

Project Summary Sheet

Project Name: River Ranch

Tracking No: 4002

Location: The site is currently used for approximately 1,000 acres of walnut production and 2,000 acres of row crops.

County: Yolo County

Project Sponsor: American Farmland Trust

Point of Contact: John McCaull, Project Manager (530) 753-1073

Co-applicant(s): None

Assembly District: # 8

Senate District: #5

Project Description (including size):

Acquire the 3,682-acre River Ranch in and adjoining the northern end of the Yolo Bypass to preserve the agricultural use of the property in perpetuity, ensure that the property is available to receive overflows from the Sacramento River in the event of a large flood in the Sacramento River and Feather/Yuba River basins, and convey legal rights to allow the State to pursue a larger regional flood control project on the River Ranch property designed to reduce the risk of flood damage to thousands of acres of developed agricultural and urban property in the lower Sacramento Valley

Flood Benefits:

Securing the River Ranch property will enhance both the short-term prospects for securing the transitory flood storage capacity of the upper Elkhorn area and the long-term prospects for increasing the conveyance capacity of the Yolo Bypass as part of a larger regional flood control project. Increasing the conveyance capacity of the Yolo Bypass will provide an even greater reduction in flood risk to these same areas by lowering water surface elevations in the Bypass and the Sacramento River and therefore reducing stress on the associated levees.

Agricultural Benefits:

The acquisition of the River Ranch property will permanently protect approximately 3,700 acres of prime farmland. The site is currently used for approximately 1,000 acres of walnut production and 2,000 acres of row crops.

Agricultural Land Conserved, acres, if any: 3,700 acres

Wildlife Benefits:

The River Ranch project will not have any physical effect on channel processes. The project site is adjacent to the Sacramento River corridor, which has a narrow strip of riparian habitat between the river levees. The project site contains

approximately 11,500 linear feet of this habitat along the west bank of the Sacramento River. The project will help protect this habitat from degradation. The site also has approximately 15,000 feet of property boundary in common with the Fremont Weir State Wildlife Area, which is well developed with freshwater marsh and riparian vegetation. The site also contains significant wintering, breeding and nesting areas for waterfowl.

Wildlife Habitat Conserved, acres, if any: 11,500 linear feet of riparian habitat.

Total area conserved: 3,700 acres

Other Benefits:

This project will affect growth by eliminating the potential for future urban development of the 3,682-acre River Ranch site and thus also deterring urban development of surrounding areas.

Total Cost: \$11,150,000

FPCP Cost: \$ 6,000,000

Funding Partners and Share of Cost:

Local Funds Contributed - \$3,000,000

In-Kind Contributions - \$2,150,000