RVERS

RIO VISTA ESTUARINE RESEARCH STATION

The Rio Vista Estuarine Research Station (RVERS) is a proposed State office facility that would be constructed on the decommissioned City of Rio Vista Army Base

Introduction

The Rio Vista Estuarine Research Station (RVERS) is a proposed State office facility that would be constructed on the decommissioned City of Rio Vista Army Base. The proposed facility would consolidate over 160 agency employees (Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Department of Water Resources) in the Interagency Ecological Program (IEP) into one riverfront location. The project will be designed to integrate into the City of Rio Vista's Army Base redevelopment project that includes a proposed Delta Interpretive Center, and a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge for the threatened delta smelt.

Benefits of the project include a reduction in IEP operations costs over the life of the project and economic stimulus for Rio Vista and the surrounding Delta. In addition, the new center would provide a focus for threatened fish research and conservation, resulting in improved science to reduce the economic costs of managing delta smelt and other fishes.

Project Authorization

- Project has been approved by State of California Department of Finance.
- State Water Contractor's support the State's share of RVERS cost.
- The USFWS Fish Technology Center and delta smelt refuge in Rio Vista are included in President's Interim Federal Action Plan for the California Bay-Delta (Dec. 22, 2009).

State Programmatic Requirements

The program requires approximately 10 acres and buildings of 107,000 square feet to accommodate:

- Office and work space for approximately 160 employees
- Wet & dry laboratories
- Lab chemical storage facility
- Warehouse storage for lab samples and field equipment with staging areas
- Boat storage
- Vehicle and boat repair shop
- Open field experiment yard
- Wet slips with docks and boat ramp

City of Rio Vista

The City of Rio Vista took ownership of the former US Army Reserve Center in 2003 and plans to redevelop the historic 28-acre waterfront site with a mix of public and commercial recreational uses, including:

- Delta scientific research facilities
- Delta Ecology Center to interpret delta fisheries and natural and cultural resources
- Delta Discovery Park, picnic area and trail
- Ancillary recreation-serving retail
- Community-serving recreation facilities

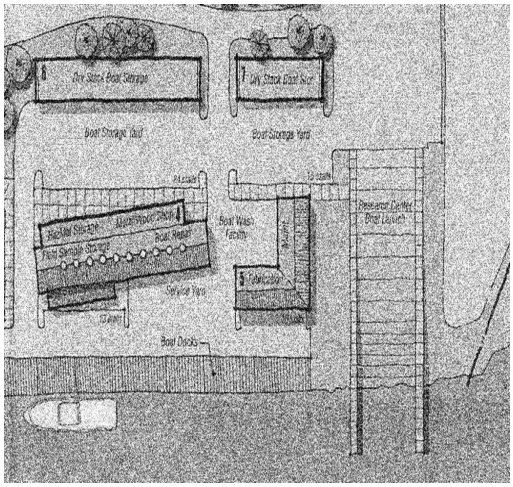
Field studies in the Delta

Project Planning

- MOU's with DWR and USFWS (current)
- Rio Vista Army Base Redevelopment Project Plan (2010)
- Rio Vista Army Base Redevelopment Plan EIR (2011)
- Army Environmental Assessment and Finding of Suitability to Transfer (2002)
- Local Reuse Plan and General Plan (2001)

Project Goals

1. Sustainable "green" development that respects unique waterfront location
2. Mixed public-private recreational uses
3. Enhance site aesthetics and environment
4. Community, regional, state and federal partnerships
5. Delta research and education cluster
6. Community economic benefits



Conceptual site plan
Science Research Center/Field Station
- by WARE MALCOMB