Hamilton City Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration, California

Hamilton City Citizens In Action

"A Committee to Serve the Citizens of Hamilton City"

CALIFORNIA BAY-DELTA AUTHORITY

Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins Comprehensive Study

THE RECLAMATION BOARD STATE OF CALIFORNIA

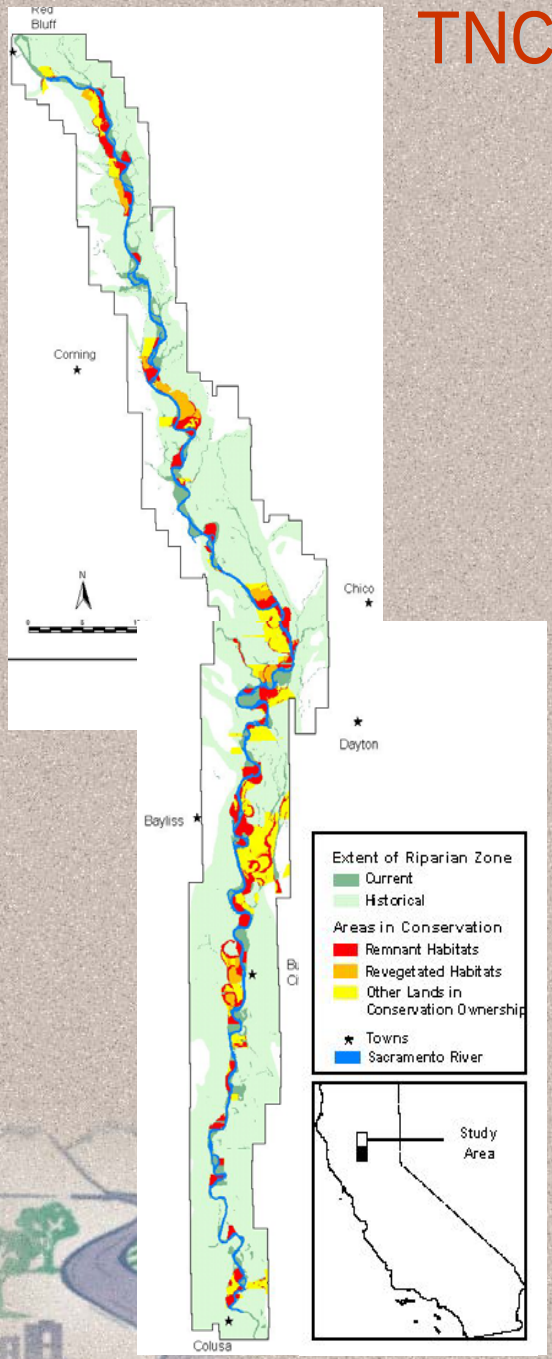
sacramento river conservation area forum
a voice for all interests

COUNTY OF GLENN

The Nature Conservancy
SAVING THE LAST GREAT PLACES ON EARTH

US Army Corps of Engineers

TNC's Sacramento River Project



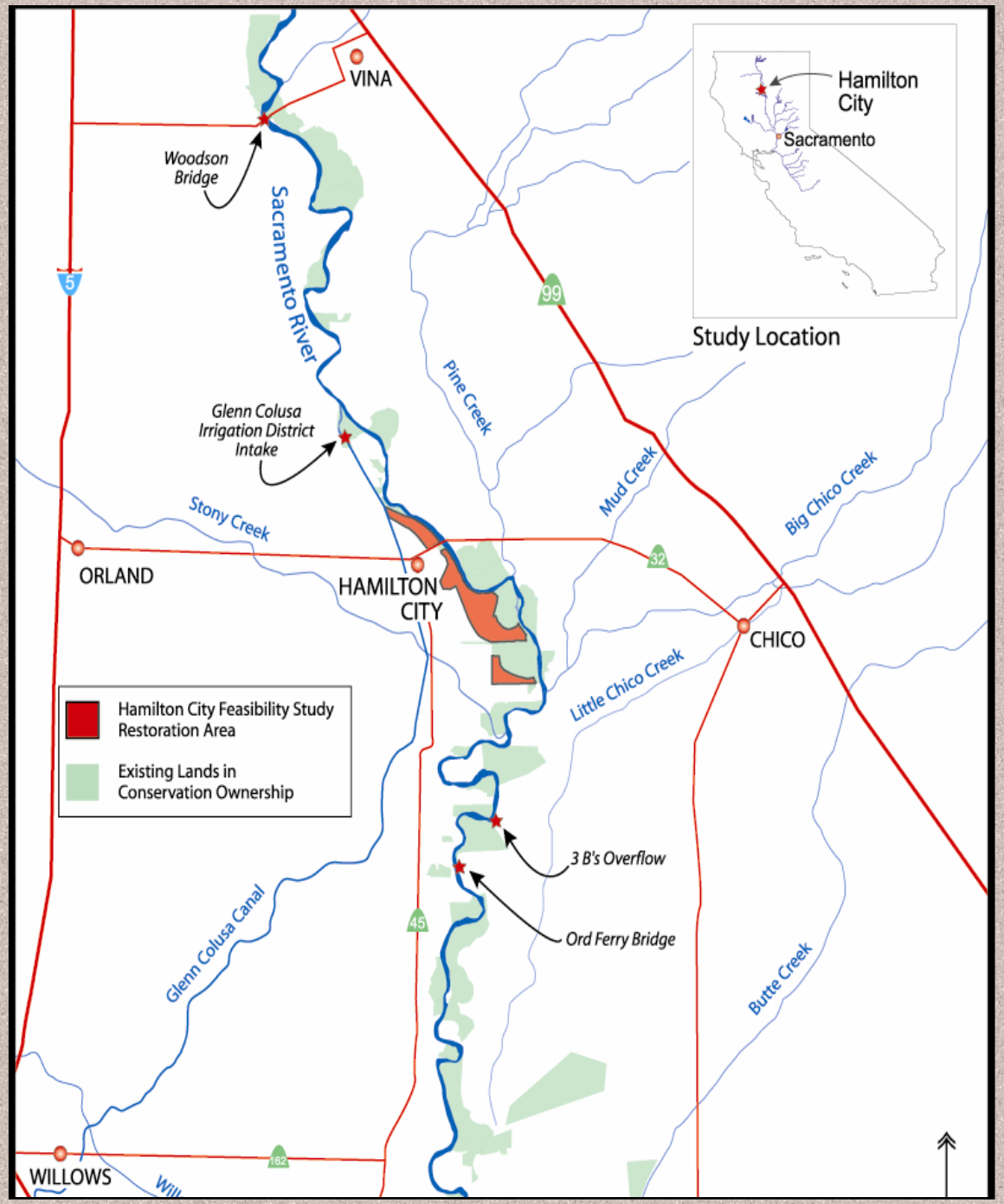
1) Acquire flood-prone lands and existing habitat
   - ~ 20,000 acres

2) Revegetate land with native trees, shrubs, and understory
   - ~ 3,500 acres

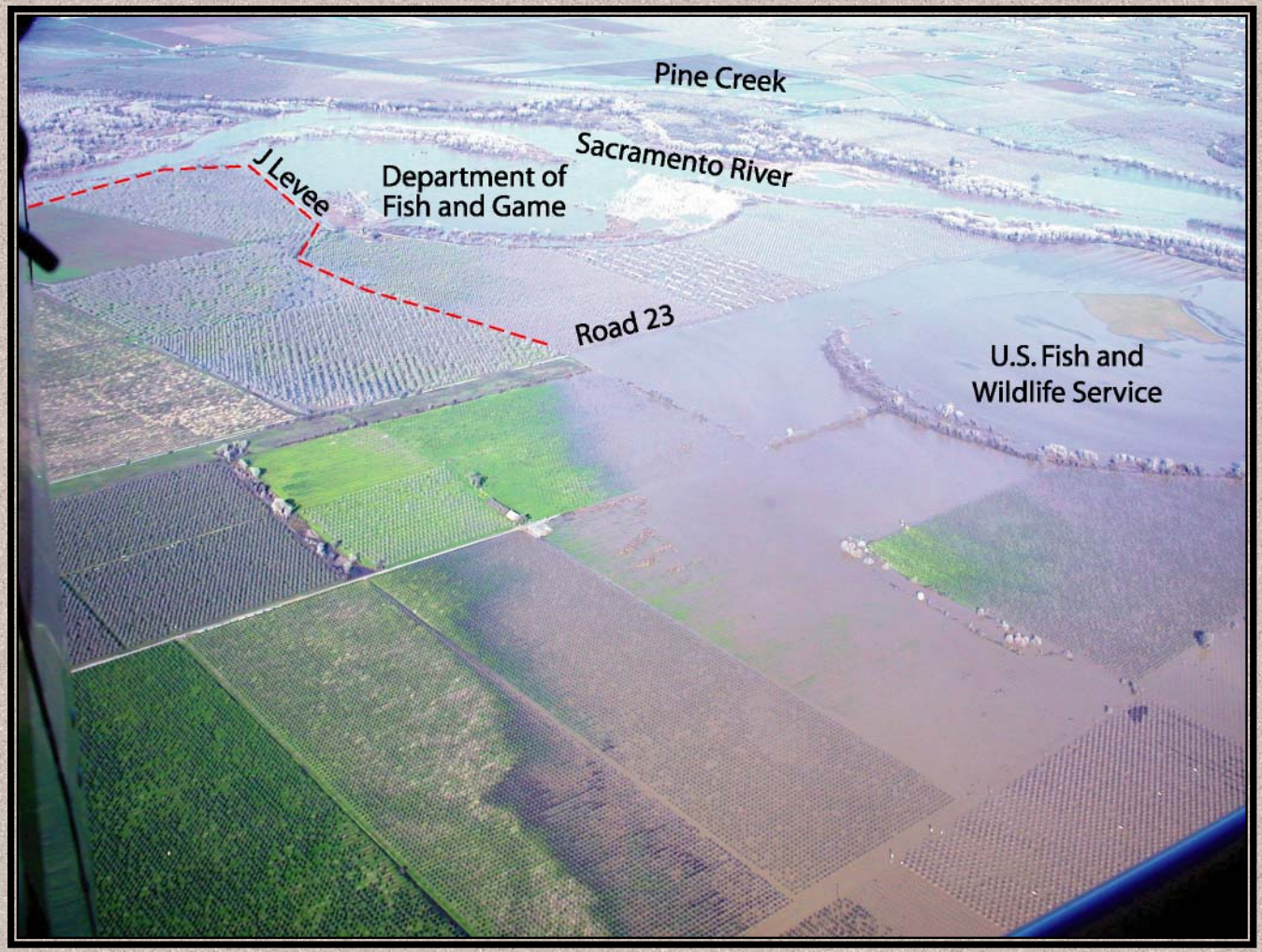
3) Restore natural river process (flood plain connectivity)
   - Hamilton City Project

Other Programs

- USFWS
- DF&G
- SRCAF
- CALFED



Project Area During a 4 Year Flood (February 2004)



Local Involvement

HAMILTON CITY
LEVEE FESTIVAL
Sun., Oct. 14, 2001
2pm - 6pm
at the
HAMILTON CITY PARK

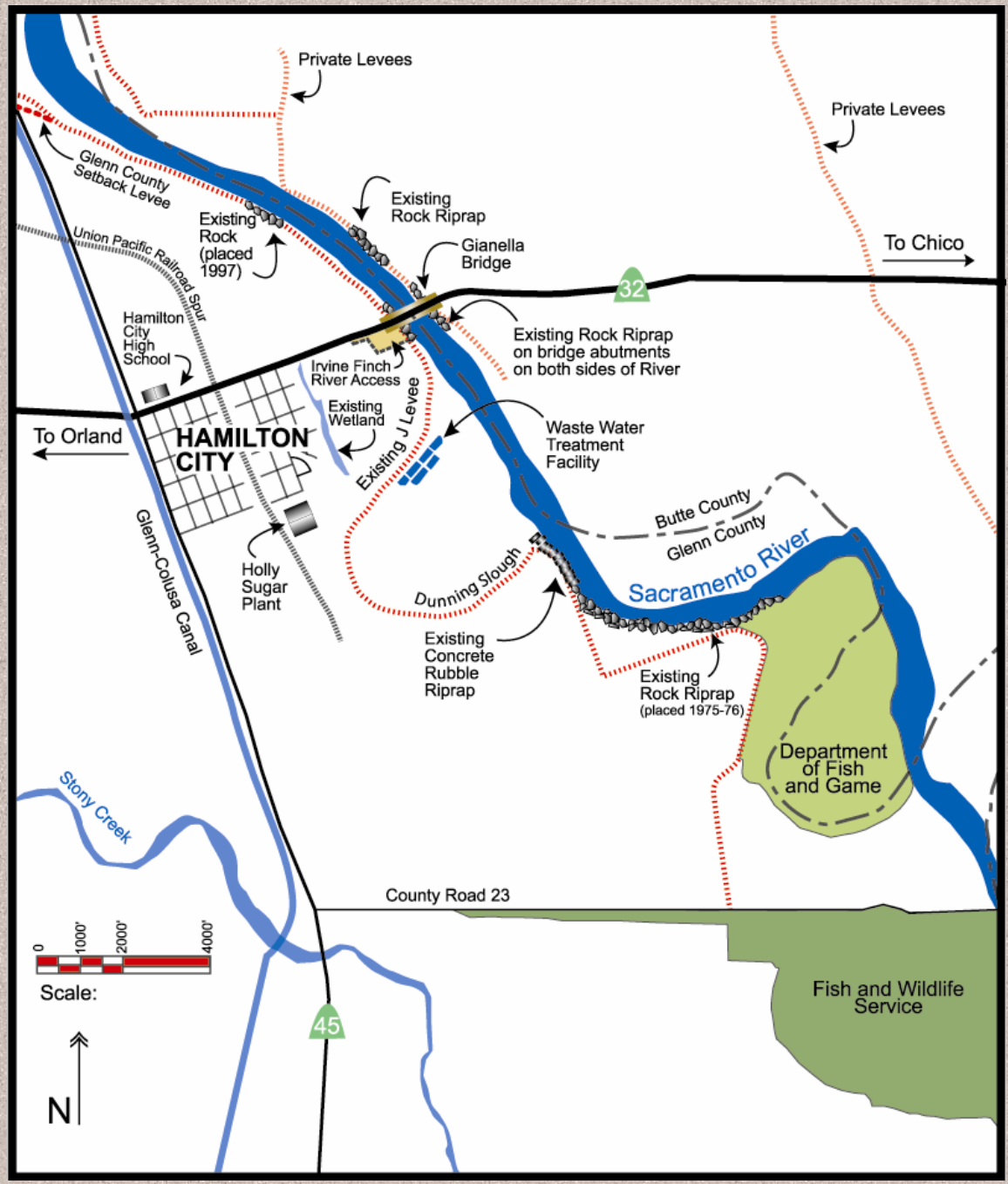
- 3 Previous Corps studies
- Evacuated 6 times in past 20 years
- Flood fighting 5 times in past 20 years
- Annual levee festivals since 1998, raised ~$85,000

Study Authority

- Flood Control Act of 1962, authorized the Secretary of the Army to conduct surveys in the Sacramento River Basin.
- Water Resources Development Act of 1996 established environmental protection and restoration as a primary project purpose.
- Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act 1998.

Study Area

- 2,500 permanent residents
- $9,050 per capita
- Failing private levee (circa 1905)

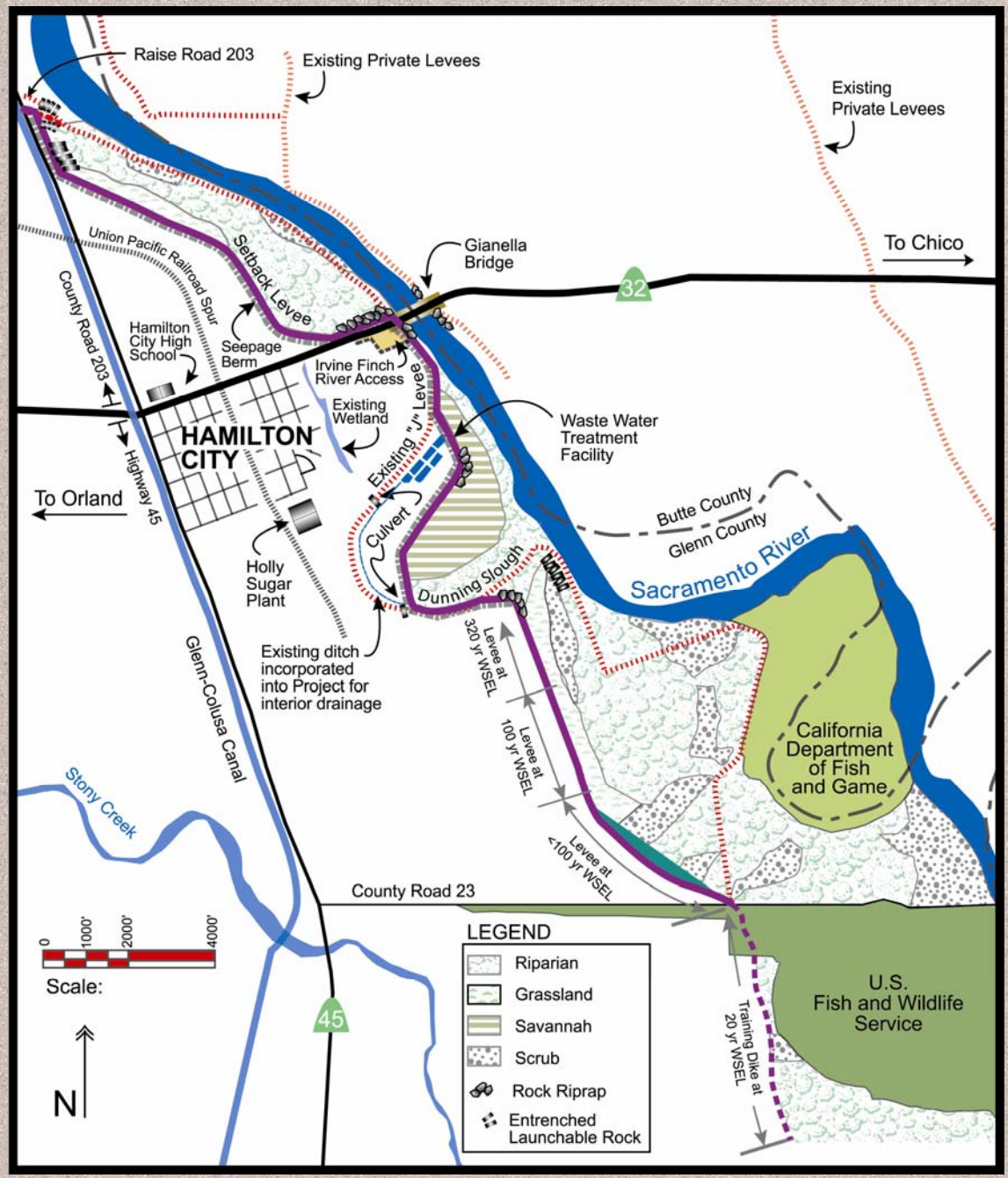


Summary of Objectives

- **Flooding**
  - Reduce Flood Risk
  - Reduce Flood Damages
- **Ecosystem**
  - Improve Quantity and Quality of Habitat
  - Restore River Function
- **Partnership**
  - Form successful partnership between the community of Hamilton City, agriculture, and the environment

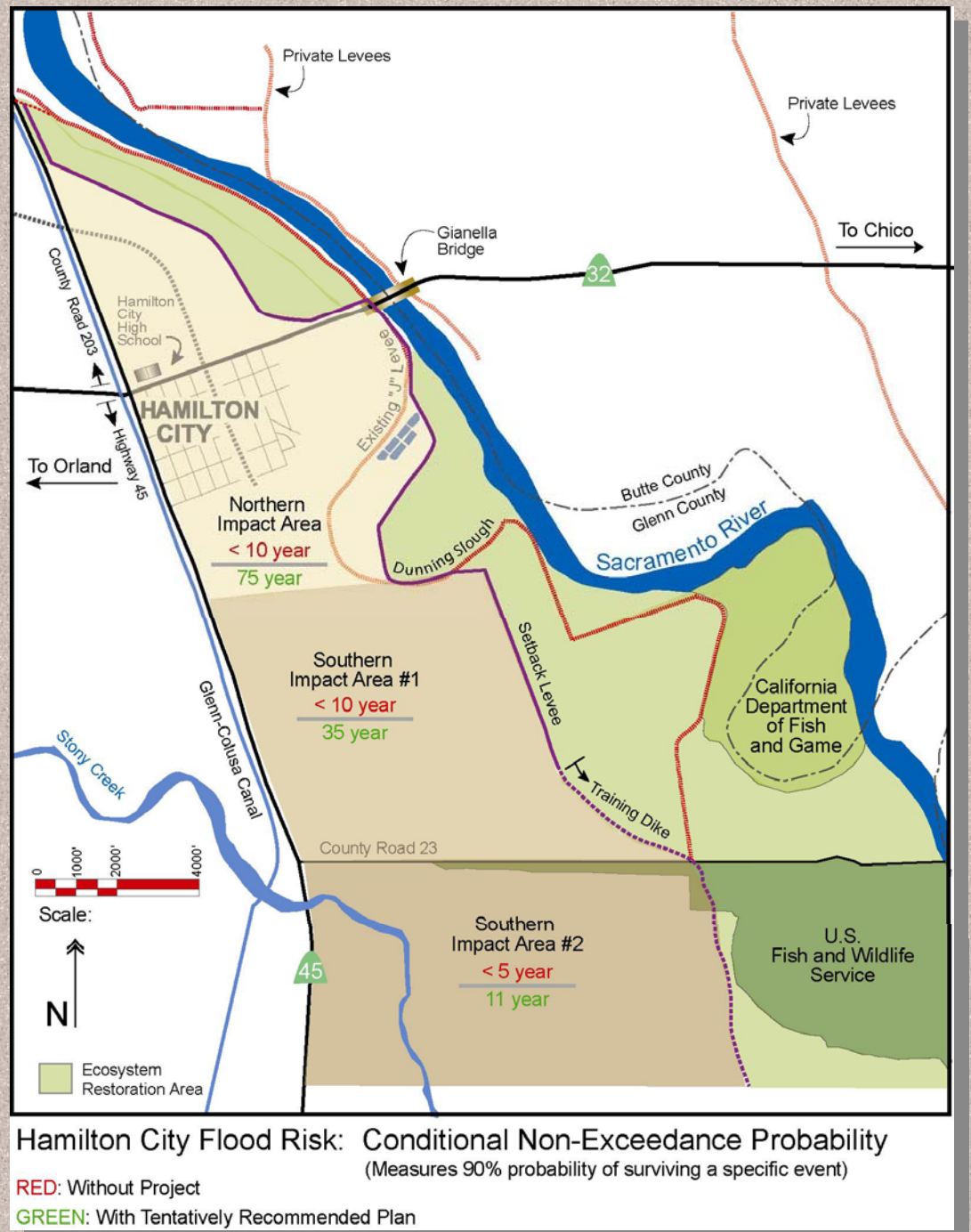
Recommended Plan

- Construct 6.8 miles of setback levee and training dike
- Remove “J” Levee
- Provides up to 90% chance of passing a 75-yr event
- Restore 1,500 acres of native habitat
- Reestablishes river and floodplain connectivity



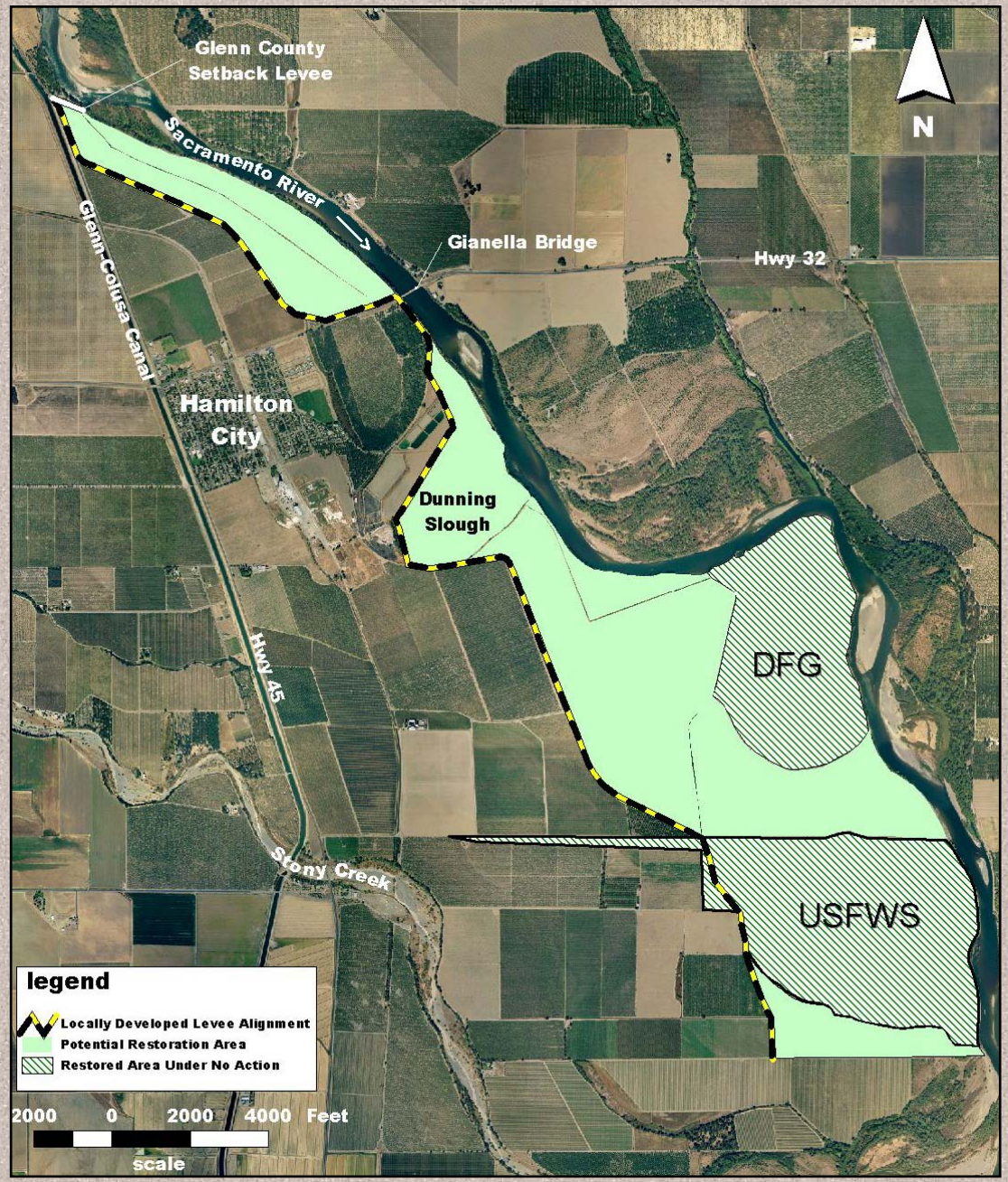
Benefits: Flood Damage Reduction

- Increase from 1 in 10 to 1 in 75 chance of flooding any given year.
- Expected reduction of average annual flood damages =$577,000



Benefits: Ecosystem Restoration

- Restore about 1,500 acres of native habitat
- Riparian – 1,000 acres
- Grassland – 100 acres
- Savannah – 150 acres
- Scrub – 250 acres
- Restore floodplain connectivity



Project First Costs

(October 2003 Price Level)

Project Purpose	Federal	Non-Federal	Total
Ecosystem Restoration	$26,290,000	$14,156,000	$40,446,000
Flood Damage Reduction	$2,769,000	$1,491,000	$4,260,000
Cultural Resource Preservation	$170,000		$170,000
Totals	$29,229,000	$15,647,000	$44,876,000

Non-Federal (State and Locals)	
Total	$15,647,000
Lands, Easements, Right of Ways, Relocations and Disposal/Borrow Areas (LERRD's)	$13,910,000
Cash	$1,737,000

Schedule

Corps' South Pacific Division Engineers Notice	September 2004
Corps' Chief of Engineers Report	December 2004
Cost Sharing Agreements for Design	As early as April 2005
Preconstruction Engineering and Design	As early as April 2005
Initiate Construction	2008
Complete Physical Construction	2011
Complete Plant Establishment Period	2013
Complete Monitoring	2016

Why has this worked?

Communication, Communication, Communication

- Locals and TNC very engaged
- ACE staff accessible and flexible
- Strong partnership and a high level of trust

Building Support and Awareness

Other Key Ingredients

- Combining project purposes (with a strong partnership) = project resources
- The new ACE multiple purpose project policy
- Finding the right, knowledgeable reviewers
- Again, focusing on success and avoiding distraction by process

Bumps in the Road

Continuing challenges

- Policy challenges (both State and Federal)
- Different organizational and cultural approaches to ecosystem restoration
- The ACE process is very confusing to partners
- Difficult to maintain project momentum and staff resources over a long period (1999-2014)

We have made a lot of progress

- Strong partnership
- Stakeholders actively engaged and supportive
- Roughly $10 million in land acquisition will be donated to the non-federal project costs
- Positive press in local and regional papers
- Recently completed Feasibility study/EIR EIS
- Forged bi-partisan political support
  - Authorization language pending in Senate WRDA
  - Funding language pending in House Energy and Water appropriations bill

Hamilton City Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration, California

Electronic copies of the report can be viewed at www.compstudy.org/hamilton.html

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US Army Corps of Engineers Sacramento District