



Investing in Multiple Benefits through Floodplain Reactivation and Nature-Based Solutions

April 2025

On behalf of the [Floodplain Forward Coalition](#), we urge the Legislature to fund [floodplain reactivation and priority projects](#) through Proposition 4 and other available funding to address the urgent needs of fish and wildlife as well as water resiliency for California's communities and economy.

Federal and State of California government agencies, overseeing water, agriculture, fish and wildlife, public lands and flood control, recently entered into a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) to enhance collaboration on landscape-scale, multi-beneficial floodplain water projects in the Sacramento River Basin. Funding is needed to implement the [growing effort](#) by public and private stakeholders in creating long-term, sustainable solutions to protect and benefit people, fish, birds and wildlife.

There are unique opportunities in the Sacramento Valley to reactivate floodplains, mimicking historical natural processes, to improve habitat for fish, birds and other wildlife, enhance flood protection and groundwater recharge, and increase California's resilience to climate change by preparing the state for future droughts. These nature-based solutions are highlighted in the work of leading researchers from the University of California and proven in the field through collaborative partnerships between scientists, non-governmental organizations, conservation groups, water managers, and local landowners. This important funding will help the state and diverse coalitions like ours continue to implement adaptive management principles to enhance floodplains as natural infrastructure that provides multiple benefits, including improving conditions for threatened salmon, sustaining the vulnerable Pacific Flyway, improving flood protection, and supporting groundwater sustainability.

We strongly encourage your support for this initial funding to invest in a collaborative proven approach to water management and habitat creation through floodplain reactivation in the Sacramento Valley. Thank you for your consideration of this important funding request.

Sincerely yours,

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