

# **Sacramento River Basin Basin-Wide Feasibility Study for the 2017 Update to the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan**

## **Background on and Context for Sacramento River Feasibility Study**

The Feasibility Study is a federal-state California Department of Water Resources and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers joint study of potential options for potential modification of our existing levee system.

The Department's March 2016 Draft Feasibility Study recommends specific action on potential setback levees and weir and fish passage modifications in the Yolo Bypass between now and 2030.

The Feasibility Study also looks at various Sutter Bypass expansion options, a Cherokee Canal bypass option in Butte County, and three potential Wadsworth Canal bypass option in Sutter County—however, the Feasibility Study recommends no “action” on any of these Feather River Basin modifications, and rather defers action on these elements to sometime after 2030.

## **Feasibility Study Document Links**

The Department's Draft Feasibility Study may be viewed in its entirety [here](#). For a quicker read, key maps, acreage, cost and implementation schedule information from the Feasibility Study can be viewed at the links below:

- [Yolo Bypass Options](#)
- [Sutter Bypass and Feather River Options](#)
- [Feasibility Study Implementation Schedule](#)

A map of potentially affected local Reclamation Districts can be viewed [here](#).

## **Yolo Bypass “Action” Features of Feasibility Study**

The total footprint of the Department's recommended Option 3 configuration in the Yolo Bypass involves some 10,300 acres of land, of which DWR assumes 25 percent would be converted to habitat, with 75 percent likely retained in some form of agriculture, at a cost of \$2.4 billion. This is compared to a locally preferred “Regional Option” involving some 4,550 acres and significant less habitat, at a cost of some \$2 billion.

With more frequent inundation and fish passage under the state's preferred option, drainage issues and other potential conflicts with existing farming in the Bypass are significant concerns.

## **Post-2030 Proposed Sutter Bypass and Feather River Options**

- Feather River and Sutter Bypass options proposed for potential action sometime after 2030 include:
- a 1,780-acre combined Feather River setback and Sutter Bypass expansion option in Sutter County;
- three 15,000 cfs, 32,000 cfs, and 50,000 cfs Wadsworth Canal bypasses in Sutter County on 4,380, 5,520, 6,530 acres respectively; and
- one 8,440-acre, 32,000 cfs Cherokee Canal bypass option in Butte County.

As with the Yolo Bypass option, 25 percent of any proposed new bypass areas would be converted to habitat, while the remaining 75 percent is proposed to remain in some form of agriculture.

While the Feasibility Study proposes all of the mentioned flood bypass and levee and weir expansion, it *does not* look at rehabilitation of existing facilities or potential channel maintenance flood conveyance options, and *defers* consideration of upstream storage options until sometime after 2035.

### **Related Ag Alert Coverage:**

- [Flood planning could result in loss of farmland](#) (April 27, 2016)
- [Analysts urge farmers to watch flood plan update](#) (January 20,