

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Interested media are welcome to attend a public outreach meeting for the Anderson River Park Side Channel Project on Friday October 11, 2019 from 5:30 – 7 PM at the City of Anderson Community Center (1887 Howard Street, Anderson CA 96007). For more information, contact Harmony Gugino at 530-529-7383 or harmony@sacriverforum.org

TWO MORE SALMON HABITAT PROJECTS SLATED FOR CONSTRUCTION — READING ISLAND SIDE CHANNEL PROJECT AND ANDERSON RIVER PARK SIDE CHANNEL PROJECT

SHASTA COUNTY, CA — One large scale fish habitat restoration project is underway on a private property near Cottonwood and another will get started next month on a publicly owned parcel in Anderson. Both efforts aim to aid in the recovery of the Sacramento River’s struggling wild salmon populations. The newly constructed side channel ‘fish nurseries’ are intended to provide high quality rearing habitat and refuge for juvenile salmonids before they migrate out to the ocean.

The Reading Island Side Channel Project (RM 275) will create 11,500 linear feet of suitable perennial habitat for salmon of all age classes (including endangered winter-run Chinook), steelhead and trout. Construction at Reading Island started Monday October 7, 2019 and will take approximately 4-6 weeks to complete. The Anderson River Park Side Channel Project (RM 282) will occur in phases over the next 2-3 years. Phase 1 will create 5,000 linear feet of suitable habitat by connecting existing low-lying areas to the river. This undertaking will also decrease fish stranding in the park that occurs during flood events and it will improve aesthetics of the park-side river corridor. Construction at Anderson River Park will start early to mid-November and will take approximately 7 weeks to complete.

Ongoing Commitment: Once implemented, these projects will bring the count to six side channels constructed in four years as part of the Upper Sacramento River Anadromous Fish Habitat Restoration Program, funded by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Monitoring of constructed side channels to-date indicates increased habitat complexity, as well as fish use that is comparable or better than naturally occurring control sites. An overview map of completed and proposed program sites is available here:

<https://www.sacramentoriver.org/forum/index.php?id=qjs>

Partnerships at Work: This project continues the work of improving spawning and rearing habitat for salmonids in the Sacramento River below Keswick Dam; and helps to meet the requirements of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, Section 3406 (b) (13). To implement such projects, the Upper Sacramento River Anadromous Fish Habitat Restoration Program is comprised of a network of partnerships. It brings together the expertise, community connections, and implementation capacity of local, state and federal agency staff, nonprofit organizations, water districts, university faculty and graduate students, tribes, and support of willing private landowners.

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