

Summary Sheet

Applicant:	The Trust for Public Land	BMS No: 2010FPCP0027
Project Name:	Elkhorn Basin-River Ranch Conservation Easement Acquisition	
County:	Yolo	
Location:	On an approximately 3,000 acre portion of the north end of Elkhorn Basin between the Sacramento River and the Yolo Bypass west levee, north of Interstate 5	
Problem to Be Fixed:	<p>The land has potential to be converted from agricultural use to rural residential and more intensive urban uses. Elkhorn Basin is currently protected by agricultural levees that are not designed for urban level protection as compared with the levees protecting Sacramento on the east bank. Urbanization in the project area would cause a demand for increased flood protection. Upgrading the agriculture levees to urban levee standards could imperil levees on the east bank of the Sacramento River that protect the Natomas region of the City of Sacramento, and levees downriver of the property protecting the City of West Sacramento. If this occurs, then the future urban development risks include \$32 billion in property damage to Natomas and West Sacramento, and inundation of infrastructure (i.e. Interstate 5 and 80, State Highway 99 and 70, Sacramento International Airport, and the Port of Sacramento).</p>	
Project Description:	The proposed project requires the purchase of an agricultural conservation easement on approximately 3,000 acres of land in the Elkhorn Basin.	
Flood Benefits:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preclude development and ensure levee improvements would remain to agricultural standards • Preserve the 1957 design that gives Elkhorn Basin significant flood protection, but not as high a level as the urbanized areas of Natomas, Sacramento, and West Sacramento. If Elkhorn Basin were to flood, it would hold 50,000 ac-ft of transitory storage, or 8 feet of water, before the overflow levee at south end overtops. 	
Wildlife Benefits:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,342 acres of row crop operation will provide foraging habitat for Swainson's Hawk and other raptor species • Protect nesting and foraging habitat for raptors and habitat for migratory waterfowl and shorebirds on the Pacific Flyway • Protect wildlife-friendly agriculture adjacent to wildlife areas (Sacramento River Corridor, Fremont Weir State Wildlife Area [WA], and Sacramento River Bypass WA and Yolo Bypass WA) • Protect existing corridor linkages and the riparian corridor covering 5 miles of river frontage and 26,400 linear feet of riparian vegetation along the west bank of Sacramento River • Protect irrigation/drainage canals that support various freshwater marsh vegetation and provide Garter Snake habitat 	

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Agricultural Benefits:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conserve row crop (2342 ac; corn, alfalfa, wheat, sunflowers, tomatoes, rice, and beans) and walnut orchard (700 ac) agriculture in perpetuity on 3,042 acres of the River Ranch
Total Project Cost:	\$9,345,000
FCP Project Cost:	\$8,900,000
Assembly District No. and Representative:	Assembly District 2: Jim Nielsen
Senate District No. and Representative:	Senate District 5: Lois Wolk