

Yuba Gold Fields Integrated Flood Management, Habitat and Recreation Project

AR-01

Project Sponsor Contact Information

Lead Agency/Organization	American Rivers
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Project Partners/Collaborators	SYRCL is a confirmed partner. Entities necessary as partners for project implementation include TRLIA, Yuba County, YCWA, Bureau of Land Management, Corps of Engineers and others.

I. General Project Information

Project Title	Yuba Gold Fields Integrated Flood Management, Habitat and Recreation Project
Project Total Budget	\$75 million
Project Funding Match	TBD
Project Funding Request	TBD
Can a detailed cost estimate be provided upon request?	Not at this time.
Project Location:	
Latitude	39° 12' 29.2062"/39.208113
Longitude	-121° 26' 36.4986"/-121.443472
Could you provide a map of the project location including boundaries upon request?	Yes
Project Location Description:	Lower Yuba River, Hammon Grove Park area and downstream
County	Yuba
City/Community	Marysville, Browns Valley
Watershed/subwatershed	Lower Yuba River
Groundwater Basin	Yuba Groundwater Basin
Project Type	Planning Facility Construction Restoration Demonstration/Pilot Project

II. Project Description

The Yuba Gold Fields Integrated Flood Management, Habitat and Recreation Enhancement Project (Project) is a planning, construction and restoration project that would achieve multiple, integrated objectives including: a) improving flood protection for communities in the Marysville/Olivehurst/Linda areas consistent with the mission of the Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority (TRLIA) and Yuba County Water Agency (YCWA); b) improve juvenile salmonid rearing habitat quantity and quality to contribute to the recovery of listed salmonids consistent with restoration needs identified by resource managers; and c) improve river-focused recreational opportunities for communities in Yuba County and surrounding areas, consistent with recommendations of the 2008 Yuba County Parks Master Plan and other county objectives, particularly improving the economic vitality of the county through enhanced recreational opportunities.

The Project would integrate the planning and implementation of actions currently aimed to achieve a single purpose in a way that each project element, flood, habitat and recreation, could contribute to achieving the objectives of other project components. The project would involve designing and building levees to provide 200-yr protection; reconnecting the Yuba River with former floodplain and creating salmon rearing habitat and riparian habitat; providing a variety of recreational amenities such as trails, picnic areas and educational opportunities.

The project would involve the collaboration among TRLIA, Yuba County, YCWA, the Corps of Engineers, BLM, private aggregate operators, American Rivers, SYRCL and others.

III. Project Rationale/Issues Statement

This project would directly address objectives identified for several key regional issues:

- Infrastructure
 - The project would develop new flood control and recreational infrastructure.
- Flood management
 - The project would improve integrated flood management by bringing together multiple objectives in one project;
 - The project would directly increase flood protection and enhance floodplain functions and habitat;
 - The project would create multi-stakeholder collaboration for flood management to achieve multiple economic, public safety, and ecological benefits.
- Recreation
 - The project would promote and implement comprehensive recreational planning with a focus on regional economic development in the Lower Yuba River and beyond to improve local economies, improve habitat, and reduce human impact and threats to public safety.
- Fisheries

- The project would help recover endangered and threatened fish species, particularly anadromous fish, by restoring and providing access to historic floodplain habitat in the Gold Fields area.
- Land Conservation
 - The project would enhance the recreational and economic development opportunities of the otherwise largely unused Gold Fields landscape.

IV. Goals/Objectives/Performance Metrics

<p>Goals, Objectives, Performance Measures Addressed by the Project</p> <p>1) improve flood protection for communities of Marysville, Linda and Olivehurst</p> <p>2) improve juvenile salmonid rearing habitat quantity and quality to contribute to the recovery of listed salmonids</p> <p>3) improve river-focused recreational opportunities for communities in Yuba County and surrounding areas, consistent with recommendations of the 2008 Yuba County Parks Master Plan and other county objectives.</p>	<p>1a. number of collaboratively developed plans and assessments 1b. number of water agencies/member units collaborating in the development of plans 1c. increased level of flood protection provided 1d. miles of levees constructed or improved</p> <p>2a. acres of floodplain habitat restored, re-accessed 2b. acres of riparian vegetation created 2c. acres of side channel habitat created 2d. number of plans and projects collaboratively developed</p> <p>3a. number of collaboratively developed plans and assessments 3b. percent of planning efforts resulting in project implementation 3c. number of recreational amenities/opportunities developed 3d. number of businesses serving use of project recreational features 3e. number of visitors to project recreational features</p>
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V. Resource Management Strategies

Practice Natural Resources Stewardship	
Ecosystem Restoration	The project would restore or enhance the ecological condition of the lower Yuba River, floodplain and riparian corridor.
Land Use Planning and Management	The project would promote land use planning and management by integrated multiple benefits into planning of the three currently separate elements.
Water-dependent Recreation	The project would promote water-dependent recreational activities such as fishing, boating and

	swimming.
Improve Flood Management	
Flood Risk Management	The project would improve flood management by improving flood protection for area communities.

VI. Statewide Priorities

Climate Change Response Actions

- Adaptation to Climate Change: Establish migration corridors, re-establish river-floodplain, hydrologic continuity, re-introduce anadromous fish populations to upper watersheds, enhance and protect upper watershed forests and meadow systems

Expand Environmental Stewardship

- Expand environmental stewardship to protect and enhance the environment by improving watershed, floodplain, and instream functions and to sustain water and flood management ecosystems

Practice Integrated Flood Management

- Improved flood protection
- More sustainable flood and water management systems
- Enhanced floodplain ecosystems

Ensure Equitable Distribution of Benefits

- Develop multi-benefit projects with consideration of affected disadvantaged communities and vulnerable populations

Climate Change Adaptation

The project would assist the region in adapting to the effects of climate change by improving the flood protection for area communities to better manage extreme weather events. The project will also help by providing greater resilience of salmonid populations to climate change by restoring floodplain rearing habitat which is in critical short supply in the Central Valley. In addition, the project could help communities endure a warmer climate by providing increased opportunity for water dependent recreation.

GHG Emissions Reduction

Implementing the proposed project would generate construction-related GHG emissions that would cease after the project is constructed. Such emissions would come from vehicle engine exhaust from heavy-duty construction equipment, haul trips, and construction worker trips. The project would mitigate for GHG emissions in two primary ways. First, project outcomes, including restoration of riparian and stream habitat, will result in carbon sequestration thereby reducing CO₂e/GHG emissions. Studies show that floodplains can sequester up to 1 ton of carbon per acre per year in sediments deposited, floodplain trees can capture more 3 tons of carbon per acre per year, and aquatic organisms

and plants can sequester as much as 5 tons of carbon per acre per year. In total, an acre of functional floodplain could sequester as much as 9 tons of carbon each year. Second, the project will employ several GHG emission reduction strategies, including offering local contractor preference and local purchase of construction materials where possible, encouraging carpooling, recycling of construction waste, among others. A goal of the project is to result in a net reduction in GHG emissions over time.

VII. Project Status and Schedule

For Conceptual Projects Only: The Project is currently in the Conceptual Stage: **YES**

VIII. Project Technical Feasibility

a. List the water planning documents that specifically identify this project.	
b. List the adopted planning documents the proposed project is consistent with (e.g., General Plans, UWMPs, GWMPs, Water Master Plans, Habitat Conservation Plans, etc.)	Yuba County Parks Master Plan, 2008
c. List technical reports and studies supporting the feasibility of this project.	Lower Yuba River Assessment Report, 2008 (Gina Bartlett, Center for Collaborative Policy)
If you are an Urban Water Supplier:	
1. Have you completed an Urban Water Management Plan and submitted to DWR?	
2. Are you in compliance with AB1420?	
3. Do you comply with the water meter requirements (CWC Section 525)?	
4. If the answer to any of the questions above is “no,” do you intend to comply prior to receiving project funding?	
If you are an Agricultural Water Supplier:	
1. Have you completed and submitted an AWMP?	
2. If not, will you complete an AWMP prior to receiving project funding?	
If the project is related to groundwater:	
1. Has GWMP been completed and	

submitted for the subject basin?	
2. If not, will the GWMP be completed within one year of the grant submittal date?	