

TS_30_L

Delta Plan Certification of Consistency

Expand Floodplains and Riparian Habitats in Levee Projects

DP P4 (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5008) Expand Floodplains and Riparian Habitats in Levee Projects

(a) Levee projects must evaluate and where feasible incorporate alternatives, including the use of setback levees, to increase floodplains and riparian habitats. Evaluation of setback levees in the Delta shall be required only in the following areas (shown in Appendix 8): (1) The Sacramento River between Freeport and Walnut Grove, the San Joaquin River from the Delta boundary to Mossdale, Paradise Cut, Steamboat Slough, Sutter Slough; and the North and South Forks of the Mokelumne River, and (2) Urban levee improvement projects in the cities of West Sacramento and Sacramento.

(b) For purposes of Water Code section 85057.5(a)(3) and section 5001(j)(1)(E) of this Chapter, this policy covers a proposed action to construct new levees or substantially rehabilitate or reconstruct existing levees.

Summary

The covered action will involve substantial reconstruction of the Lower San Joaquin River Reach TS_30_L Levee Improvement Project (TS_30_L) levee. As such, Delta Plan Policy RR P4 was considered. The TS_30_L levee is not within an area identified in Appendix 8 of the Delta Plan where setback levees need to be considered. Unlike most levees in the Delta which are located immediately adjacent to major flow conveyance channels (e.g., San Joaquin River), the TS_30_L levee is an interior levee (i.e., not located along a main Delta channel) on the Wright-Elmwood Tract located adjacent to an existing residential development.

The final restoration plan for the San Joaquin River West Biological Mitigation Site (SJR West Site) is still in development by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) but is expected to result in a net increase of an estimated 2 acres of wetland habitat and 40 acres of riparian habitat (plus enhancement to 5.5 acre of existing riparian habitat) as a result of site re-grading and native vegetation planting. The SJR West Site will be developed and managed consistent with the SJR West Site Monitoring Plan (**Attachment_SJR West Site Monitoring Plan**).

The construction of TS_30_L project cannot be completed without the planned habitat restoration and enhancement of the SJR West Site in place to address potential impacts to aquatic habitat, valley elderberry longhorn beetle, and giant garter snake associated with the TS_30_L levee improvement work. The current anticipated completion date for construction of TS_30_L is 2025.

In conclusion, since the project will result in a net increase in the extent of riparian habitat and enhance the state of existing riparian habitat, it is concluded that the project is consistent with Delta Plan Policy RR P4.