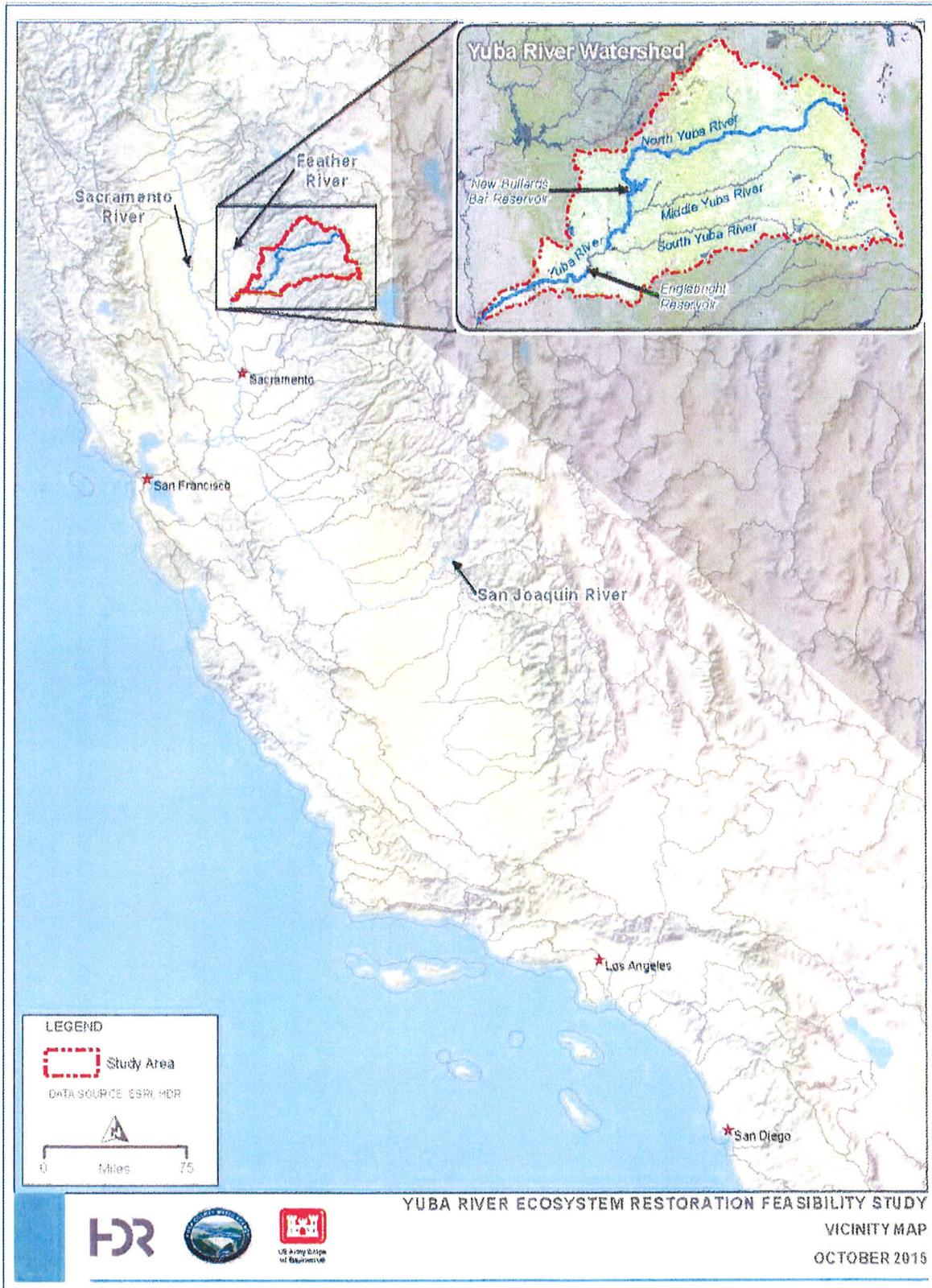


Figure 1. Vicinity Map.

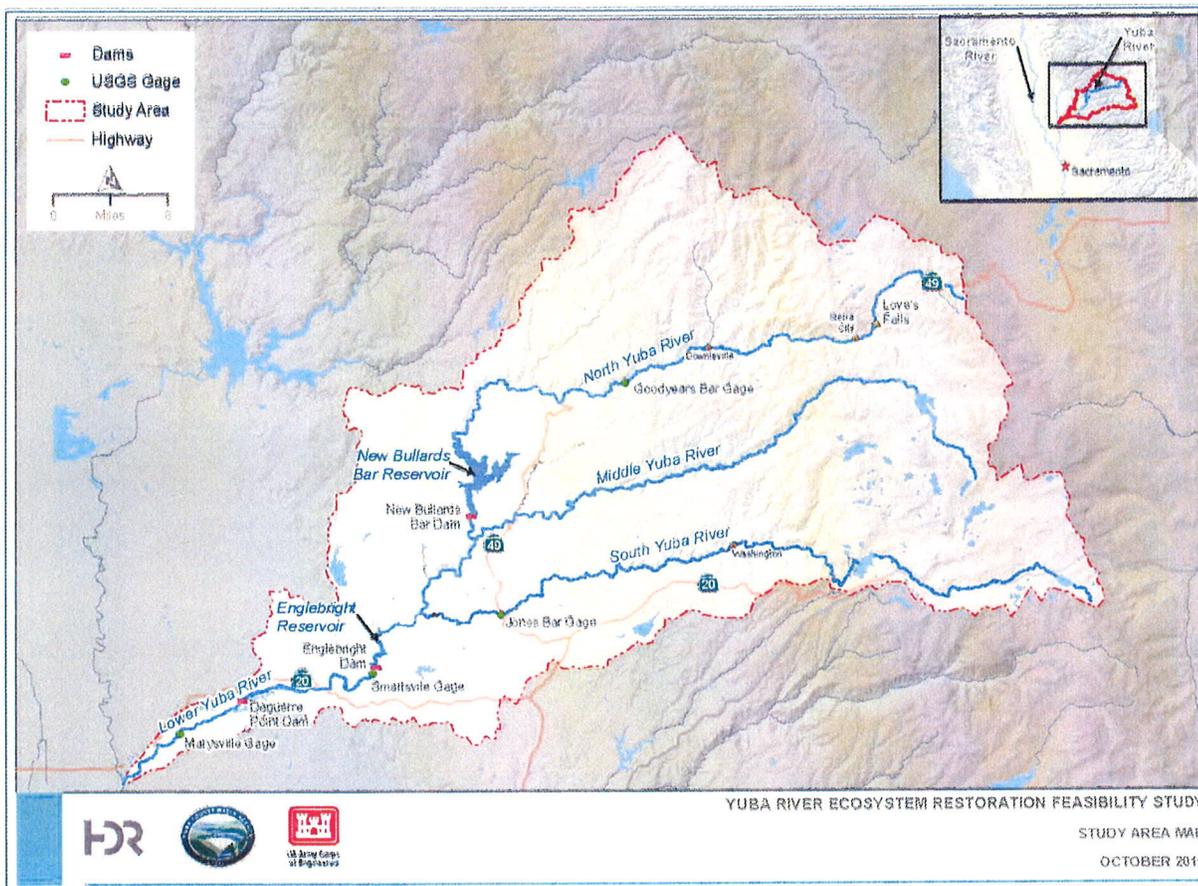


Figure 2. Study Area Map.