



# East Sand Slough Side Channel Project

## Overview

The East Sand Slough Side Channel Project (Project) along the Sacramento River in Tehama County is a salmonid rearing habitat restoration project that will create a new, 2-mile flowing side channel and floodplain. Located at river mile 246 adjacent to the City of Red Bluff, the Project aims to increase and improve salmon and steelhead rearing habitat, as well as enhance recreational activities.

## Background

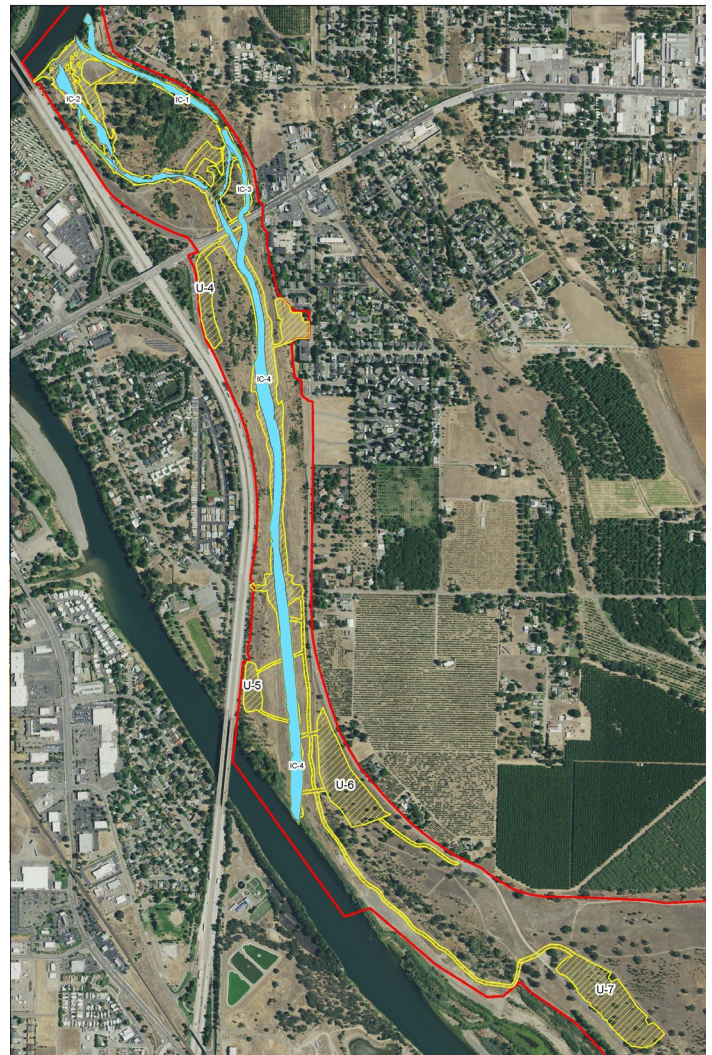


*The excavator is relocating utility lines for telecommunications.*

The Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) directs the Department of the Interior to develop and implement a continuing program to restore and replenish salmonid spawning gravel lost due to the construction and operation of Central Valley Project dams, bank protection projects, and other actions that have reduced the availability of spawning gravel and rearing habitat in the Upper Sacramento River from Keswick Dam to Red Bluff Diversion Dam.

CVPIA restoration actions along the Sacramento River are coordinated with the Sacramento River Restoration Team, an interagency group that provides technical support in the development of salmonid spawning and

rearing habitat restoration projects on the Sacramento River.



*Project map*



Team members include Reclamation, Chico State Foundation, the Sacramento River Forum, California Department of Water Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries Service, Resource Conservation District of Tehama County, Sacramento River Settlement Contractors, and River Partners.

## The Project

East Sand Slough side channel restoration consists of excavating two channel entrances and a new and improved channel network upstream of the Antelope Boulevard/ Highway 36 Bridge and extending downstream from the bridge. The work includes excavating material from five distinct features - the main entrance, high-flow entrance, main channel, secondary channel, split channel, and a downstream of bridge channel that provides rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids at different flow regimes on the Sacramento River.

Most of the channel excavation upstream of the Antelope Boulevard/Highway 36 Bridge is at the toe of the bank within the ordinary high-water mark, leaving existing vegetation and trees along the bank to provide shade and canopy. Approximately 90,000 cubic yards of material will be excavated from about 20 acres.

Larger rocks and boulders excavated from the channel will also be set aside and placed in the newly excavated channel to provide instream habitat structure. Large woody material will be placed in the channel to provide habitat complexity. The work requires relocation and/or accommodation of utility lines for natural gas, electricity, and telecommunications.



*The Project site excavation includes removing around 90,500 cubic yards of material from about 20 acres at river mile 246 near Red Bluff.*



*Project site excavation*

## Benefits

The Project has multiple environmental benefits. Recreating the historical side channels allows for year-round flow, creates juvenile salmonid rearing habitat and eliminates stranding pools. The boat ramp restoration, trail expansion, and riparian planting elements of the Project improve recreational access. Without the Project, the specific reach of the Sacramento River would remain in a deteriorated condition as spawning and rearing habitat for salmonids, with further declines in habitat quality expected.



*End-of-the-day sun highlights Project work on the multiple utility lines being moved.*

## Additional Information

Visit East Sand Slough Side Channel project here:

<https://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvpia/index.html>