

# Voluntary Agreements

Adapting Water Management for Thriving Fish, Wildlife and Communities

## Early Implementation Projects in the Sacramento River Basin



**Participants in the Voluntary Agreements (VA) process are already at work with early implementation projects throughout the Sacramento River Basin, making habitat enhancements and activating floodplain acreage to benefit fish and wildlife in the region and beyond.**

Sacramento River Basin water suppliers, working with California's Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and Department of Water Resources (DWR), have collaboratively identified, developed and prioritized a list of "no regrets" early implementation projects. More than 85 projects in the region were included in the March 2019 CDFW/DWR submission to the State Water Board; of this total, 14 projects in the Sacramento River Basin have been identified through this process as "no regrets" early implementation projects. These projects could begin construction or otherwise be implemented within the next 12 to 18 months if allocated funding by the Natural Resources Agency from Proposition 68 funds specifically appropriated for this purpose in the 2019-20 state budget. These early implementation projects are described in the accompanying spreadsheet *Early Implementation Proposition 68 Salmon Recovery Projects*.

Importantly, early implementation projects have been identified on each of the four major rivers in the Sacramento River Basin participating in the VAs—the American, Feather, Sacramento and Yuba Rivers—along with Putah Creek and floodplain reactivation projects across the region.

Each of these projects will be additive to the December 2018 baseline established in the VA Framework and will provide contributions to various environmental targets in the VAs that include:

- Implementing a landscape scale multi-benefit floodplain feasibility study
- 189 to 689 acres of enhanced floodplain habitat
- 87 acres of rearing habitat
- 17 to 44 acres of spawning habitat and 8,000 cubic yards of new spawning gravel
- Installation of a fish screen on a high-priority diversion
- A modified weir to enhance fish passage and reduce stranding
- A program to provide food for juvenile fish as they migrate downstream
- Weir and bypass operational changes to enhance spawning habitat
- A program to enhance salmon habitat during low river flows

There are 14 additional "no regrets" early implementation projects in the Sacramento River Basin that have been identified through this process that will be acquiring funding from other sources. Collectively, these "no regrets" early implementation projects will improve habitat conditions for many species and help advance the recovery of endangered salmon as the Voluntary Agreements process continues to move forward. These projects, and the scientific monitoring effort that will accompany them, will also begin the robust science program necessary to inform decision making and adaptive management essential to successful fish and wildlife recovery.

► **For questions or additional information, please contact Todd Manley at [tmanley@norcalwater.org](mailto:tmanley@norcalwater.org).**

