

4.5 PSP Cover Sheet (Attach to the front of each proposal)

Floodplain Acquisition and Sub-Reach/Site-Specific Management Planning
 Proposal Title: Sacramento River (Red Bluff to Colusa)
 Applicant Name: The Nature Conservancy
 Mailing Address: 201 Mission Street - 4th floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
 Telephone: _____
 Fax: phone: (415) 777-0487 fax: (415) 777-0244
 Email: _____

Amount of funding requested: \$ 13,964,900 ^{ok} for three years

Indicate the Topic for which you are applying (check only one box).

- Fish Passage/Fish Screens
- Habitat Restoration
- Local Watershed Stewardship
- Water Quality
- Introduced Species
- Fish Management/Hatchery
- Environmental Education

Does the proposal address a specified Focused Action? x yes _____ no

What county or counties is the project located in? Glenn, Butte and Tehama

Indicate the geographic area of your proposal (check only one box):

- Sacramento River Mainstem
- Sacramento Trib: _____
- San Joaquin River Mainstem
- San Joaquin Trib: _____
- Delta: _____
- East Side Trib: _____
- Suisun Marsh and Bay
- North Bay/South Bay: _____
- Landscape (entire Bay-Delta watershed)
- Other: _____

Indicate the primary species which the proposal addresses (check all that apply):

- San Joaquin and East-side Delta tributaries fall-run chinook salmon
- Winter-run chinook salmon
- Late-fall run chinook salmon
- Delta smelt
- Splittail
- Green sturgeon
- Migratory birds
- Other: _____
- Spring-run chinook salmon
- Fall-run chinook salmon
- Longfin smelt
- Steelhead trout
- Striped bass
- All chinook species
- All anadromous salmonids

Specify the ERP strategic objective and target (s) that the project addresses. Include page numbers from January 1999 version of ERP Volume I and II:

Strategic objectives: ERPP Vol.1 - Processes:Coarse Sediment Supply (p.73); Stream meander (p.80); natural floodplains/floodplain processes (p.90), Habitats: Riparian and riverine aquatic habitat (p.151); freshwater fish habitat (p.158); essential fish habitat (p.162); agricultural lands (p.172).Species: High-priority at-risk species: green sturgeon (p.205); splittail (p.209); chinook salmon (p.220); steelhead (p.229).

Indicate the type of applicant (check only one box):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> State agency | <input type="checkbox"/> Federal agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Non-profit joint venture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-profit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local government/district | <input type="checkbox"/> Private party |
| <input type="checkbox"/> University | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Indicate the type of project (check only one box):

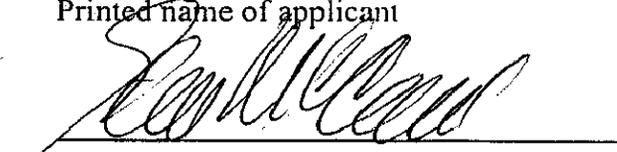
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Implementation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring | <input type="checkbox"/> Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research | |

By signing below, the applicant declares the following:

- 1.) The truthfulness of all representations in their proposal;
- 2.) The individual signing the form is entitled to submit the application on behalf of the applicant (if the applicant is an entity or organization); and
- 3.) The person submitting the application has read and understood the conflict of interest and confidentiality discussion in the PSP (Section 2.4) and waives any and all rights to privacy and confidentiality of the proposal on behalf of the applicant, to the extent as provided in the Section.

Steve McCormick

Printed name of applicant


Signature of applicant

Title Page

Title of Project:

**Floodplain Acquisition and Sub-Reach/Site Specific Management
Sacramento River (Red Bluff to Colusa)**

Applicant:

The Nature Conservancy
201 Mission Street, 4th floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
Phone (415) 777-0487; fax (415) 777-0244

Contact:

Sam Lawson, Project Director
The Nature Conservancy
Sacramento River Project
1074 East Ave, Suite F
Phone (530) 897-6371; Fax (530) 342-0257; E-mail slawson@tnc.org

Participants/collaborators:

SB 1086 Riparian Habitat Sub-Committee, members and agency participants
Glenn County Public Works Department
Steering Committee:
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
California Wildlife Conservation Board
California Department of Fish & Game
Point Reyes Bird Observatory

Type of Organization and tax status:

The Nature Conservancy is a District of Columbia non-profit corporation with a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status

Tax identification number: 53-0242652

Executive Summary

Project title: Floodplain Acquisition and Sub-Reach/Site-Specific Management Sacramento River (Red Bluff to Colusa)

Applicant: The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

Project Description: The Nature Conservancy requests a grant of \$13,964,900 for fee acquisition of nine parcels (1,733 acres) within the SB 1086 Sacramento River Conservation Area (Red Bluff to Colusa); **baseline assessment/start-up stewardship** for newly acquired parcels; **site-specific management planning** for the “Beehive Bend Sub-Reach” (river miles 165–176); **monitoring**; and **project management**. The project is located in Tehama, Glenn and Butte Counties.

This application builds on cumulative funds awarded by CALFED and others, and it directly addresses the Stage I Action for the Sacramento River to **protect, enhance, and restore the meanderbelt between Red Bluff and Chico Landing** (Strategic Plan For Ecosystem Restoration, February 1999, p. 64). This project is consistent with SB 1086’s vision of an inner river zone with limited meander and a goal for a continuous riparian corridor. Furthermore, it fulfills the SB 1086 recommended action for site-specific management planning.

The project meets CALFED objectives by:

- Allowing natural restorative processes of erosion, sedimentation, flooding, and succession to occur and working to prevent further degradation of riverine and riparian habitats that are critical for chinook salmon and other at-risk native species.
- Providing for adaptive management and ecological monitoring of key habitats.
- Involving local landowners and local governments in achieving project goals through the site-specific management planning and the SB 1086 process.

Acquisition of floodplain parcels in active erosion/deposition zones is an essential precursor to restoring river meander and natural riparian regeneration and succession. Streamside tributary parcels present outstanding opportunities to restore gravel recruitment to spawning beds and to increase and enrich salmon rearing habitat by reconnecting the river to its traditional floodplain. Long-term ownership (whether by federal or state government, by The Nature Conservancy, or by another qualified private organization) will be determined following baseline assessment. Selection of properties for acquisition is based on willing sellers and consistency with the goals of the SB 1086 management plan.

Baseline assessment is the conservation strategy used at the parcel scale when properties are first acquired. This involves an in-depth, on-the-ground analysis that is necessary to determine the suitability of a parcel for protection, enhancement, and restoration of natural processes (see Figure 2). **Start-up stewardship** corrects items of deferred maintenance and finances improvements required by interim management plans, such as fencing, public access trails, and signage.

Site-specific management planning is proposed for the Beehive Bend sub-reach (river miles 165–176; see Figure 3). Site-specific management planning, which focuses on protection at the sub-reach scale, is the bridge between individual parcels and the development of the Sacramento River Conservation Area (see Figure 2). Site-specific management planning is central to the implementation of a limited meander corridor as described by SB 1086. Site-specific management planning also addresses CALFED’s Focused Action for the Sacramento River by “addressing potential changes in hydrology and geomorphology, local economic impacts, and other issues associated with ongoing riparian protection and restoration work” (PSP, p.21). Actual levee setback or removal is not a part of this project.

Monitoring will include two components: (1) channel movement/aquatic habitat complexity monitoring, and (2) bird monitoring. These monitoring efforts are designed to test the hypothesis that proposed acquisition and site-specific management planning will protect, enhance, and restore the meanderbelt along the Sacramento River. This information will be used to assess the success of the project and provide information for the adaptive management of acquired parcels and sub-reaches through baseline assessment and site-specific planning.

Ecological/Biological Benefits: The primary ecological/biological objective for the proposed project is to protect and enhance the Sacramento River meanderbelt and associated floodplain between Red Bluff and Colusa. This project will help restore ecological processes that create and maintain the natural channel and bank conditions necessary to support large, self-sustaining populations of chinook salmon, steelhead, Sacramento splittail, and other declining native species. Important ecological processes addressed by the project include sediment transport, channel erosion and deposition, and ecological succession.

Cost: The Nature Conservancy requests a total of \$13,964,900 as follows: \$12,073,500 to acquire fee title to nine parcels; \$652,400 for baseline assessment/start-up stewardship; \$519,000 for sub-reach-scale, site-specific management planning for the "Beehive Bend"; \$523,800 for monitoring; and \$196,200 for project management. These figures include salaries and benefits, service contracts and overhead (see Cost Section).

Adverse or potential third-party impacts: Adverse or potential third-party impacts, such as displacement of local agriculture, flood impacts, and decrease in the local tax base will be evaluated and addressed through local involvement and public outreach efforts.

Applicants Qualifications: The Nature Conservancy is an internationally recognized conservation organization with almost 50 years experience in critical habitat protection. Since we began working on the Sacramento River in 1988, we have acquired approximately 15,000 acres of floodplain habitat lands and restored 2,340 acres of priority habitat.

Monitoring and data evaluation: The channel movement/aquatic habitat complexity component will monitor river meander rates and quantity and quality of aquatic habitat complexity for freely meandering river reaches compared to reaches protected by rip-rap. The Conservancy will subcontract with Point Reyes Bird Observatory to monitor bird populations as an indicator of riparian forest health. Monitoring will include nest counts, nest vegetation measurement, mist-netting and banding, point counts, spot-mapping, and releve.

Local support/coordination with other programs/compatibility with CALFED objectives: Acquisition criteria are based on CALFED and SB 1086 objectives. Current owners are willing sellers. The project does not conflict with any CALFED objectives, and it directly supports ecosystem health and water quality objectives. The project's goals complement CVPIA, SB 1086, Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture, Riparian Habitat Joint Venture (Partners in Flight), Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Comprehensive Study, and DFG/WCB's Habitat Acquisition and Management Program. The project ensures input from local landowners, public agencies, and other interested parties through the site-specific management planning process.

Project Description

Proposed scope of work

The Nature Conservancy requests a grant of \$13,964,900 for floodplain acquisition, baseline assessment/start-up stewardship, site-specific management planning, monitoring, and project management.

This application builds on cumulative funds awarded by CALFED and others and directly addresses the Stage I Action for the Sacramento River to protect, enhance and restore the meanderbelt between Red Bluff and Chico Landing (Strategic Plan For Ecosystem Restoration, February 1999, p. 64). This project is consistent with SB 1086's vision of an inner river zone with limited meander and a goal for a continuous riparian corridor. Furthermore, it fulfills the SB 1086-recommended action for site-specific management planning. The project meets CALFED objectives by:

- Allowing natural restorative processes of erosion, sedimentation, flooding, and succession (recruitment restoration) to occur and working to prevent further degradation of riverine and riparian habitats that are critical for chinook salmon and other at-risk native species.
- Providing for adaptive management and ecological monitoring of key habitats.
- Involving local landowners and local governments in achieving project goals through the site-specific management planning and the SB 1086 process.

Acquisition of floodplain parcels in active erosion/deposition zones is an essential precursor to restoring river meander and natural riparian regeneration and succession. Streamside tributary parcels present outstanding opportunities to restore gravel recruitment to spawning beds and to increase and enrich salmon rearing habitat by reconnecting the river to its traditional floodplain. Long-term ownership (whether by federal or state government, by The Nature Conservancy, or by another qualified private organization) will be determined following baseline assessment. Selection of properties for acquisition is based on willing sellers and consistency with the goals of the SB 1086 management plan. The nine floodplain properties described below are shown in Figures 1, 3, 4 and 5.

- 1) **Nolta/Altube (120 acres).** Located directly below the Red Bluff Diversion Dam, this property adjoins the river adjacent to the dam's fish bypass and contains an historic slough that is artificially disconnected from the river. Protecting the riparian habitat on this parcel is expected to benefit juvenile salmon reentering the river by increasing the complexity of the aquatic habitat.
- 2) **Smith I (180 acres).** This property is located within the projected meander channel of the river, and 60 acres are subject to erosion without existing rip-rap.
- 2.5) **R. Walnuts, Inc. (180 acres)** Located in an accreting area across from River Vista CALFED 97 NO3 restoration site, this property harbors an historic river channel.
- 3) **Smith II (129 acres).** Located in an area of active bank erosion across the river from a large unfragmented block of conservation land, Smith II is protected by rip-rap and contains a private levee perpendicular to the river that backs up flood waters onto upstream properties.
- 4) **Nock (127 acres).** Located at the confluence of Chico Creek and Mud Creek, this property floods regularly. Chico Creek contains important salmon spawning habitat, and Mud Creek has important salmon rearing habitat.
- 5) **RX Ranch/Dress (251 acres).** Located just below the "J Levee" between the DFG Pine Creek Unit and the USFWS Kaiser Unit, RX Ranch/Dress is a critical acquisition that will permit reconnection

with the river of virtually all of the floodplain between the USFWS Pine Creek Unit and Stony Creek.

- 6) **Martin (63 acres).** Located on Stony Creek between Highway 45 and the Sacramento River, this parcel currently supports a 50,000-ton-per-year gravel mining operation. Acquisition of this property would cease gravel-mining operations, allowing for the recruitment of spawning gravel to the main stem of the Sacramento.
- 7) **Nichols (492 acres).** Located below the M&T Flood Relief Structure and adjacent to Golden State Island, this parcel is within a designated flood hazard area. Flood waters from the Sacramento River frequently pass through this property en route to the Butte Basin, depositing large amounts of gravel and fine sediment.
- 8) **Jensen (127 acres).** Located next to the Nichols property, this parcel is also within the floodway below the M & T Flood Relief Structure.
- 9) **Southam (70 acres).** Located inside of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers levee system, this parcel is adjacent to the southern border of Rancho Llano Seco. This property is in the Beehive Bend sub-reach proposed for site-specific management planning.

Baseline assessment is the conservation strategy used at the parcel scale when properties are first acquired. This involves an in-depth, on-the-ground analysis that is necessary to determine the suitability of a parcel for protection, enhancement, and restoration of natural processes (see Figure 2). **Start-up stewardship** corrects items of deferred maintenance and finances improvements required by interim management plans, such as fencing, public access trails, and signage.

Site-specific management planning is proposed for the Beehive Bend sub-reach (river miles 165–176; see Figure 3). Site-specific management planning, which focuses on protection at the sub-reach scale, is the bridge between individual parcels and the development of the Sacramento River Conservation Area (see Figure 2). Site-specific management planning is central to the implementation of a limited meander corridor as described by SB 1086. Site-specific management planning also addresses CALFED’s Focused Action for the Sacramento River by “addressing potential changes in hydrology and geomorphology, local economic impacts, and other issues associated with ongoing riparian protection and restoration work” (PSP, p.21). Actual levee setback or removal is not a part of this project.

Monitoring will include two components: (1) channel movement/aquatic habitat complexity monitoring, and (2) bird monitoring. These monitoring efforts are designed to test the hypothesis that proposed acquisition and site-specific management planning will protect, enhance, and restore the meanderbelt along the Sacramento River. This information will be used to assess the success of the project and provide information for the adaptive management of acquired parcels and sub-reaches through baseline assessment and site-specific planning.

Task 1: Acquisition

Tasks included in acquisition include: negotiating with landowners, obtaining appraisals and hazardous materials surveys, reviewing title documentation, requesting CALFED funds, and coordinating escrow and closing. The acquisition schedule will depend on the pace of successful negotiations, but all acquisitions will be completed within three years. On a quarterly basis, the applicants will report on progress to date and provide financial summaries.

Task 2: Baseline Assessment/Start-up Stewardship

Baseline assessment will include the following: determine the current land use, land-use history,

physical conditions, ecological conditions (threatened and endangered species, aquatic habitat complexity, and wildlife habitat features), what role the site plays in the larger flood control system, and potential third-party impacts. Start-up stewardship actions may include fencing, public access trails, and signage.

Task 3: Site-specific Management Planning

The proposed site-specific management plan will follow a process similar to ones used for the following sub-reaches (either in progress or completed): Chico Landing sub-reach (The Nature Conservancy, in progress, funded by 1997 CALFED grant), Woodson Bridge sub-reach (Department of Water Resources, in progress), and Sacramento Bar sub-reach (Department of Water Resources, The Nature Conservancy, completed). The plan will incorporate stakeholder involvement and coordination, and it will assess potential changes in hydrology and geomorphology, local economic impacts, and other third-party impacts of restoration projects. Site-specific management plans will analyze the potential to protect and restore river processes and habitats within the sub-reach, determine future management practices, and identify realistic restoration projects.

Task 4: Monitoring

The channel movement/aquatic habitat complexity component will monitor river meander rates and quantity and quality of aquatic habitat complexity for freely meandering river reaches compared to reaches protected by rip-rap. The Conservancy will subcontract with Point Reyes Bird Observatory to monitor bird populations as an indicator of riparian forest health. Monitoring will include nest counts, nest vegetation measurement, mist-netting and banding, point counts, spot-mapping, and releve.

Task 5: Project Management

Project Management encompasses responsibility for ensuring overall project success; management of subcontractors and professional service providers; and continued coordination of the CALFED 97-N02 Steering Committee (TNC, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife Conservation Board, and Department of Fish and Game) with the addition of representation from SB 1086.

Separable tasks

Portions of the proposed project may be considered separable for funding as follows: 1) full funding of Sub-Reach Management Planning; 2) full or partial funding for Floodplain Acquisition with proportionate funding of budget line-items associated with acquisition; or 3) full funding of Sub-Reach Management Planning and partial funding for Floodplain Acquisition with proportionate funding for budget line-items associated with acquisition. Partial funding of Sub-Reach Management Planning is not practicable.

Location and/or geographic boundaries of project

The properties proposed for acquisition are located within the Conservation Area of the Sacramento River (as defined by SB 1086) in Tehama, Butte, and Glenn counties. The project area is within the Sacramento River Ecological Management Zone (Red Bluff Diversion Dam to Chico Landing and Chico Landing to Colusa).

Figure 2. Overview of planning approach for the Sacramento River Conservation Area.

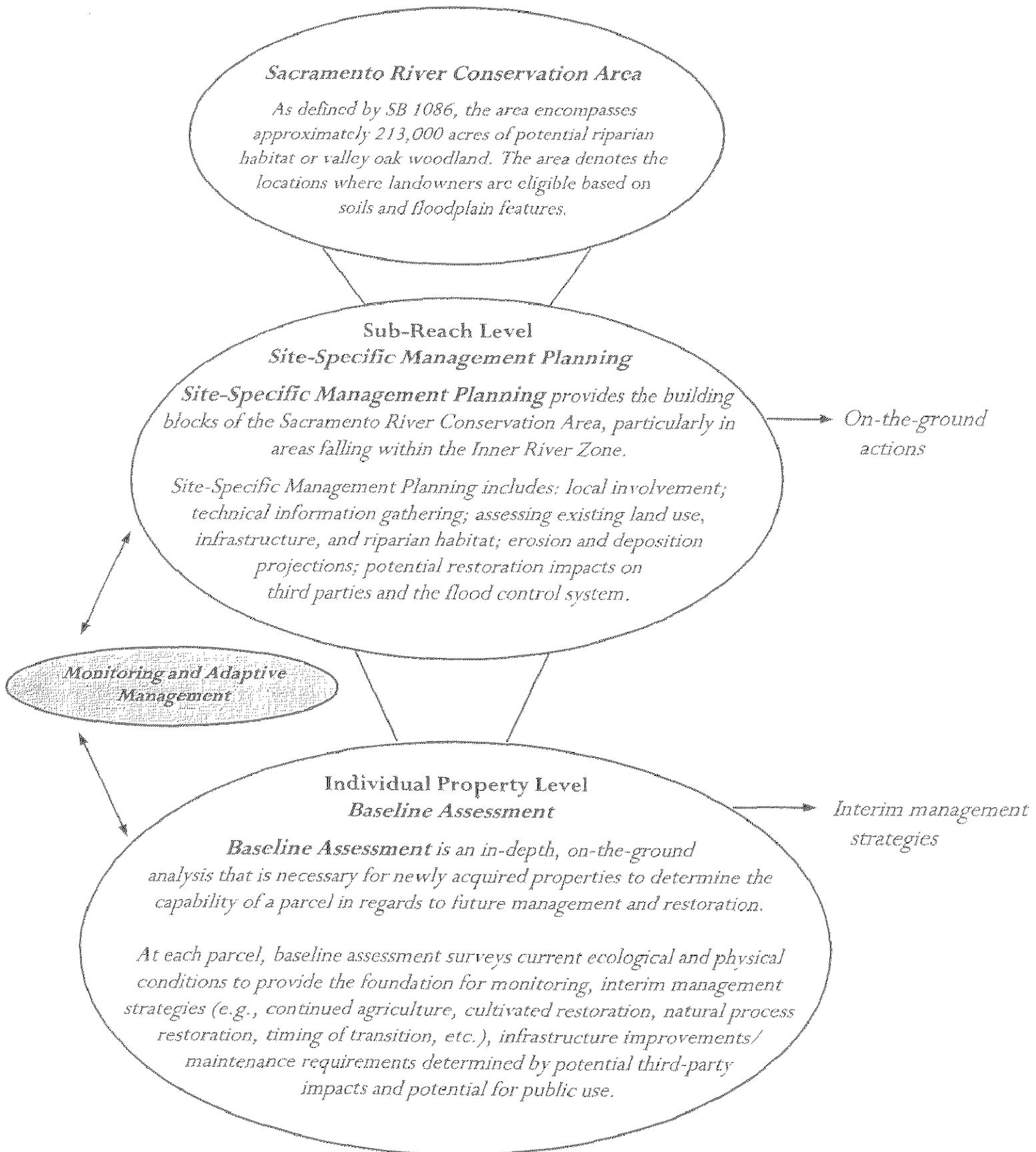
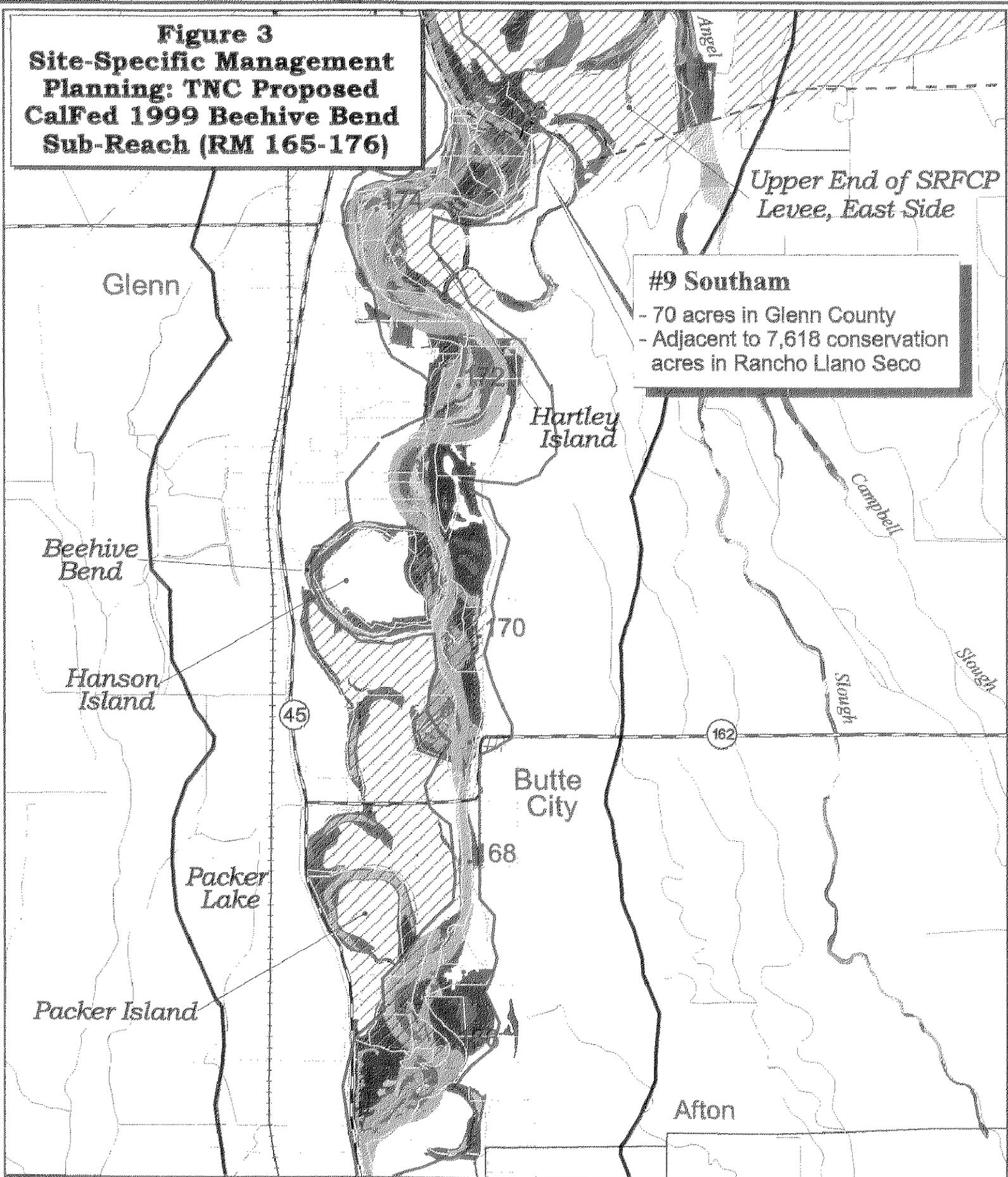


Figure 3
Site-Specific Management
Planning: TNC Proposed
CalFed 1999 Beehive Bend
Sub-Reach (RM 165-176)



*Upper End of SRFCP
 Levee, East Side*

#9 Southam
 - 70 acres in Glenn County
 - Adjacent to 7,618 conservation
 acres in Rancho Llano Seco

	Conservation Area		State Highway	Riparian Vegetation	
	150 Year Meanderbelt		Major Roads		Berry Shrub
	Existing Conservation		Railroad		Cottonwood Forest
	Proposed Acquisition		County Border		Disturbed Riparian
	Parcel Lines		Hydrology		Gravel
					Herb Land
					Marsh
					Mixed Forest
					Open Water
					Riparian Scrub
					Valley Oak

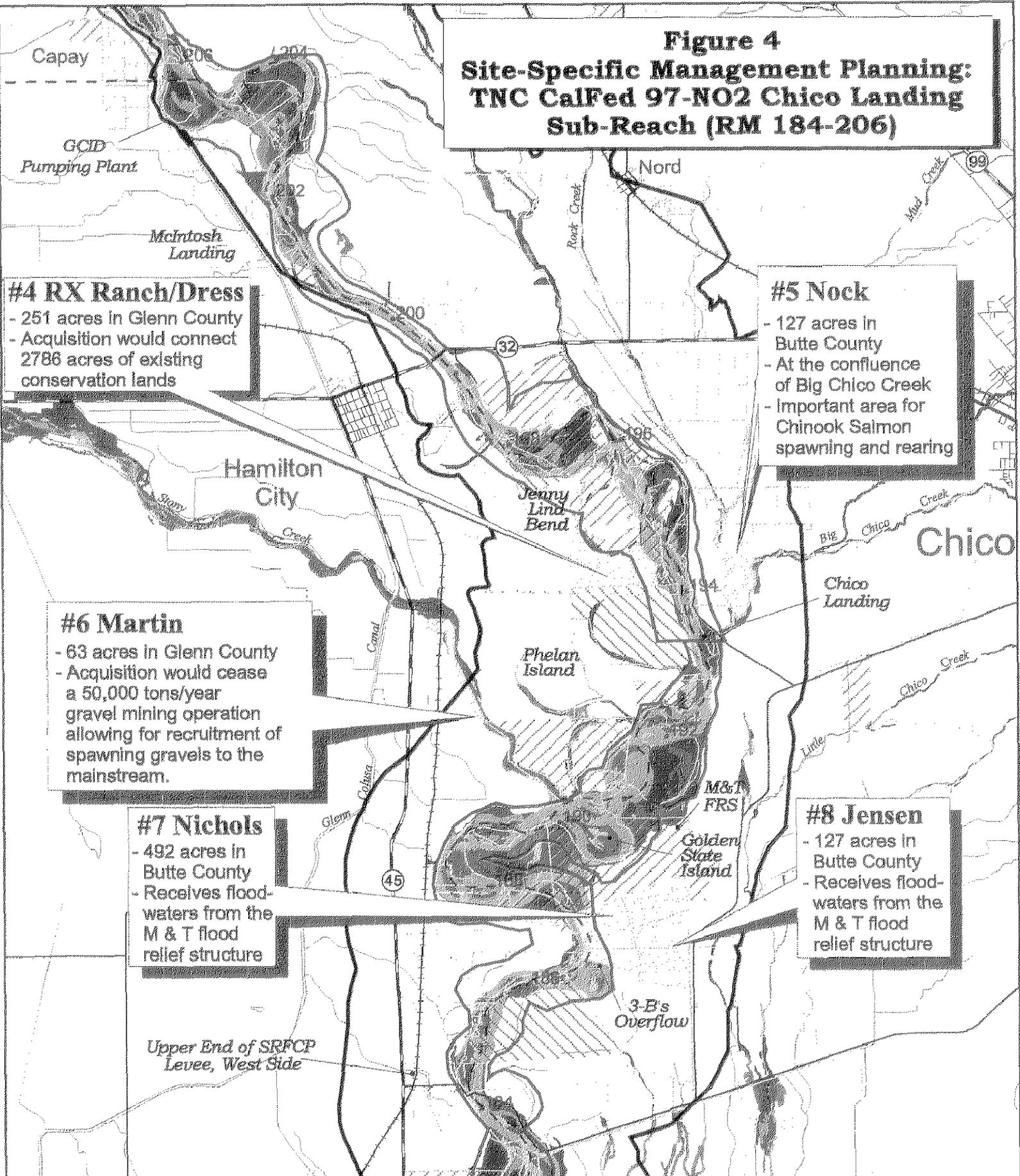
0.5 0 0.5 1 Miles

The Nature Conservancy

Data Sources: US Census; '98 TIGER Files for roads, hydrology, and political boundaries. California Department of Water Resources; 150 yr. meanderbelt, conservation area, and river mileage. Geographical Information Center; Riparian Vegetation.

Prepared by, Geographical Information Center, April 9, 1999
 Based on USGS 1:24000 Quad Topo Maps.

Figure 4
Site-Specific Management Planning:
TNC CalFed 97-NO2 Chico Landing
Sub-Reach (RM 184-206)



#4 RX Ranch/Dress
 - 251 acres in Glenn County
 - Acquisition would connect 2786 acres of existing conservation lands

#5 Nock
 - 127 acres in Butte County
 - At the confluence of Big Chico Creek
 - Important area for Chinook Salmon spawning and rearing

#6 Martin
 - 63 acres in Glenn County
 - Acquisition would cease a 50,000 tons/year gravel mining operation allowing for recruitment of spawning gravels to the mainstream.

#7 Nichols
 - 492 acres in Butte County
 - Receives floodwaters from the M & T flood relief structure

#8 Jensen
 - 127 acres in Butte County
 - Receives floodwaters from the M & T flood relief structure

Conservation Area	State Highway	Riparian Vegetation	
150 Year Meanderbelt	Major Roads	Berry Shrub	Marsh
Existing Conservation	Railroad	Cottonwood Forest	Mixed Forest
'97 CalFed	County Border	Disturbed	Open Water
Proposed Acquisition	Hydrology	Disturbed Riparian	Riparian Scrub
Parcel Lines		Gravel	Valley Oak
		Herb Land	

Data Sources: US Census; '95 TIGER Files for roads, hydrology, and political boundaries; California Department of Water Resources; 150 yr. meanderbelt, conservation area, and river mileage; Geographical Information Center; Riparian Vegetation.
 Prepared by: Geographical Information Center, April 8, 1999
 Based on USGS 1:24000 Quad Topo Maps.

Figure 5
Red Bluff to Woodson Bridge

#1 Nolta/Altube

- 120 acres in Tehama County
- Located below Red Bluff Diversion Dam fish bypass
- Protected habitat could benefit juvenile salmon reentering the river

#2 Smith I

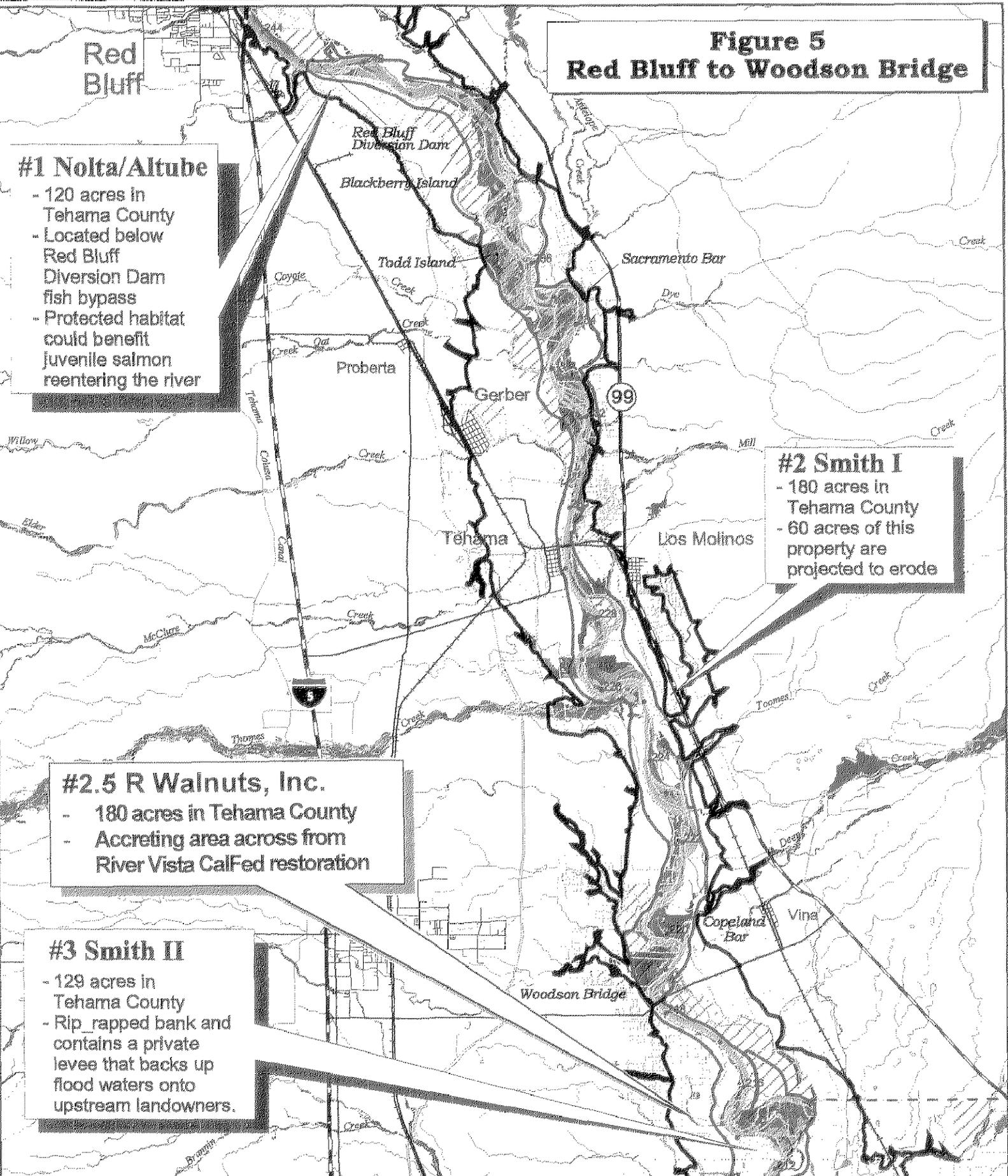
- 180 acres in Tehama County
- 60 acres of this property are projected to erode

#2.5 R Walnuts, Inc.

- 180 acres in Tehama County
- Accreting area across from River Vista Califed restoration

#3 Smith II

- 129 acres in Tehama County
- Rip_rapped bank and contains a private levee that backs up flood waters onto upstream landowners.



Conservation Area	Interstate	Riparian Vegetation	
150 Year Meanderbelt	State Highway	Berry Shrub	Marsh
Existing Conservation	Major Roads	Cottonwood Forest	Mixed Forest
Proposed Acquisition	Railroad	Disturbed Riparian	Open Water
Parcel Lines	County Border	Gravel	Riparian Scrub
	Hydrology	Herb Land	Valley Oak

0.6 0 0.6 1.2 2.7 Miles

N

Data Sources: US Census; '85 TIGER Files for roads, hydrology, and political boundaries, California Department of Water Resources; 150 yr. meanderbelt, conservation area, and river mileage. Geographical Information Center; Riparian Vegetation.

Prepared by, Geographical Information Center, April 2, 1998
Based on USGS 1:24000 Quad Topo Maps.

Ecological/Biological Benefits

Ecological/Biological Objectives

The primary ecological/biological objectives for the proposed acquisition and management project are to help protect and facilitate enhancement of the meanderbelt and associated floodplain of the Sacramento River between Red Bluff and Colusa. This project will allow for restoration of the ecological processes that create and maintain the natural channel and bank conditions necessary to achieve large, self-sustaining populations of chinook salmon, steelhead, Sacramento splittail, and other declining native species. Important ecological processes that will be restored include sediment transport, channel erosion and deposition, and ecological succession.

The primary benefits of the proposed project are to increase the quality and quantity of essential spawning and rearing habitats and migratory pathways for chinook salmon, steelhead, Sacramento splittail, and other declining native species. The protection of the meanderbelt will help create more complex and continuous shoreline vegetation, woody debris (branches and root wads), and leaf and insect drop in shallow aquatic habitats that will help increase the survival and health of juvenile salmonids and other declining species.

The project will also provide protection of riparian forest and streamside vegetation. Consistent with SB 1086 objectives, the project contributes to the long-term goal of restoring an extensive and continuous riparian forest corridor that will help stabilize the channel; shape submerged aquatic habitat structure; and benefit the aquatic environment by contributing shade, overhead canopy, and instream cover for fish.

The ecosystem benefits derived from this project use natural processes as the primary restoration agent. Because floodplain acquisitions afford permanent legal protection, the proposed project's ecosystem benefits will both endure and increase with time as natural restoration process creates a more complex and resilient system.

Hypothesis

Acquisition of individual parcels and site-specific management planning of sub-reaches within the Sacramento River Conservation Area from Red Bluff to Colusa will protect, enhance, and help restore the meanderbelt and associated floodplain of the Sacramento River.

Stressors

Ecosystem stressors addressed by this project include:

- Floodplain acquisition and site-specific sub-reach management will address stressors associated with **levees, bridges, and bank protection** such as: alteration of channel form, physical isolation of the floodplain, reduction of gravel recruitment, lack of riparian vegetation regeneration potential, and elimination of fine sediment replenishment.
- Riparian and riverine aquatic habitat protection will help to reduce **predation and competition** by providing escape cover for juvenile salmonids.
- Natural restorative processes of erosion, sedimentation, flooding, and succession (recruitment restoration) will help to reduce **invasive riparian plants**.
- Floodplain acquisition and site-specific management planning will help reduce **contaminants** from incompatible agricultural practices along the river.

- Increased riparian habitat with high structural diversity and vegetative cover will help reduce the impact of **non-native wildlife** on native birds and mammals.

Habitats and Species

Priority habitats improved by this project include riparian and riverine aquatic habitats, freshwater fish habitat, essential fish habitat, and agricultural lands.

Stressor reduction and key habitat improvement/creation will provide significant benefits for the following priority species during critical portions of their life histories: **winter-run chinook salmon** (federal and state endangered), **spring-run chinook salmon** (proposed federal endangered and state threatened), **fall/late fall-run chinook salmon** (proposed federal threatened); **splittail** (federal threatened); **steelhead trout** (federal threatened); and **green sturgeon**.

Other CALFED priority species directly benefiting from this project include resident native fish, American shad, Swainson's hawk (state threatened), western yellow-billed cuckoo (state threatened), bank swallow (state threatened), shorebird and wading bird guilds, neo-tropical migratory bird guild, valley elderberry longhorn beetle (federal threatened), and bald eagle.

Linkages

This proposed project builds on the work of The Nature Conservancy and its partners, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), to acquire (15,000 acres to date) and restore (2,640 acres to date) lands along the Sacramento River. CALFED has contributed significantly to this effort. The Floodplain Acquisition and Management Project (1997), the Floodplain Acquisition, Management, and Monitoring Project (1998), and the Meanderbelt Implementation Project (1997) provided funds for acquisition, planning and restoration. In addition, TNC and USFWS have received grant funds from the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) through its Anadromous Fish Recovery Program. Results to date of these projects includes:

Acquisitions: Flynn (94.55 acres, CALFED 97-N04) and Kaiser (666 acres, CALFED 97-N02) have been acquired, and three more acquisitions are in progress in the Chico Landing sub-reach (shown on Figures 1 and 4 as CALFED '97), thus obligating all acquisition funds granted in CALFED 97-N02 and N04. Both The Nature Conservancy and USFWS acquired properties with CVPIA funds in the Beehive Bend sub-reach (proposed for site-specific management planning), including Hartley Island (321 acres), Packer Island (309 acres), and Stone property (72 acres). (See Figure 3.)

Site-Specific Management Planning: The Nature Conservancy, in coordination with the Sacramento River Advisory Council, developed the template for site-specific management planning on the Sacramento Bar Sub-Reach (CALFED 97-NO4 Meanderbelt Implementation Project). A second site-specific management plan is underway for the Chico Landing Sub-Reach (see Figure 4) (CALFED 97-NO2)

Restoration: Since 1991 the Conservancy has successfully restored 2,340 acres of riparian habitat along the Sacramento River. In 1997 The Nature Conservancy, USFWS, and WCB received CALFED restoration grants totaling \$780,000. The Conservancy and USFWS has begun restoration of 200 acres of riparian vegetation at River Vista (CALFED 97-N03) at an average cost approximately 30% under budget due to increased efficiencies and economies of scale. Using CVPIA grant funds, Flood Damage Reduction coop grants, and income from agricultural production, the Conservancy and USFWS will plant an additional 450 acres of riparian habitat in 1999.

Linkages to other future ERP actions and goals (Volume II, ERPP)

Riparian and riverine aquatic habitats (p. 188): *Maintain existing streamside riparian vegetation.* The proposed project helps protect and enhance large blocks of continuous riparian habitat in the Sacramento River Conservation Area.

Stream meander (p. 185): *Protect, enhance and restore the meanderbelt between Red Bluff and Chico Landing.* The proposed project supports and allows implementation of the larger vision of SB 1086 to allow river meander where possible and practical within the Inner River Zone.

Coarse sediment supply (p. 184): Develop a cooperative program to reactivate gravel recruitment to the river by exposing existing sources of river gravel on islands, bars, and banks that have become armored to riverflows. This project will allow, natural restorative processes of erosion, sedimentation, and gravel recruitment to occur where possible and practical.

Natural floodplain and flood processes (p. 186): *Increase and maintain floodplains in conjunction with stream meander corridor restoration.* Reconnecting the river to its floodplain by allowing the natural restorative processes of erosion, sedimentation, flooding, and succession is a key component of this project and future projects.

Freshwater fish habitats and essential fish habitats (p. 188): Maintain and improve existing freshwater fish habitat and essential fish habitat through the integration of actions described for ecological processes, habitats, and stressor reduction or elimination. Acquisition and site-specific management planning help create submerged aquatic habitat structure and benefit the aquatic environment by contributing shade, overhead canopy, and instream cover for fish. More extensive and continuous shoreline vegetation provides woody debris (branches and root wads) and leaf and insect drop in shallow aquatic habitats.

System-wide Ecosystem Benefits

Floodplain acquisition and site-specific management planning support the goals of the following programs: SB 1086, Central Valley Project Improvement Act, Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture, Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge, California Riparian Habitat Conservation Program, Riparian Habitat Joint Venture (Partners in Flight), and the Army Corps of Engineers Comprehensive Study.

Compatibility with Non-Ecosystem Objectives

Water quality: Floodplain acquisition inside the Sacramento River Conservation Area is an important first step toward improving water quality by reducing agricultural inputs into the river (through sustainable farming /land use changes) and by using riparian filter strips to trap run-off containing sediment, pesticides, and fertilizers.

Third party benefits: Protection of floodplain forest will help filter floating debris and sediments from floodwaters, thereby providing nutrient-rich sediments to riparian forests and protecting agricultural lands behind the riparian forest. Retirement of flood-prone agricultural lands provides growers with the opportunity to reinvest their capital in more productive land. It also has the potential to prevent loss of agricultural revenue caused by flooding. Retirement of specific croplands will facilitate reduction of downward price pressures and crop surpluses. Acquisition of flood-prone land in the Conservation Area could result in more cost-effective flood control measures in the long term. TNC actively promotes compatible agriculture through its management of the Biological Prune System (BPS) and cooperation with the Department of Pesticide Regulation. As part of our commitment to local involvement, TNC contracts with local growers on more than 4,000 acres of agricultural land managed by TNC, and employs local growers to cultivate approximately 800 acres of riparian restoration annually.

Technical Feasibility and Timing

Alternatives considered

The proposed project represents the best alternative for protection, enhancement, and restoration of the Sacramento River meanderbelt between Red Bluff and Chico Landing. Alternative actions could include:

- 1) Acquisition without baseline assessment. Without properly assessing initial conditions at the acquisition site, it is impossible to discern the best management and restoration plan for the site.
- 2) Acquisition of a narrow riparian strip of land. While acquisition of streamside strips may provide some short-term benefits to aquatic and riparian species, it would not allow for a full-scale meanderbelt and floodplain protection and restoration.
- 3) Agricultural easements in the meanderbelt. The necessity to protect agricultural investments within active meander zones is incompatible with the desired outcome of natural meander and forest succession.
- 4) The proposed floodplain acquisition, initial resource assessment, site-specific management planning, and monitoring. The proposed project holds the most promise for larger-scale ecosystem protection, and it will yield multiple benefits over time. Proper planning implemented on a parcel scale (baseline assessment) and a sub-reach scale (site-specific management) effectively implements SB 1086's visions for a limited meander corridor along the Sacramento River and addresses CALFED's Stage I Action to protect, enhance, and restore the meanderbelt between Red Bluff and Chico Landing.

Environmental Review and Implementation Issues

This project is consistent with the principles of the SB 1086 Sacramento River Conservation Area, the CALFED goals and objectives for the Sacramento River, and other agency management plans and initiatives in the project area. All floodplain acquisitions will comply with existing laws and regulations. The proposed project should not require NEPA or CEQA review, nor will it require permits. Outstanding implementation issues will be resolved through the site-specific planning process and in coordination with the SB 1086 Advisory Council.

Monitoring and Data Collection Methodology

Biological/Ecological Objectives

The monitoring programs described below are designed to test the following hypothesis:

Proposed acquisition and site-specific management planning will protect, enhance, and restore the meanderbelt and associated floodplain of the Sacramento River.

This monitoring program is based on baseline assessments and focuses on answering specific questions and assessing key ecological benefits of restoring a limited meander to the Sacramento River. This information will be used to assess the success of the project and provide information for adaptive management of acquired parcels and sub-reaches through site-specific management planning.

Monitoring Channel Movement and Aquatic Habitat Complexity . H_1 : *Active stream channel movement will increase aquatic habitat complexity.* We assume that aquatic habitat complexity is beneficial to chinook salmon, steelhead, Sacramento splittail and other declining native fish species. The primary objectives of the program are to: 1) quantify the rate of channel movement at three test sites—freely meandering, rip-rapped, and a newly acquired parcel; 2) monitor aquatic habitat complexity parameters on both sides of the river at the above three test sites; and 3) propose contingency measures based on results and principals of adaptive management..

Monitoring Bird Populations and Associated Riparian Habitat. H_2 : *Active stream channel movement improves riparian forest succession, thereby increasing breeding and nesting success of native birds.* Birds are a good indicator of riparian forest health and ecosystem health because they respond quickly to habitat change. This program will be subcontracted to Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO) on acquisition sites and integrated into existing, standardized bird monitoring activities conducted by PRBO throughout the Sacramento River system, from Red Bluff to Colusa, since 1993. The primary objectives of bird monitoring are to: 1) measure bird population health; 2) determine combinations of natural processes and vegetation features that best support a diverse, self-sustaining riparian bird community at multiple scales; and 3) identify physical and vegetation features on acquisition sites that will potentially sustain breeding bird populations.

Monitoring Parameters and Data Collection Approach

Channel Movement/Aquatic Habitat Complexity Monitoring will take place annually for three years at three test sites following methodologies in 1) California Department of Fish and Game's *Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual* and 2) "Evaluating Stream Restoration Projects," G.M. Kondolf and E.R. Micheli, *Environmental Management* (1995, Vol.19, No.1: pp.1–15).

Riparian Habitat and Bird Monitoring will take place semi-annually for three years following methodologies in 1) *A Handbook of Field Methods for Monitoring Landbirds* (USDA Forest Service publication), and 2) *BBIRD Field Protocol* (Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit).

Data Evaluation Approach

(See Monitoring Table on next page.)

Monitoring Table

1) Biological/Ecological Objective: Monitor the rate of channel movement and aquatic habitat complexity through natural processes.			
Hypotheses/Questions to be evaluated	Monitoring Parameters and Data collection Approach	Data Evaluation Approach	Comments/ Data Priority
Protecting, enhancing, and restoring natural processes will increase the rate of channel movement.	Establish survey benchmarks; quantify channel migration through bank erosion and point bar formation rates; photo points	Quantify the rate of movement at three test sites along the river. Tests sites will be chosen based on their dynamic nature and TNC involvement.	High
Active stream channel movement will increase instream aquatic habitat complexity.	Large woody debris, branches, rootwads, boulders, stream bank angles, backwater areas, and pebble counts.	Quantify complexity parameters at the above three test sites. Parameters will be measured on aggrading and degrading banks.	High
2) Biological/Ecological Objective: Monitor bird species richness and diversity, distribution, abundance and population health as an indicator of riparian habitat quality.			
Hypotheses	Monitoring Parameters and Data collection Approach	Data Evaluation Approach	Comments/ Data Priority
Establishment of limited meander will create vegetation conditions (increased early successional habitat, vegetation structure and volume, patch diversity) favorable to recolonization by declining native bird species	Nest monitoring; territory mapping; point count surveys; mist-netting and banding of landbirds; vegetation measurements of nest sites (Martin et al. 1997, Ralph et al. 1993)	Mayfield estimates of nest survivorship; population density measurements; species diversity (using Shannon-Weaver index) and species richness; abundance of a suite of riparian associated species; correlation of vegetation variables with population parameters and nest site selection (using linear regression analysis and stepwise logistic regression)	High
Establishment of limited meander and natural processes will improve riparian vegetation condition and result in higher reproductive success of declining native bird species by providing more nest sites with better nest cover, thereby reducing pressure from nest predation.	Nest monitoring; nest vegetation measurement; mist-netting and banding; vegetation measurements of nest sites (Martin et al. 1997, Ralph et al. 1993)	Mayfield estimates of nest survivorship; productivity and adult survivorship estimates using mark-recapture methods; correlation of vegetation variables with nest success (using linear regression analysis and stepwise logistic regression)	High
Landscape factors such as patch size, connectivity, and patch diversity influence riparian bird species richness, diversity, abundance and productivity	Point counts; nest monitoring; spot-mapping; releve and nest vegetation measurements; geo-referencing using GPS unit (Martin et al. 1997, Ralph et al. 1993)	GIS landscape analysis	High

Local Involvement

Notification of the proposed project has gone to Tehama, Butte, and Glenn Counties, as well as affected landowners, state and federal agencies, and SB1086 participants. All contacted stakeholders have expressed support and willingness to collaborate, and TNC is unaware of any opposition to the proposed project. See Notification Letters and Letters of Support in Appendix.

County Notification

The proposed project includes floodplain acquisition of properties located in Tehama, Butte, and Glenn Counties, and site-specific planning in Glenn County. Each county actively participates in the SB 1086 Riparian and Advisory committees. Each county has been notified of proposed acquisition and planning activities within their jurisdiction, and TNC will continue to update County staff with developments of the proposed project.

The Beehive Bend Sub-reach is located entirely within Glenn County. Meetings have been held with Glenn County supervisors and the Public Works Director. Glenn County Public Works has agreed to collaborate on the proposed site-specific planning for Beehive Bend. Currently, TNC and Glenn County are working together to plan and implement management of the Chico Landing Sub-Reach (CALFED 97-NO2). TNC supports Glenn County's 1999 CALFED proposal.

Coordination with SB 1086 and State and Federal Agencies

TNC presented the proposed project to the SB1086 Advisory Council and Riparian Habitat Committee. The Advisory Council endorsed the proposed project as consistent with SB 1086 principles, guidelines and goals. TNC project staff actively participate in the SB 1086 Riparian Habitat Committee, Management Sub-Committee, and a TNC staff-member chairs the SB 1086 Outreach Sub-Committee. TNC will continue to update SB1086 with developments to proposed project and prior CALFED grants.

The CALFED 97-N02 Steering Committee (TNC, USFWS, WCB, and DFG) will continue to determine long-term ownership and management objectives, and serve as a forum for coordination among the public and private land management agencies.

TNC will seek participation from all stakeholder agencies within the Beehive Bend Sub-Reach management area, and will establish a technical committee through SB1086 to ensure coordination and outreach to all stakeholder agencies. The Beehive Bend Sub-Reach is within project levees. Flood management agencies will be important participants in the planning process; the California Department of Water Resources' Integrated Flood Management supports the proposed project; and TNC will coordinate site-specific planning with the Army Corps of Engineers' Comprehensive Study.

Affected Landowners and Public Outreach

Proposed floodplain acquisitions involve only willing sellers who have expressed interest in working with TNC. Each seller is fully aware that his or her property is identified in this proposal. The proposed site-specific management plan will engage local, state and federal entities, private and public interest groups, landowners and local residents to evaluate and implement management alternatives. This approach specifically provides a public process for identifying and addressing third party impacts.

Cost

Request: \$13,964,900 including \$11,797,500 of capital costs

Budget costs:

Direct salary and benefits of \$450,000 are calculated for all tasks described in the Scope of Work. Benefits are calculated at 35.7% of salary paid for hours worked in accordance with our Negotiated Indirect Costs Rate Agreement (NICRA) fringe benefit rate.

Service Contracts of \$180,000 for land acquisition includes the costs of appraisals and hazardous materials surveys, which will be obtained from a group of vendors used on a regular basis which are paid from invoice rather than through a written contract. Under our outreach strategy, we endeavor to outsource to local contractors, farmers, educational institutions, discovery centers, watershed conservancies and public agencies rather than incur salaries in house. Pt Reyes Bird Observatory has been identified as the subcontractor to monitor bird populations as an indicator of riparian forest health and is included in the \$480,000 monitoring line item. Competitive bids will be solicited for other service contracts.

Material costs of \$11,797,500 are estimated capital costs for purchase of land. Actual costs for each property will be based on appraisals. Other costs incurred in acquisition of land are included in Service Contracts

Overhead and indirect costs of \$102,000 included in this proposal are 23% of direct salaries and benefits only — less than our approved NICRA indirect cost rate, which is 20% of total direct project costs, including subcontracts but excluding the purchase price of any land interests. Application of our approved rate would result in overhead of \$434,480. As a result, the requested amount results in a \$332,480 cost savings to CALFED. The indirect portion includes costs associated with general office requirements and general staff as well as legal and grants administration staff.

Schedule/milestones

Contact landowners, conclude negotiations, sign options and close escrow on fee acquisition properties. Negotiations will continue to be pursued on ten target properties. As funding becomes available, and as agreement is reached on terms, the properties will be optioned and closed within three years.

Conduct baseline assessment, initiate surveys, management and monitoring plans and start-up stewardship activities on properties. Each of these activities will be initiated immediately upon close of escrow on each property acquired and will be completed within two years of closing.

Complete site specific management planning within three years.

Monitoring will be completed within three years with a final report due at completion.

Separable tasks

Portions of the proposed project may be considered separable for funding as follows: 1) full funding of Sub-Reach Management Planning; 2) full or partial funding for Floodplain Acquisition with proportionate funding of budget line-items associated with acquisition; or 3) full funding of Sub-Reach Management Planning and partial funding for Floodplain Acquisition with proportionate funding for budget line-items associated with acquisition. Partial funding of Sub-Reach Management Planning is not practicable.

TOTAL BUDGET

Task	Direct Labor Hours	Direct Salary & Benefits	Service Contracts	Material & Acquisition Costs	Miscellaneous and Other Direct Costs	Overhead and Indirect costs	Total Cost
Acquisition	2,184	70,000	180,000	11,797,500		26,000	12,073,500
Baseline Assessment/Start-up Stewardship	2,730	60,000	580,400			12,000	652,400
Site-specific Management Planning	2,184	120,000	375,000			24,000	519,000
Monitoring	1,274	36,500	480,000			7,300	523,800
Project Management	4,386	163,500				32,700	196,200
TOTALS		450,000	1,615,400	11,797,500	0	102,000	13,964,900

QUARTERLY BUDGET

Task	Quarterly Budget Oct-Dec 1999	Quarterly Budget Jan-Mar 2000	Quarterly Budget Apr-June 2000	Quarterly Budget Jul-Sept 2000	Year 2 Budget Oct 00-Sep 01	Year 3 budget Oct 01-Sep 02	Total Cost
Acquisition	25,000	6,000,000	4,500,000	1,548,500			12,073,500
Baseline Assessment/Start-up Stewardship		40,400	52,000	52,000	279,000	229,000	652,400
Site-specific Management Planning	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	423,000	48,000	519,000
Monitoring		49,800	70,000	60,000	172,000	172,000	523,800
Project Management	16,350	16,350	16,350	16,350	65,400	65,400	196,200
TOTALS	53,350	6,118,550	4,650,350	1,688,850	939,400	514,400	13,964,900

Cost-Sharing

Several funding sources are committed or proposed for projects which complement and support the goals of SB 1086 and CALFED's objectives for the Sacramento River. Proposed funding includes a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service request for Land and Water Conservation Fund appropriations to fund floodplain acquisitions within the Sacramento River Conservation Area, and a Chico State University request to the National Science Foundation to fund a Riparian Ecosystem Study to analyze restored and natural riparian ecosystems.

The proposed project adds to a long and successful history of acquisition, restoration, planning and management activities supported by public and private funding from many sources. In addition to The Nature Conservancy's private funding support for staff and operations in the project area over the past ten years, the Conservancy and its state and federal partner agencies have leveraged significant funding from Land and Water Conservation Fund, Central Valley Project Improvement Act, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Pesticide Regulation, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Army Corps of Engineers, and Tides Foundation.[]

The proposed project budget includes salaries and benefits, service contracts, capital costs and overhead. As noted in the Cost section, overhead is calculated as 23% of the salary and benefits cost. However, it is The Nature Conservancy's internal policy to charge overhead on service contracts to cover the significant real costs of administration and legal work involved in negotiating and administering sub-contracts. Therefore, The Nature Conservancy proposed to cover the 20% overhead expense on the service contracts cost as its cost-share contribution to the project. This amount is \$311,080.

Applicant Qualifications

The Nature Conservancy is an international, private, non-profit membership organization whose mission is to preserve plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. The Conservancy has over 45 years of experience in identifying, protecting, and managing significant natural areas. Its strength and reputation are built on the policy and practice of applying the best conservation science available and of building partnerships with local communities, private organizations, and public agencies to achieve mutual conservation goals.

The Nature Conservancy of California uses a wide variety of tools to help forge solutions to conservation issues. We employ the following four methods most frequently: acquisition of land or conservation easements, land management and restoration, land-use planning and conflict resolution, and community education and outreach.

Several of The Nature Conservancy's landmark conservation projects have been supported by funding from previous grants from CALFED and the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) and its Anadromous Fish Restoration Program, as well as additional public and private funding sources. These projects include:

Cosumnes River Project – Sacramento, San Joaquin Counties

Working with public agencies and private landowners, The Nature Conservancy has protected nearly 14,000 acres of floodplain habitat, restored more than 1,000 acres of seasonal wetland and 850 acres of riparian forest habitat, and implemented innovative levee set-back projects to restore natural channel meander. The project enjoys broad public support and provides many opportunities for local involvement, including public visitation, research and cooperative management with neighboring farmers. In recent years, The Nature Conservancy has begun working downstream, to include protection and restoration of key parcels near the confluence with the Mokelumne River that are critical to the Bay-Delta ecosystem.

Sacramento River Project - Butte, Tehama, Colusa Counties

An active participant in the SB 1086 process, The Nature Conservancy is collaborating with local landowners and stakeholders to develop the Sacramento River Conservation Area. To date, 15,000 acres have been protected and 2,340 acres restored, supported by funding from many partners and sources, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Wildlife Conservation Board, Department of Water Resources and others. Through the site-specific management planning process, the Conservancy is focusing on key sub-reaches of the river that are central to the implementation of a limited meander corridor, a high priority objective for SB 1086 and CALFED.

Mill Creek, Deer Creek, Battle Creek – Butte, Tehama, Shasta Counties

These tributary streams to the upper Sacramento River provide critical habitat for healthy populations of high priority anadromous fish species including winter, spring, fall and late-fall run chinook salmon and steelhead trout. Protection of riparian parcels through the purchase of fee and easement interests is essential to ensuring connectivity of habitat to the main stem of the Sacramento River. Active restoration has also begun on some of the protected parcels, with funding from CALFED and CVPIA and with the cooperation of local watershed conservancies.



Northern California Area Office
1330 21st Street, Suite 103
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International Headquarters
Arlington, Virginia

TEL 916 449-2850
FAX 916 448-3469

April 6, 1999

Bill Borrer
Tehama County Board of Supervisors
P. O. Box 250
Red Bluff, CA 96080

Dear Supervisor Borrer,

Thank you for taking the time to talk with me today regarding the 1999 CALFED Restoration Program Solicitation Package and county notification process. As I relayed, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) will submit a proposal in response to CALFED's solicitation, but rather than simply sending a notification letter, we would like to discuss our plans in person with county staff. I look forward to setting up a meeting to initiate that process with yourself and others you think appropriate.

As background, TNC has been active in land acquisition and riparian restoration along the Sacramento River since 1989. We share the SB1086 Conservation Area goals of re-establishing a continuous riparian corridor and allowing limited river meander. We work only with willing sellers, and we work cooperatively with landowners, stake-holder organizations, local government, and public agencies.

In talking with other counties we have learned that TNC's acquisition and restoration plans often impact county planning for roads, flood control, open space, etc., and that cooperatively planning for TNC's acquisition and restoration helps both TNC's and the counties' planning processes.

Our CALFED proposal requests funding for management planning and acquisition of key properties, including three parcels in Tehama County. We would like to sit down and share these plans with you and discuss other ongoing activities.

Please let me know how to initiate this process so that it works best to meet Tehama County's current and future needs and expectations. I look forward to seeing you at the SB1086 Advisory Council Meeting on April 12th. I will bring a map showing the property locations and hopefully we can further discuss the proposal at that time. You can also reach me at 916/449-2851. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marlyce Myers".

Marlyce Myers
Agency and Community Relations
Sacramento River Project



Northern California Area Office
1330 21st Street, Suite 103
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Arlington, Virginia

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April 9, 1999

Bill Borrer
Tehama County Board of Supervisors
P. O. Box 250
Red Bluff, CA 96080

Dear Supervisor Borrer,

As a follow-up to the letter I sent April 6th, I want to provide you with some additional information regarding The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) 1999 CALFED proposal "Floodplain Acquisition and Sub-Reach/Site-Specific Management (Sacramento River - Red Bluff to Colusa)". The summary and maps included provide a description and locations for project activities.

The Executive Summary is a two-page overview of the project that is a component of the CALFED proposal TNC will submit next week. As you will note, we are still refining some of our budget numbers. The maps show individual parcel locations in Tehama County (Figure 5) and the sub-reach of the river where we propose site-specific management (Figure 3 - Beehive Bend Sub-Reach, Glenn County, RM 165- 178).

I hope this information provides background about The Nature Conservancy's CALFED proposal and that we have a chance to meet soon and discuss TNC's Sacramento River Project. We recognize that TNC's acquisition and restoration plans often impact county planning for roads, flood control, open space, etc., and that cooperative planning helps both TNC and the county.

Please feel free to contact me or Sam Lawson, TNC's Sacramento River Project Director, if you have questions, comments or suggestion regarding TNC's CALFED proposal or our ongoing activities. I look forward to meeting with you, and hopefully taking you out to see the results of our work in Tehama County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marlyce Myers".

Marlyce Myers
Agency and Community Relations
Sacramento River Project



Northern California Area Office
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Arlington, Virginia

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April 2, 1999

Jane Dolan, Chair
Butte County Board of Supervisors
P. O. Box 3700
Chico, CA 95927

Dear Supervisor Dolan,

I spoke with John Blacklock today regarding the 1999 CALFED Restoration Program Solicitation Package and county notification process. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) will submit a proposal in response to CALFED's solicitation, but rather than simply sending a notification letter, we would like to discuss our plans in person with county staff. I called John to ask who would be appropriate at the county, and he suggested I contact you.

As background, TNC has been active in land acquisition and riparian restoration along the Sacramento River since 1989. We share the SB1086 Conservation Area goals of re-establishing a continuous riparian corridor and allowing limited river meander. We work only with willing sellers, and we work cooperatively with landowners, stake-holder organizations, local government, and public agencies.

In talking with other counties we have learned that TNC's acquisition and restoration plans often impacts county planning for roads, flood control, open space, etc., and that cooperatively planning for TNC's acquisition and restoration helps both TNC's and the counties' planning processes.

Our CALFED proposal requests funding for sub-reach scale management planning and acquisition of key properties, including two parcels in Butte County. We would like to sit down and share these plans with you and discuss other ongoing activities.

Please let me know how to initiate this process so that it works best to meet Butte County's current and future needs and expectations. I will call your office during the week of April 5-9 to schedule an appointment, or I can be contacted at 916/449-2851. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marlyce Myers".

Marlyce Myers
Agency and Community Relations, Sacramento River Project

CC: John Blacklock, Chief Administration Officer



Northern California Area Office
1330 21st Street, Suite 103
Sacramento, California 95814

International Headquarters
Arlington, Virginia

TEL 916 449-2850
FAX 916 448-3469

April 9, 1999

Jane Dolan, Chair
Butte County Board of Supervisors
P. O. Box 3700
Chico, CA 95927

Dear Supervisor Dolan,

As a follow-up to the letter I sent April 2nd, I wanted to provide you with some additional information regarding The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) 1999 CALFED proposal "Floodplain Acquisition and Sub-Reach/Site-Specific Management (Sacramento River - Red Bluff to Colusa)". The summary and maps included will provide a description and locations for project activities.

The Executive Summary is a two-page overview of the project and is included as a component of the CALFED proposal TNC will submit next week. As you will note in reading it, we are still refining some of our budget numbers. The maps show individual parcel locations in Butte County (Figure 4) and the sub-reach of the river where we propose a site-specific management plan (Figure 3 - Beehive Bend Sub-Reach, Glenn County, RM 165- 176). Please note in particular that there are four parcels identified for acquisition in Butte County. My April 2nd letter indicated two properties, but since that time we have identified two additional willing sellers in Butte County.

I hope this information will help provide background about The Nature Conservancy's proposed project and that we have a chance to meet soon and discuss TNC's Sacramento River Project. If you have questions, comments or suggestions regarding the proposal or TNC's ongoing activities please contact me or Sam Lawson, Sacramento River Project Director. I look forward to meeting with you, and hopefully taking you out to see the results of our work in Butte County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marlyce Myers".

Marlyce Myers
Agency and Community Relations, Sacramento River Project

CC: John Blacklock, Chief Administration Officer



Northern California Area Office
1330 21st Street, Suite 103
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Arlington, Virginia

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April 12, 1999

Denny Bungarz, Chair
Glenn County Board of Supervisors
P. O. Box 391
Willows, CA 95988

Dear Supervisor Bungarz,

Thank you for agreeing to meet with me today regarding The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) 1999 CALFED proposal "Floodplain Acquisition and Sub-Reach/Site-Specific Management (Sacramento River – Red Bluff to Colusa)".

TNC has been active in land acquisition and riparian restoration along the Sacramento River since 1989. We share the SB 1086 Conservation Area goals of re-establishing a continuous riparian corridor and limited river meander. We work only with willing sellers, and we work cooperatively with landowners, stake-holder organizations, local government, and public agencies.

I wanted to provide you with some additional information regarding our 1999 proposal, including a summary and maps to provide a description and locations for project activities. We recognize that TNC's acquisition and restoration plans often impact county planning for roads, flood control, open space, etc., and that cooperative planning helps both TNC and the county.

The enclosed Executive Summary is a two-page overview of the project and is a component of the CALFED proposal TNC will submit next week. As you will note, we are still refining some of our budget numbers. The maps show individual parcel locations in Glenn County (Figures 3 & 4) and the sub-reach of the river where we propose site-specific management (Figure 3 - Beehive Bend Sub-Reach, Glenn County, RM 165- 176).

I have also met with Glen County's Public Works Director Tom Tinsley to discuss site-specific management proposal for Beehive Bend, and to coordinate the site specific management planning we are initiating on the Chico Landing Sub-Reach (Figure 4) as a part of our current contract with CALFED (97-N02). Tom and I agreed TNC's work on the Chico Landing sub-reach compliments the 1999 Glenn County CALFED proposal "Habitat Restoration/Floodway Enhancement: Wilson Landing to Big Chico Creek on the Sacramento River," and that Glenn County and TNC's efforts will benefit from close cooperation and coordination.

I look forward to our collaboration on site-specific planning and management. Please feel free to contact Sam Lawson or me, if you have questions, comments or suggestion regarding the proposal or our ongoing activities. I look forward to meeting with you, and hopefully taking you out to see the results of our work in Glenn County.

Sincerely,


Marlyce Myers

Agency and Community Relations, Sacramento River Project

CC: Tom Tinsley , Glenn County Public Works Director



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1330 21st Street, Suite 103
Sacramento, California 95814

International Headquarters
Arlington, Virginia

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April 12, 1999

Keith Hansen
Glenn County Board of Supervisors
P. O. Box 391
Willows, CA 95988

Dear Supervisor Hansen,

Thank you for agreeing to meet with me today regarding The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) 1999 CALFED proposal "Floodplain Acquisition and Sub-Reach/Site-Specific Management (Sacramento River - Red Bluff to Colusa)".

TNC has been active in land acquisition and riparian restoration along the Sacramento River since 1989. We share the SB 1086 Conservation Area goals of re-establishing a continuous riparian corridor and limited river meander. We work only with willing sellers, and we work cooperatively with landowners, stake-holder organizations, local government, and public agencies.

I wanted to provide you with some additional information regarding our 1999 proposal, including a summary and maps to provide a description and locations for project activities. We recognize that TNC's acquisition and restoration plans often impact county planning for roads, flood control, open space, etc., and that cooperative planning helps both TNC and the county.

The enclosed Executive Summary is a two-page overview of the project and is a component of the CALFED proposal TNC will submit next week. As you will note, we are still refining some of our budget numbers. The maps show individual parcel locations in Glenn County (Figures 3 & 4) and the sub-reach of the river where we propose site-specific management (Figure 3 - Beehive Bend Sub-Reach, Glenn County, RM 165- 176).

I have also met with Glen County's Public Works Director Tom Tinsley to discuss site-specific management proposal for Beehive Bend, and to coordinate the site specific management planning we are initiating on the Chico Landing Sub-Reach (Figure 4) as a part of our current contract with CALFED (97-N02). Tom and I agreed TNC's work on the Chico Landing sub-reach compliments the 1999 Glenn County CALFED proposal "Habitat Restoration/Floodway Enhancement: Wilson Landing to Big Chico Creek on the Sacramento River," and that Glenn County and TNC's efforts will benefit from close cooperation and coordination.

I look forward to our collaboration on site-specific planning and management. Please feel free to contact Sam Lawson or me, if you have questions, comments or suggestion regarding the proposal or our ongoing activities. I look forward to meeting with you, and hopefully taking you out to see the results of our work in Glenn County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marlyce Myers".

Marlyce Myers

Agency and Community Relations, Sacramento River Project

CC: Tom Tinsley , Glenn County Public Works Director

Glenn County Public Works Department

777 North Colusa Street

WILLOWS, CALIFORNIA 95988-2298

Telephone (530) 934-6530 From Orland (530) 865-2782 FAX (530) 934-6533

Roads and Bridges
Transportation
Transit
Surveyor / Engineer
Willows Airport
Orland Airport
Solid Waste Landfill



Flood Control
Stream Cleaning
Water Resources
Street Lighting
North Willows CSA
Storm Drain Maint.
Dist. #3

THOMAS J. TINSLEY
Public Works Director

April 13, 1999

Mr. Lester Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: Proposal for Floodplain Acquisition and Sub-Reach/Site Specific Management
The Nature Conservancy, Applicant

Please accept this letter in support of the application of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) for Floodplain Acquisition and Sub-Reach/Site Specific Management.

This project complements the efforts of Glenn County to explore non-structural flood management alternatives in the 40 river miles within our jurisdiction.

The Glenn County Public Works and Development Services Agency is an applicant for site specific planning funds in the Wilson Landing to Chico Creek (Hamilton City) sub-reach (RM 193-206), which is designated on TNC's figure 1, accompanying their application. Their efforts described in the "Monitoring" component of their application within this sub-reach will complement our work in identifying site-specific opportunities for providing expanded riparian restoration together with enhanced floodway capacities.

In addition, we support the site specific management planning proposed for the Beehive Bend sub-reach (RM 165-176), as an example of what can be achieved by collaborative effort between agencies and others, as well as a process that will hopefully yield non-structural solutions to flood plain management within this area of the County.

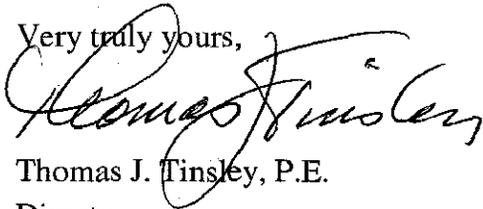
Mr. Lester Snow

April 13, 1999

Page 2

We are pleased to be able to participate in this effort and are confident that it will lead to some projects that will address the joint goals of habitat restoration and flood management within the Glenn County area. Please feel free to contact this office if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas J. Tinsley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Thomas J. Tinsley, P.E.

Director

Glenn County Public Works and Development Services Agency

SACRAMENTO RIVER ADVISORY COUNCIL
c/o CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
2440 MAIN STREET
RED BLUFF, CALIFORNIA 96080

Denny Bungarz, Chair - (530) 934-7342 - dbungarz@glenncounty.net
Burt Bundy, Sacramento River Conservation Area Coordinator - (530) 528-7411 - burtbundy@snowcrest.net

April 15, 1999

Mr. Lester Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Ref: Flood Plain Acquisition and Sub-Reach/Site Specific Management
(Sacramento River - Red Bluff to Colusa)**

Proponent: The Nature Conservancy

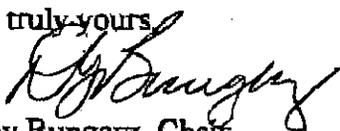
Dear Mr. Snow:

Based on the information provided by the project proponent of this project and with the understanding of continued studies and hydrologic and hydraulic review we find that this project is consistent with and furthers the objectives of the Sacramento River Conservation Area (SB1086) as outlined in the SRCA Handbook. An essential part of this effort continues to be close coordination with affected public and private landowners, government agencies, and other groups and individuals. The essence of the Sacramento River Conservation Area (SB1086) process is communication and coordination from a wide variety of interests along the river.

This proposal has been presented to both the Advisory Council and the Riparian Habitat Committee, and the Council has authorized me to forward this action on this proposal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



Denny Bungarz, Chair
Sacramento River Advisory Council

cc: The Nature Conservancy

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

1807 13TH STREET, SUITE 103
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814
(916) 445-8448
FAX (916) 323-0280



April 13, 1999

Mr. Lester Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Mr. Snow:

"Floodplain Acquisition and Sub-Reach/Site-Specific Management"

This letter is to inform you of the Wildlife Conservation Board's (WCB) support, cooperation and participation in The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) 1999 CALFED proposal "**Floodplain Acquisition and Sub-Reach/Site Specific Management.**" This proposal implements CALFED's Sacramento River Stage I Action, and complements the goals of the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) and Department of Fish and Game (DFG) Habitat Acquisition and Management Program.

The current 1999 proposal builds on the partnership and efforts initiated through the 1997 CALFED grant (97- NO2) for the Sacramento River proposal "Floodplain Acquisition and Management Project". That project established a partnership between the TNC, WCB, DFG and US Fish and Wildlife Service under a Memorandum of Understanding to coordinate acquisition and planning within The Sacramento River Conservation Area. Over the past decade, these four organizations have worked to acquire approximately 15,000 acres of flood prone land and restore 2,640 acres of riparian habitat along the Sacramento River.

The WCB would be pleased to continue participating in the CALFED 97-N02 steering committee as a process for determining acquisition and management priorities for CALFED grants awarded to TNC based on the **Floodplain Acquisition and Sub-Reach/Site Specific Management** proposal. WCB will continue to coordinate planning efforts with its 97-NO2 partners, and would be pleased to consider taking title to additional lands that fit within the goals and management objectives of WCB/DFG, either upon close of escrow, if appropriate, or following interim TNC management and restoration.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

COPY ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
W. JOHN SCHMIDT

W. John Schmidt
Executive Director

cc: Randy Benthin, DFG Northern California and North Coast Region, Redding, CA
Patricia Perkins, DFG Sacramento Valley and Central Sierra Region, Rancho Cordova, CA
✓ Marlyce Meyers, The Nature Conservancy, 1330 21st Street, Suite 103, Sacramento, CA 95814



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex
752 County Road 99W, Willows, California 95988

April 13, 1999

Mr. Lester Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Snow:

This letter is to inform you of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) support, cooperation and participation in The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) 1999 CALFED proposal "**Floodplain Acquisition and Sub-Reach/Site Specific Management**". This proposal implements CALFED's Sacramento River Stage I Action, and complements the goals of the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex (Refuge).

The current 1999 proposal builds on the partnership and efforts initiated through the 1997 CALFED grant (97-NO2) for the Sacramento River proposal "Floodplain Acquisition and Management Project". That joint project established a partnership (Refuge, TNC, and the Wildlife Conservation Board) and Steering Committee under a Memorandum of Understanding to coordinate acquisition and planning within the SB1086 Sacramento River Conservation Area. Over the past decade, these three organizations have worked to acquire approximately 15,000 acres of flood prone land and restore 2,640 acres of riparian habitat along the Sacramento River.

The Service will continue to participate in the CALFED 97-NO2 Steering Committee as a process for determining acquisition and management priorities for CALFED grants. The Refuge will continue to coordinate planning efforts with its 97-NO2 partners, and would be willing to take title to additional lands that fit within the goals and management plans of the Refuge.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Gary W. Kramer
Refuge Manager



March 31, 1999

Mr. Lester Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay Delta program
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento CA 95814

Dear Mr. Snow:

It has come to my attention that The Nature Conservancy is requesting funds for purchase of a walnut orchard within the Sacramento River Floodplain at the confluence of Big Chico and Mud Creeks. I would like to enthusiastically support acquisition, protection and restoration of this site.



I am very familiar with the area, having sampled in both creeks casually over the last 30 years and extensively since 1994 in my research on juvenile salmon rearing habitat. Last time we sampled there (March 21, 1999), we captured 618 juvenile chinook salmon, about one per every 2 square meters seined, including all races but late fall. At other times of the year we would get late fall juveniles also. I would estimate that in excess of 50,000 juveniles rear in the lower part of these creeks. Mud Creek, especially, seems to be important for rearing by winter chinook. We have documented their presence by both size analysis and DNA testing (Maslin, et al. 1998. Intermittent Streams as Rearing Habitat for Sacramento River Chinook Salmon).

This part of Big Chico Creek also serves as migratory corridor for spring and fall chinook and steelhead rainbow trout that spawn in Big Chico Creek. Last year's count of Big Chico Creek spring-run spawners was 469. It is important habitat for migration, spawning, and rearing of several native, non-game fish: Sacramento sucker, Sacramento pike-minnow, hardhead, hitch, and tule perch. We have even observed mature Sacramento splittail in Mud Creek on three occasions. Being contiguous with Bidwell River State Park, the proposed site is superb habitat for many amphibians, reptiles, mammals, and birds. Being only a few minutes away from California State University at Chico, it has exceptional potential for research and teaching.

In summary, I think the walnut orchard at the confluence of Mud and Big Chico Creeks is a key piece to be acquired in the effort to restore functionality to the Sacramento River ecosystem.

Sincerely,

Paul E. Maslin
Department of Biological Science
CSU, Chico
Chico California 95929-0515

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

COLLEGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN
DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AND
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

202 WURSTER HALL # 2000
BERKELEY, CA 94720-2000
(510) 642-4022
FAX (510) 643-6166

12 April 1999

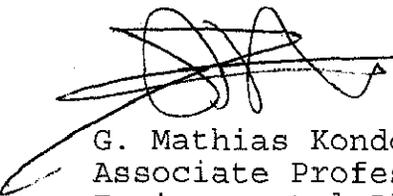
Lester Snow, Executive Director
CalFed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento CA 98814

Dear Lester,

I am writing to endorse a proposal by the Nature Conservancy to purchase nine environmentally sensitive properties, along with a management and monitoring program. I am particularly familiar with the 'Martin' property along Stony Creek, which now supports an in-channel gravel mining operation. I have been following gravel mining on Stony Creek since 1990, when I was part of a team that surveyed the creek. Results of our geomorphic study showed that gravel mining had major negative effects on the channel (Kondolf and Swanson 1993). I have walked the creek several times since, the last time I was on the Martin reach (from Hwy 45 downstream) being 1997, when the effects of gravel mining in disrupting channel form were quite obvious.

While acquisition of this parcel alone will not 'fix' Stony Creek (in large part because even larger gravel mines continue to operate upstream), it would be very beneficial for the channel processes and salmon habitat. Effects of in-channel gravel mining were identified in the ERP as a major stressor to salmon, and the Strategic Plan called for actions to correct imbalances in the sediment budget, such as are clearly evident along Stony Creek. In addition to benefits for Stony Creek itself, Stony Creek has also been an important contributor of gravel to the Sacramento River. I strongly endorse the proposal to acquire this and the other listed parcels.

Sincerely yours,



G. Mathias Kondolf
Associate Professor of
Environmental Planning and Geography
tel 510 644 8381, fax 510 486 1210
email: kondolf@uclink.berkeley.edu, gkondolf@aol.com
www.ced.berkeley.edu/landscape/kondolf/

Reference Cited

Kondolf, G.M., and Swanson, M.L. 1993. Channel adjustments to reservoir construction and instream gravel mining, Stony Creek, California. *Environmental Geology and Water Science*, 21:256-269.

HARTLEY ISLAND RANCH

1209 HASSETT AVENUE
YUBA CITY, CALIFORNIA 95991-7213

OFFICE (530) 674-0770
RANCH PHONE AND FAX (530) 982-0704
OFFICE - FAX (530) 674-8553

April 15, 1999

Mr. Lester Snow
Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Snow:

This is a letter of support for a proposal being submitted to your organization by The Nature Conservancy - Floodplain Acquisition and Sub-Reach/Site-Specific Management.

I am a farmer in the Sacramento Valley and I have experience working with The Nature Conservancy. I sold a portion of Hartley Island Ranch to TNC in 1997 (TNC used CVPIA funds to buy this property). This land, located inside the levee banks adjacent to the Sacramento River, runs the risk and associated costs of flooding each year due to its location along the river. I now lease the 249-acre walnut orchard that I sold to TNC.

This land and the Hartley Island Ranch property lie within the Beehive Bend Sub-Reach that TNC proposes to you for Site-Specific Management Planning. As a landowner in this area, I have an interest in the management and future of the restoration and flood control system in this area. I plan on being involved with the Beehive Bend Site-Specific Management Plan, should you fund this endeavor. I am encouraged that TNC is including landowners in this process.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,



Steven M. Sandgren
Hartley Island Ranch



THE KOEHNEN & SONS INC.
HULLING & SHELLING

April 15, 1999

Mr. Lester Snow
Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca 95814

Dear Mr. Snow,

I am writing to support the Floodplain Acquisition and Sub-Reach/Site-Specific Management proposal being submitted by The Nature Conservancy. As a farmer I have first hand experience with flood-prone lands along the Sacramento River and I support The Nature Conservancy's efforts to protect these lands and plan the restoration of natural processes and riparian habitats.

My family has farmed in Butte and Glenn Counties along the Sacramento River since the early part of this century. We are currently in escrow with The Nature Conservancy on a 600-acre flood-prone parcel in Butte County (to be purchased with CALFED 97-NO2 funds). This is the first agricultural property my family has sold in the Sacramento Valley. We have spent a lot of energy and money protecting this land from the river in order to farm there and have decided that it is time to give this piece of land back to the river. We are committed farmers in the Valley and we look forward for the opportunity to reinvest the proceeds from this sale to purchase additional farmland outside the floodplain in the Valley.

We would like you to strongly consider this proposal for acquisition and proper restoration planning of specific flood-prone properties for riparian habitat.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

3131 HIGHWAY 45
GLENN, CALIFORNIA 96043
(916) 834-5216 • (916) 891-5216
FAX (916) 834-2813

April 15, 1999

Mr. Lester Snow
Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Snow,

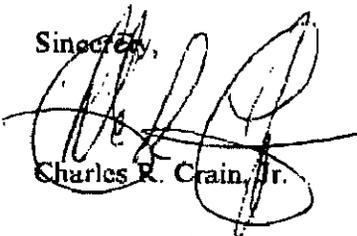
This is a letter of support for CALFED funding for the acquisition of riparian habitat in the Sacramento River Floodway. As a farmer in Glenn, Butte and Tehama counties, I have first hand experience with the farming of flood-prone lands along the Sacramento River and the negative economic impact of the river on some adjacent, low-lying property. I support the Nature Conservancy's efforts to acquire existing riparian habitat, as well as agricultural properties adjacent to the Sacramento River which are not economic to farm. In certain cases where properties cannot be split, it is sometimes necessary to purchase limited viable agricultural property to complete the purchase. As long as all reasonable alternatives are exhausted in the divestiture of the viable agricultural land, and the TNC is willing to continue leasing the moderately productive agricultural land until it becomes not economically viable, then I believe any negative impacts have been adequately mitigated.

I would also like to express my support for the "Agricultural Leasing Program" on the lands acquired by the Nature Conservancy. I lease approximately 900 acres of walnuts owned by the TNC. While a portion of the revenue from the agricultural contracts provide The Nature Conservancy with funds to operate their restoration program, a portion is paid to the farmer. There is no doubt that these local leases retain agricultural income within the local economy.

Being one the area's largest farmers, my wife and I own properties that border the TNC in ten different locations. To date, the TNC has been a good neighbor, and has limited our exposure to conflict with the neighboring habitat development on adjoining properties. TNC managers have been courteous and professional in dealing with any neighborly issues. One of the sites where we border the TNC, is Beehive Bend. I am looking forward to working with the TNC on the future management of the flood control systems and the Beehive Bend Site-Specific Management Plan. I am encouraged that TNC is including landowners in this process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Charles R. Crain, Jr.

CRAIN ORCHARDS

10695 Decker Avenue • Los Molinos, CA 96055 • Phone (916) 529-1585 • Fax (916) 529-1458

I - 0 1 4 4 3 5

I-014435

Gilbert Moss
10390 Alberton Avenue
Chico, CA 95928

April 13, 1999

Lester Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Floodplain Acquisition and Sub-Reach/Site-Specific Management

Dear Mr. Snow:

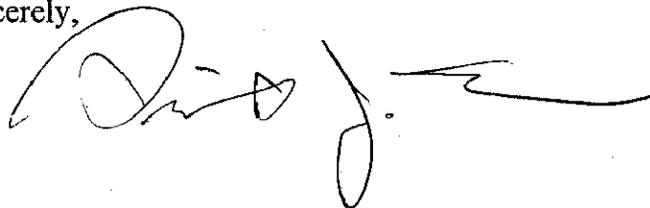
I am writing in support of The Nature Conservancy's proposal for *Floodplain Acquisition and Sub-Reach/Site-Specific Management* along the Sacramento River. As a farmer and local landowner I believe The Nature Conservancy's efforts to acquire and properly plan for the long-term management of nine parcels within the floodplain of the Sacramento River is the most responsible course of action to achieving the goals of CALFED.

I have been directly involved with TNC restoring and managing floodplain properties for the past 5 years. I have sub-contracted to plant 195 acres of riparian trees, and this spring I will plant another 200 acres at River Vista funded by a CALFED 97 N03 grant. I currently lease 188 acres of walnuts from The Nature Conservancy.

From personal experience I can speak to the beneficial effects of transitioning flood prone farm lands to conservation lands. Acquiring flood prone farm lands establishes a buffer between remaining farm lands and the direct effects of river flooding and meandering (i.e. bank erosion, debris deposition). The acquisition program also allows farmers to put their energy and resources into farming and not expensive confrontations with the river.

I own and farm land within the Chico Landing sub-reach and look forward to working with TNC to develop a comprehensive management strategy for this stretch of the river. I strongly support this proposal and ask that you do the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gilbert Moss', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

April 13, 1999

Mr. Lester Snow
Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

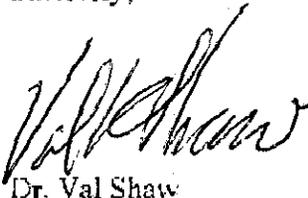
Dear Mr. Snow,

This is a letter in support of a proposal submitted by The Nature Conservancy—Floodplain Acquisition and Sub-Reach/Site-Specific Management. The proposed program will provide funding to protect and plan the restoration of natural processes and riparian habitats on flood-prone land along the Sacramento River. The Nature Conservancy has a conservation easement on my property and I have enjoyed working with them on the protection of riparian habitat along the Sacramento River.

I also support acquisition as a tool for the protection of riparian habitat. I am particularly interested in the proposed acquisition of the 63-acre Martin property located on Stony Creek between Highway 45 and the Sacramento River. I own and farm property along Stony Creek and have been involved in the Bureau of Reclamation's Stony Creek Management Plan that attempts to improve conditions on lower Stony Creek for fish and wildlife habitat. The acquisition and conservation of the Martin property would halt the 50,000-ton/year gravel mining operation and help address two of the three main issues in the Bureau's management plan: 1) restoring, protecting, and enhancing riparian habitat, and 2) improving substrate conditions for anadromous fish.

I urge you to support this proposal. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Dr. Val Shaw



Val K. Shaw, M.D.
Eye Physician & Surgeon

680 Rio Lindo Ave.
Suite 1
Chico, CA 95926

(530) 891-1900

892-1900
OPTICAL SHOP



Conserving Land
for People

April 15, 1999

Mr. Lester Snow
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Snow:

This letter is to convey the strong support The Trust for Public Land (TPL) gives The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in its funding request to the CALFED Bay-Delta Program for floodplain acquisition and management within the Red Bluff to Colusa reach of the Sacramento River Conservation Area.

This restoration project, including 1,550+ acres of critical habitat acquisition, marks the next in a succession of ecologically important endeavors that TNC has conducted on the Sacramento River, dating back more than a decade, and builds on funding previously awarded to TNC by CALFED and others. By making it possible for stretches of the river to experience natural restorative processes, such as erosion, sedimentation, flooding, and succession, the proposed project is worthy investment toward fulfilling CALFED objectives, as well as the Sacramento River Conservation Area Advisory Council's vision of an inner river zone defined by limited meander and a continuous riparian corridor.

We hope that you join us in supporting this important conservation project. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Nelson Mathews
Western Rivers Program Director

cc: Sam Lawson, Sacramento River Project Director, TNC

The Trust for Public Land
Western Region
116 New Montgomery
Third Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105

(415) 495-5660
Fax (415) 495-0541

s:\shared\proj\cnrivers\fedgov\tncgrant

Compliance with Standard Terms and Conditions

The Nondiscriminatory Compliance Statement and Small Business Preference forms are attached, as required under the Terms and Conditions of the 1999 CALFED Proposal Solicitation Package.

If state funds are used for this project, the following applies: The applicants acknowledge the requirement of the Standard Clauses for service and consultant service contracts for \$5,000 and over with non-public entities, as described in the terms and conditions of the 1999 CALFED Proposal Solicitation Package.

If federal funds are used for this project, the following applies: While The Nature Conservancy's systems comply with OMB Circulars A-110, A-122 and A-133, our accounting systems do not currently comply with all provisions of the cost accounting standards (which are applicable to federal procurement contracts). Therefore, the Conservancy would strongly prefer a grant or cooperative agreement. In addition, given the definitions in federal law, it would appear that this type of project would most reasonably fall under a grant or cooperative agreement.

NONDISCRIMINATION COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

STD. 18 (REV. 3-85) FMC

COMPANY NAME

The Nature Conservancy

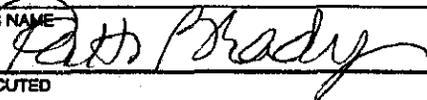
The company named above (hereinafter referred to as "prospective contractor") hereby certifies, unless specifically exempted, compliance with Government Code Section 12990 (a-f) and California Code of Regulations, Title 2, Division 4, Chapter 5 in matters relating to reporting requirements and the development, implementation and maintenance of a Nondiscrimination Program. Prospective contractor agrees not to unlawfully discriminate, harass or allow harassment against any employee or applicant for employment because of sex, race, color, ancestry, religious creed, national origin, disability (including HIV and AIDS), medical condition (cancer), age, marital status, denial of family and medical care leave and denial of pregnancy disability leave.

CERTIFICATION

I, the official named below, hereby swear that I am duly authorized to legally bind the prospective contractor to the above described certification. I am fully aware that this certification, executed on the date and in the county below, is made under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California.

Patti Brady

OFFICIAL'S NAME



DATE EXECUTED

April 13, 1999

EXECUTED IN THE COUNTY OF

San Francisco

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S SIGNATURE

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S TITLE

Director of Human Resources

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S LEGAL BUSINESS NAME

The Nature Conservancy

**STANDARD CLAUSES --
SMALL BUSINESS PREFERENCE AND CONTRACTOR IDENTIFICATION NUMBER**

NOTICE TO ALL BIDDERS:

Section 14835, et. seq. of the California Government Code requires that a five percent preference be given to bidders who qualify as a small business. The rules and regulations of this law, including the definition of a small business for the delivery of service, are contained in Title 2, California Code of Regulations, Section 1896, et. seq. A copy of the regulations is available upon request. Questions regarding the preference approval process should be directed to the Office of Small and Minority Business at (916) 322-5060. To claim the small business preference, you must submit a copy of your certification approval letter with your bid.

Are you claiming preference as a small business?

_____ Yes* x No

*Attach a copy of your certification approval letter.