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Bond money to go to 36 river projects

Sacramento, Cosumnes plans included

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Floodplain restoration on the Sacramento and Cosumnes rivers is among \$33 million in projects Gov. Pete Wilson will announce today as the state's first installment of voter-approved bond money to improve river ecosystems.

Opening what his aides say will be a high-profile year for Wilson on water issues, the governor also will use his last year in office to make a renewed push for elements of his water policy, first announced nearly six years ago.

"This will be the kickoff of a year of a great deal of activity by the governor to make sure he leaves the state in a better condition than he found it in terms of water supply," said a senior Wilson administration official.

Using the Cosumnes River Preserve in Galt as a backdrop, Wilson will announce 36 projects to share \$33 million for ecosystem improvement. The money represents about half of the \$60 million set aside in Proposition 204 to improve fish and wildlife habitat.

More than half the \$33 million will pay for projects on the Sacra-

mento and Cosumnes rivers.

The biggest single grant - \$8.9 million - will go to buy and restore 1,500 acres over three years on a stretch of the Sacramento River from about 35 miles north of Sacramento to Shasta Dam.

An additional \$1.3 million will be granted for restoration of 300 acres of already-acquired habitat on the same portion of the river.

A grant of \$5.4 million is designated to expand the Cosumnes River Preserve by about a third, from 10,000 acres to about 13,000 acres.

The 36 projects were approved by a 19-member advisory panel after reviewing 385 applications.

About \$600 million of Proposition 204 funds - a major portion of the \$995 million bond sale approved by voters last year - is designated for rehabilitation and other projects in the Delta, which provides drinking water for an estimated 22 million people.

Many of those dollars also would support the CalFed Bay-Delta Program, which is a long-term, joint state-federal effort to restore the Delta's ecology and improve water management.