



Sacramento River Forum

Fall 2017

Tehama County Side Channels Reconnection

The Sacramento River Forum is the Co-Project Director of the Tehama Side Channels Reconnection Project. The project is funded by a Cooperative Agreement between the US Bureau of Reclamation and CSU, Chico Research Foundation. The Forum and CSU, Chico Geographical Information Center (GIC) co-lead the project.

Forum staff provides project management, public and stakeholder outreach and adjoining lands agreements with USBR; the GIC manages permitting requirements and contract oversight. This work is part of a larger effort, to identify restoration projects on publicly owned lands, to improve fish spawning and rearing habit for the juvenile anadromous salmonids.



Juvenile Salmonid

The project is to investigate four critical side channels in Tehama County for reconnection to the main stem of the Sacramento River, to ensure adequate year-round low flows for juvenile salmonid and also re-establishing riparian vegetation. Similar work has been underway in Shasta County and our work will examine, plan and implement the potential of four side channel reconnections.

The potential sites, named for their US Geographical Survey (USGS) place names, or by their proximity to a road or community are (from north to south) Rancho Breisgau, Lake California, Rio Vista and East Sand Slough. Each site has its own potential and challenges. The project spans a timeframe of 5-years, with the goal of completing one per year. We hope to implement the Lake California site this Winter 2017.

Partners in the project are the Department of Water Resources Northern Region Office for engineering, site design and environmental documents assistance; the Resource Conservation District of Tehama County for construction management, CEQA work and outreach assistance; and River Partners for restoration work. Other contributors include CSU, Chico academic departments for the monitoring program, biology, ecology, archeology and interns. Sacramento Valley Irrigation Districts are supporting the project by providing the labor for site preparation and construction. RD 108 will be our partner in Tehama County. State and federal agencies provide consultation and cooperation with site ownership, including BLM, Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service and State Lands.

The Forum Board of Directors, including public interest and landowner representatives, as well as agency advisory members, support this effort as furthering partnerships to improve the environment and habit along the river, in a manner respectful of agriculture and responsive to public concerns. Salmonids require rearing sites for refugia from high flows and predators. Reconnecting side channels to the main stem create favorable habitat conditions for salmonid growth and refuge during low flow events. The result is benefit to the river ecosystem by improving fish populations, preserving biodiversity, aesthetic value, recreational fishing, hunting, hiking and bird watching.



Side Channel at Lake California

Sacramento Valley Safe Harbor Program

The Forum holds a Programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The Forum manages and administers the Sacramento Valley Safe Harbor Program. The goal of this program is to protect the farmer's need for flexibility in land management and support wildlife habitat.

A Safe Harbor is a voluntary, cooperative agreement between landowners and the Forum, to provide benefits to endangered species and regulatory assurance for routine farm operations and maintenance. Neighboring landowners can



also participate in an agreement that protects them from regulatory liability resulting from wildlife or habitat moving onto their property.

Steps in developing a Safe Harbor Agreement are: 1) initial consultation between an interested landowner and Forum staff to discuss the process; 2) Forum staff visits property to assess baseline condition and discuss landowner's goals; 3) Writing the agreement, landowner review and approval of baseline document and management plan; 4) Forum staff may work with landowner to contact neighboring landowners; 5) Landowner and Forum enter into an Agreement. Forum staff will annually visit property to prepare the annual report.

Each Cooperative Agreement is unique and developed with the landowner to support both the agricultural uses and habitat potential of each location. There is one Cooperative Agreement currently in place and a few more are under development. The Forum also administers the Audubon California Safe Harbor Program in Yolo County.

The Safe Harbor Program is funded by a grant from the Wildfire Conservation Board. For more information on the Safe Harbor Program contact Jane Dolan, Forum Executive Director, at 530-518-1011.



The Amazon Smile logo, featuring the word "amazon" in its signature font and "smile" in a light blue font with a curved arrow underneath it.

Bookmark this link: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/68-0461944>, so your shopping will benefit the Sacramento River Forum.
Thank you!

Upcoming Meetings:

October 25, Corning or Hamilton City
December 15, Maxwell or Williams

The board meets five times a year, in February, May, August, October and December. Other than December, meetings are at 3PM the 4th Wednesday of the month.

Visit our website: www.sacramentoriver.org



Mat Conant has served as a board member for the CA Farm Bureau, Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau, South Sutter Water District, East Nicolaus High School, Brown's Elementary School Board, South Sutter Little League, and is a committee member on the Diamond Walnut Advisory Committee.

He is a graduate of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and the California AG Leadership Program.

Mat is a fifth generation CA farmer and a third generation Sutter County Farmer. He is a lifelong Rio Oso resident where lives with Lorene, his wife of 25 years, and their two sons.



Richard Price retired after 27 years, as the Butte County Ag Commissioner Director of Weights and Measures. He also worked as an agricultural biologist deputy in Shasta and Solano Counties.

He's a graduate of UC Davis, and currently serves as an Associate Faculty member at Butte College, a Butte Agricultural Foundation board member, is on the Butte County Water Commission TAC and Butte County Farm Bureau Land Use and Water Committees, and is a licensed CA Pest Control Adviser.

Richard enjoys traveling and spending time with his four children, three grandchildren and wife Georgia.



Michael Vasey is the manager/partner of Landauer River Ranch. He has served as President of Tehama County Farm Bureau, has been recognized as their member of the year, was board member and chair of their Government Affairs Committee and attended their Leadership Class.

He has degrees in psychology and industrial relations from the University of Oregon. He has worked as Employee Relations Manager for Hewlett Packard and was the Vice President of the Society of Human Resource Management.

Michael has two sons and lives with his wife Hillary on the ranch.



Brendon Flynn has served the board since its inception in 2000, as both an NPO and MOA appointee. He has been instrumental in advocating for landowners, agriculture and habitat.

He is a third generation farmer in Tehama County, and holds an Agricultural Business degree from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. He is involved with CA Walnut Co., Ag Council of CA, Pacific Farms and Orchards Inc., Sunsweet Growers Inc., and is the General Manager of Pacific Sun Olive Oil.

The Forum Board and staff express their appreciation for your many years of contributions. We wish you and your family the best.

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