



**FLOODPLAIN
FORWARD**

In Support of Floodplain Reactivation

Leaders from California and U.S. federal agencies agree, restoring, protecting and investing in the Sacramento Valley is a win for flood protection, wildlife conservation, farms, communities and aquifer recharge efforts.

Collaboration among government agencies, elected officials, conservation organizations, water managers and landowners reveals there is a path forward to creating landscape-scale, multi-beneficial projects that support the long-term health of our communities and environment. Reactivating the historic floodplains happens because we are focusing on the fix, rather than the fight. The trust we are building is the true answer to creating a sustainable way of life for people, fish and wildlife in California.



Gavin Newsom Governor of California

“As California grapples with more extreme cycles of wet and dry, it’s more important than ever that we leverage our common interests to meet the needs of our communities, wildlife and economy. This state-federal partnership with support from wide-ranging stakeholders demonstrates the kind of collaborative solutions that can safeguard our communities, wildlife, businesses and water supplies in the face of climate impacts.”



Paul Souza Pacific Southwest Regional Director - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

“Floodplains provide rich habitat for birds, fish, and so many other species, and this partnership shows how agriculture and species conservation can work hand in glove to benefit people and communities, foster a healthy environment, and adapt to a changing climate. We are committed to this restoration action.”



Carlos Suarez

State Conservationist - USDA Natural Resources Conservation Science

“NRCS California is excited and proud to be a part of this historic partnership. This MOU opportunity brought together nine leaders from Federal and State governments and is a testament to what we can achieve together to protect and enhance Northern California’s floodplains. Healthy and productive floodplains provide water quality, wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration, and many other important benefits to fight climate change in California. This MOU achieves many of these goals.”



COL James Handura

Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers South Pacific Division

“The Central Valley is the hub of the California water system. As extreme weather events intensify and become more frequent, managing our water resources for multiple benefits becomes more of an imperative. This Memorandum of Understanding signifies the Corps’ commitment to maximize collaboration with our federal, state, and local partners, and to support the goals of improving flood risk management, restoring sensitive ecosystems, and enhancing drought resilience in the Sacramento River Basin and beyond.”



Karl Stock

California Great-Basin Regional Director - U.S Bureau of Reclamation

“Reclamation looks forward to being a part of this vital effort to promote the development of projects that help restore the ecosystem and boost the overall health of the Sacramento River Basin and the economy it supports. We’ve been engaged with our federal, state and local partners on many habitat restoration and improvement projects along the Sacramento River, and this memorandum of understanding is another pillar on which we can build our growing partnerships.”



Wade Crowfoot

California Natural Resources Secretary

“Restoring seasonal floodplains across California is a win-win-win. Allowing water onto historic floodplains reduces flood risks to downriver communities, expands habitat for fish and wildlife, and often helps recharge groundwater basins. This MOU will turbocharge collaboration already happening in the Sacramento Valley to get more of these multi-benefit projects in place more quickly.”



Karen Ross

California Department of Food and Agriculture

“Farming is place-based. Rice farmers and others in Northern California have been fearless partners, showing how wetlands can benefit both fish, birds, and agriculture. Together, we’re building drought resilience, enabling groundwater recharge, and creating healthier ecosystems.”



Jonathan Birdsong

Western Regional Director, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

“Coordinating both projects and funding opportunities will allow us to deliver much-needed resources to willing landowners and their non-government organizational partners who are ready to implement solutions to benefit this vital natural resource.”



Congressman Doug LaMalfa

(R-CA-01)

“I congratulate the Floodplain Forward Coalition for coming together with federal and state agencies today to advance floodplain reactivation in the Sacramento River Basin. These agreements will expedite water infrastructure projects which use our existing water supply to improve waterfowl and fish habitat, increase flood protection, and support farming as the economic driver of our region.”



Representative Mike Thompson

(D-CA-04)

“The health of the Sacramento River Basin is critical to the well-being of our entire region. Reactivating the floodplains will allow us to reduce flood risk, restore fish and wildlife habitat, improve groundwater aquifer recharge, support a reliable water supply, and maintain farming and managed wetland operations. Today’s Memorandum of Understanding is a historic step toward these goals. I look forward to continuing to support these floodplain restoration projects.”



Congressman John Garamendi

(D-CA-08)

“The Floodplain Forward Coalition is poised to embark on the most significant salmon habitat restoration project in Northern California in decades. This initiative is a true win-win, restoring seasonal habitat for endangered salmon while supporting sustainable agriculture in the Yolo and Sutter Bypasses. I have supported this project since its inception, securing more than \$12.8 million in federal funding to make this innovative endeavor a reality. I hope today’s agreement signals a commitment from the federal and state governments to fully fund this model project for habitat restoration