

The SB1086 Program and Sacramento River Riparian Habitat

The SB1086 Riparian Committee is a group of landowner representatives, environmental group leaders, and agency personnel who meet about once a month, generally in the Willows area. Working under an Advisory Council originally established in 1986, and reconvened in 1992, they are hammering out the details of a riparian habitat management plan for the Sacramento River that addresses both the dynamics of riparian ecosystems and the realities of local agricultural economies.

Senate Bill 1086, passed by the State Legislature in 1986, called for a management plan for the Sacramento River that would protect, restore, and enhance fish and riparian habitat. After more than 50 lengthy meetings and workshops, an Advisory Council and working-level action team developed a plan which included both a specific action-oriented fisheries plan, and a more conceptual riparian habitat plan. Today, the Riparian Committee is working toward on-the-ground implementation of the riparian plan.

The purpose of riparian habitat planning through SB1086 is to preserve remaining riparian habitat and reestablish a continuous riparian ecosystem along the Sacramento River. Themes that guide the work of the riparian committee include the following:

- * ***Riparian ecosystems*** - Management should be done from an ecosystem perspective, providing for the recovery of threatened and endangered species while taking into account human-imposed constraints.
- * ***Private landowners*** - Since private landowners own most of the existing riparian habitat on the river, they need to play an active role in riparian habitat management.
- * ***Local impacts*** - County and local tax bases should not be reduced by an increase in riparian habitat. Access to riparian lands should be limited to public areas, and needs to be managed through education, planning and arrangements with law enforcement personnel.
- * ***Bank stabilization*** - There are places along the river where bank stabilization may be necessary. When a need is identified, the least environmentally damaging techniques should be used.
- * ***Natural succession*** - Where possible, management should allow for natural revegetation in areas of the river's influence. Valley oak woodland, however, needs to be actively restored on high terrace lands.
- * ***Information and education*** - A clearinghouse is needed to help riparian landowners obtain grants and technical assistance for work involving riparian habitat on their property.

"... To preserve remaining riparian habitat and reestablish a continuous riparian ecosystem along the Sacramento River between Chico and Redding, and reestablish riparian vegetation along the river from Verona to Chico..."

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The Sacramento River geographic information system (GIS) has been developed by the California Department of Water Resources as a planning tool to help resolve management questions as they arise at specific river locations. The Sacramento River GIS uses the Geo/SQL GIS program. Information indexed in this system and currently available for query includes historical river meanders since 1896, geology, projected erosion rates and locations for the next 50 years, property ownership, areas within the 100-year flood line, and current and historical riparian habitat. Information on soils and stream bank types will soon be available. Further information on the Sacramento River geographic information system can be obtained by contacting:

Stacy Cepello
Environmental Specialist
California Department of Water Resources
Northern District
2440 Main Street
Red Bluff, CA 96080
(916) 529-7352

For further information on the SB1086 Advisory Council and its Riparian Committee, including upcoming meeting dates, contact:

Bob Bosworth, Chair
SB1086 Advisory Council
c/o Ralph Hinton
Department of Water Resources
2440 Main Street
Red Bluff, CA 96080
(916) 529-7321

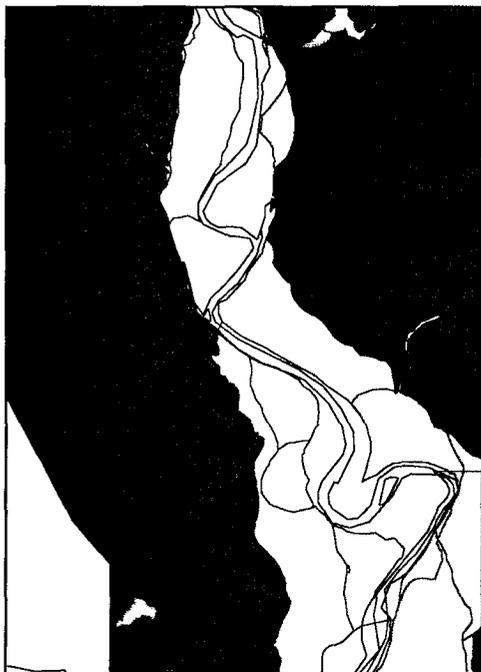
Diana Jacobs, Chair
SB1086 Riparian Habitat Committee
California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100 South
Sacramento, CA 95825-8202
(916) 574-1877

The Upper Sacramento River Fisheries and Riparian Habitat Management Plan, published in 1989, is available from:

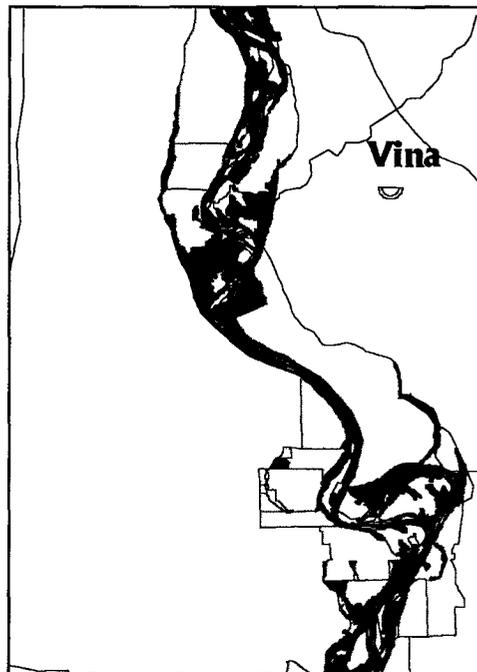
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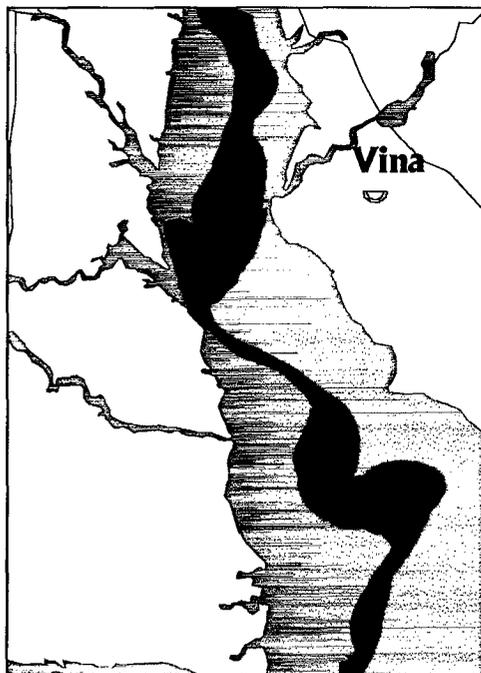
- Sample Data from Sacramento River Geographical Information System -



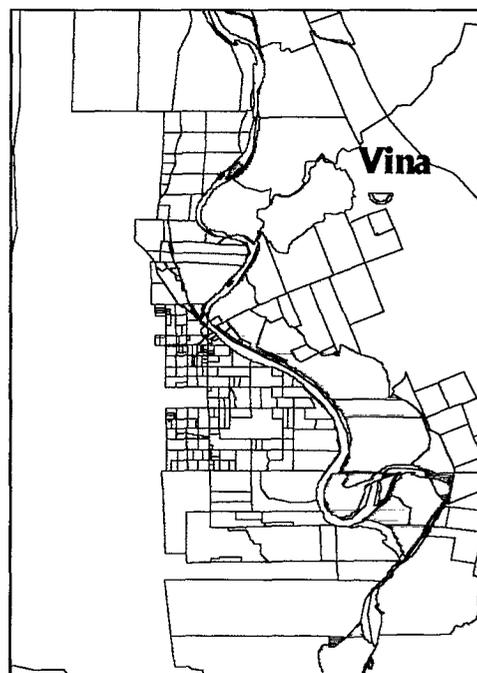
Geologic units classified by resistance to erosion



Vegetation in 1987



Floodplain and meander history



Parcel boundaries

