

Prospect Island Tidal Habitat Restoration Project

Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)

In Summer 2016, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) completed the Prospect Island Tidal Habitat Restoration Project Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and as part of the Fish Restoration Program Agreement. The DEIR analyzes project alternatives and stakeholder input as part of the environmental review process for the project.

► Project Overview

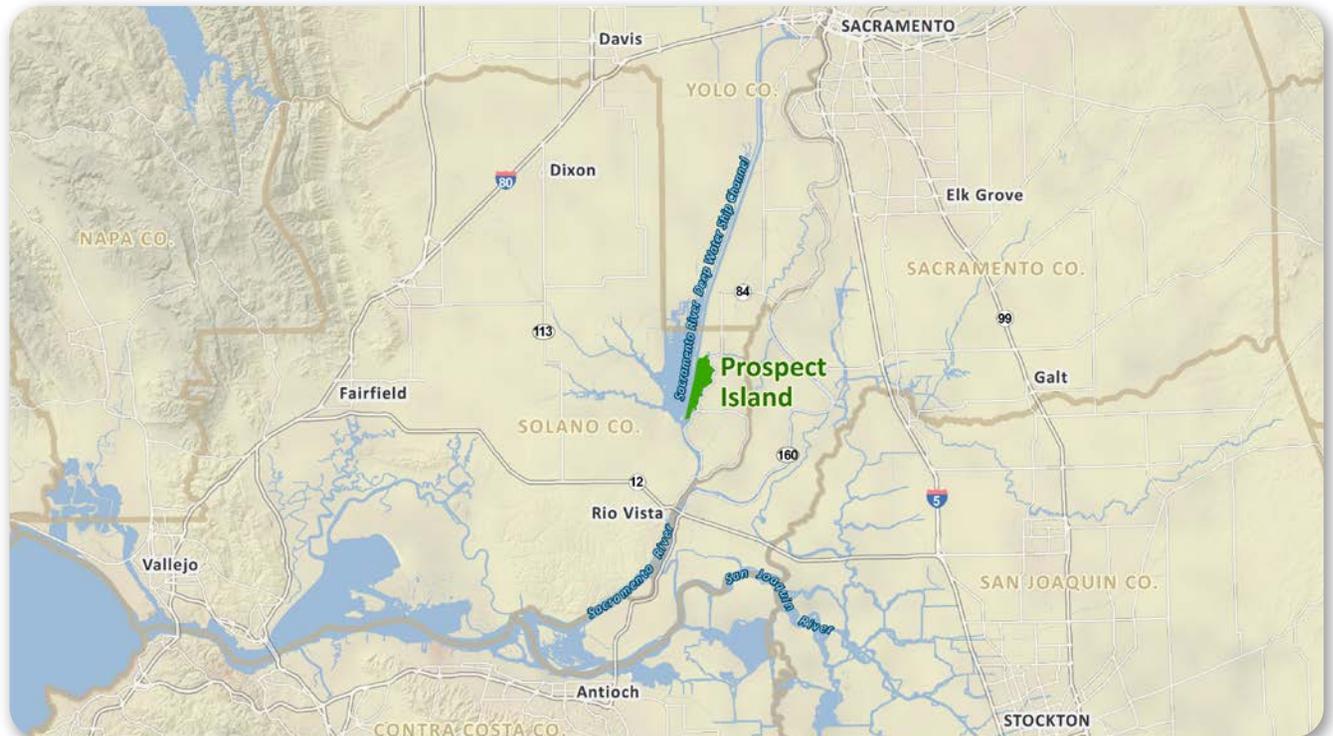
The Prospect Island Tidal Habitat Restoration Project is an approximately 1,600-acre project to restore tidal action to the interior of Prospect Island, proposed by DWR.

► Project Location

Prospect Island is located in Solano County, in the northwestern part of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

► Project Objectives

The project will enhance primary and secondary productivity and food availability for Delta Smelt and other native fishes, increase rearing habitat for salmonids and other listed species, and provide other ecosystem benefits associated with increased Delta freshwater tidal marsh Habitat. The project will also promote habitat resiliency to changes in future Delta conditions, including land use conversions, climate change, sea level rise, and invasive species.



► Key Differences Between the Proposed Project and the Action Alternatives

Project Feature	Proposed Project	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
Levee breaches/excavation	Northern Miner Slough Southern Miner Slough Internal cross levee	Central Miner Slough Southern Miner Slough Internal cross levee	Northern Miner Slough Central Miner Slough Southern Miner Slough
Levee weir	None	Northern Miner Slough	None
Dredging	Spur channel between Miner Slough and south property	None	None



Prospect Island Tidal Habitat Restoration Project

Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)

► Purpose of the DEIR

The DEIR examines the project's significant environmental impacts, informs stakeholders of the feasibility and potential impacts of a reasonable range of alternatives, and provides an analysis of the impacts of each alternative.

The DEIR incorporates public input received during the scoping phase for the project and is open to public review for a 45-day review period. During this time, both written and verbal comments regarding the adequacy of the document will be solicited. The Final EIR will address the comments that are received on the DEIR during the public review period.

The DEIR analyzes the suite of actions in the *Proposed Project* necessary for site preparation, restoration, minimizing and avoiding potential adverse impacts, post-restoration monitoring, and maintenance. The document also analyzes three *alternatives* – two action *alternatives* and the *No Action Alternative* – that were chosen based on a rigorous *alternatives* screening and selection process. These *alternatives* vary in the location and type of breaching of the levees.

► Summary of Proposed Project

Under the Proposed Project, the Miner Slough levee would be breached in two locations: one in the north property approximately 0.5 miles south of Arrowhead Harbor Marina, and one in the south property at the location of the formerly repaired breach connecting to the Miner Slough spur channel. A portion of the internal cross levee separating the north and the south properties would also be removed. Once these breaches are completed, the north and south properties would be subject to daily tidal inundation.

The Proposed Project would include the following actions:

- Pre-construction site preparation.
- Invasive species control.
- Old infrastructure and debris removal.
- Excavation of tidal slough channels.
- Placement of excavated soils into selected remnant agricultural ditches.
- Placement of excavated soils into the site interior.
- Placement of excavated soils to construct a gently-sloped eastern toe berm on the interior side of the eastern Miner Slough levee.

- Placement of excavated soils to construct an eastern intertidal bench in areas interior to the Miner Slough levee and adjacent to subtidal areas.
- Removal of a portion of the internal cross levee.
- Excavation of two levee breaches to Miner Slough.
- Placement of excavated soils into the site interior at levee breach locations.
- Dredging of the spur channel between Miner Slough and the south property and placement of dredged material within Prospect Island (if it meets sediment quality standards).

► Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The primary impacts under the Proposed Project would be short-term impacts due to construction-related activities. These include impacts to water quality, air quality, special status species and their habitat, recreational boating activities, visual aesthetics, and noise disturbance to sensitive receptors. With the exception of short-term impacts to perennial aquatic habitats and wetland communities from site dewatering, implementation of mitigation measures would reduce short-term impacts to less than significant.

Public Involvement Opportunities

To view the DEIR and for information on public involvement opportunities:

- Visit the project website at http://www.water.ca.gov/environmentalservices/frpa_prospect_restoration.cfm
- Call Dan Riordan at (916) 376-9738 or email at frpa@water.ca.gov

