



*To advance the economic, social and environmental sustainability of Northern California  
by enhancing and preserving the water rights, supplies and water quality.*

**Fremont Weir Modifications, Reconnecting the Yolo Bypass  
with the Sacramento River, and Opportunities to Manage Water for  
Multiple Benefits in the Sacramento Valley  
May 30, 2018**

As many of California's leaders gather today at the Fremont Weir, the Northern California Water Association (NCWA) and Sacramento Valley water suppliers congratulate the state and federal administrations and various partners in advancing the Fremont Weir Adult Fish Passage Modification Project and the related investments surrounding the Yolo Bypass, such as Wallace Weir, to re-connect the Yolo Bypass with the Sacramento River.

The Sacramento Valley has an amazing bypass system that has protected the City of Sacramento and other parts of the Sacramento Valley from flooding for nearly a century. The gathering today showcases an important project and a larger opportunity to continue to manage floodwaters in the Sacramento Valley--while re-imagining a 21<sup>st</sup> century water system where the traditional floodplain is re-connected with the Sacramento River system in a safe and thoughtful way that provides *multiple benefits*. This includes livable habitat, enhanced migratory corridors and nourishment for salmon, birds, smelt, and other wildlife, as well as helping to recharge our vital groundwater resources.

Importantly, leading scientists from nearby University of California, Davis and throughout the world are pointing towards the value and importance of re-activating floodplains as the key element to improve conditions for fish within a managed water system like the Sacramento Valley. To pursue this course and improve conditions for fish and wildlife, we support a new and different path forward in California that listens to the leading scientists and encourages water resources management that brings our ecosystems to life through the interaction of water, sun and land. The Sacramento Valley is fertile ground for this new path, which we believe can be further advanced by reconnecting the floodplain with our rivers as envisioned by the Fremont Weir modifications and related actions.

We have learned from and been encouraged by the recent success of [Butte Creek Salmon Recovery](#) in the Sacramento Valley, which has shown the promise of salmon recovery when the floodplain (in this case the Sutter Bypass and Butte Sink) has been connected to the creek in a way that allows for nourishment, spawning and safe rearing and migration.

For more information on serving water for multiple benefits in the Sacramento Valley, see [here](#). For modern flows for the Sacramento Valley, see [here](#).

We look forward to working with the state and federal administrations and various partners to further implement this modern approach through the federal [Recovery Plan for Sacramento River Salmon](#) and the Natural Resources Agency's [Sacramento Valley Salmon Resiliency Strategy](#), [Delta Smelt Resiliency Strategy](#), and voluntary agreement process.

For more information on *Floodplains: Processes and Management for Ecosystem Services*, see the [UC Press](#).

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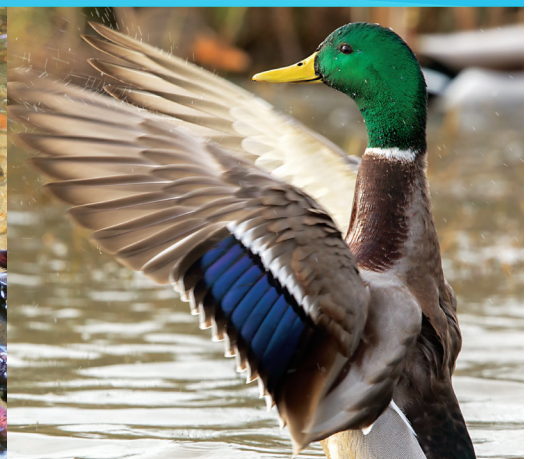
# Managing Water in the Sacramento Valley for Multiple Benefits

**Water resources managers in the Sacramento Valley are actively implementing various multi-benefit programs and projects** for the 21st century that “restores natural aquatic or riparian functions or wetlands habitat for birds and aquatic species, protects or promotes the restoration of endangered or threatened species, enhances the reliability of water supplies on a regional and inter-regional basis, and provides significant regional or statewide economic benefits.” – Proposition 68

The Sacramento Valley is a unique place. Bounded on the east by the Sierra Nevada and the west by the Coast Range, the Valley sweeps 150 miles from Redding to Sacramento.

A mosaic of beautiful, picturesque farmland, world-class wildlife reserves and thriving communities—interwoven with dynamic rivers and streams. Nowhere are natural and human resources more closely integrated and cared for than the Sacramento Valley.

The Sacramento Valley is a funnel that focuses water from the Sierra Nevada, Cascade and Coastal Range into a highly managed system that protects people from floods and makes water supplies available at the right time, with the same water serving multiple beneficial purposes for the natural and working landscape as it flows through the Valley.





Families have built farms and communities based on the Sacramento Valley's unique blessing of water, soil and sun. Today, **nearly two million acres of pastoral family farms**—world renowned ricelands, nuts, fruit, tomatoes, fresh produce and irrigated pasture—propel the Valley's economic engine. The Valley's farmland is unique in the way it provides habitat and food for salmon and birds along the Pacific Flyway.

The home for California's capital and more than 3 million people. Half of these people live in the Sacramento metropolitan area, with the other half sprinkled in rural communities throughout the Valley. The Sacramento Valley has a deep connection between the urban and rural areas that is reflected in **Sacramento's designation as America's Farm to Fork Capital**.

Four runs of **salmon migrate and spawn in different parts of the Sacramento Valley**, with the winter-run and spring run considered endangered. Every part of the water system has been re-managed in the past several decades to improve conditions for salmon through active collaboration as part of the [Sacramento Valley Salmon Recovery Program](#).

The Pacific Flyway is a resource of international significance. The Sacramento Valley has **seven National Wildlife Refuges, more than 50 state wildlife areas and ricelands that serve as habitat for nearly 250 species**. Water diversions for ricelands and refuges provide much-needed food and habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds and other species. The Flyway is heaven on earth for wildlife enthusiasts, naturalists and birdwatchers.

The forests and meadows in the numerous watersheds of the Sierra Nevada, Cascade and Coast Range that **provide recreation and serve as the vital headwaters** for the region.



## Like a human fingerprint, California's Sacramento Valley is truly unique.

On the leading edge of ecological and economical sustainability, it's also an exceptional place to live, work and raise a family. The Sacramento Valley joins together a world-renowned mosaic of natural abundance: productive farmlands, wildlife refuges and managed wetlands, cities and rural communities, and meandering rivers that support and feed fisheries and natural habitats. Through efficient management of the region's water resources, the Sacramento Valley will continue to provide what's essential to California's future success and prosperity. Nourishment and sustenance from the fields, habitats for fish and wildlife, recreation and a special quality of life — the Sacramento Valley is home to all of this, and more.



**NCWA**  
Northern California Water Association