Lower Sutter Bypass Anadromous Fish Habitat Management Planning Project Charter

This draft Charter constitutes a general agreement, understanding, and framework for implementation of the Lower Sutter Bypass Anadromous Fish Habitat Management Planning Project (Project). The Charter outlines participants, a draft mission statement, principles, objectives, geographic scope and process for implementing the Project. The Charter does not represent a legally binding agreement; but it is intended to serve as a foundation for moving forward collaboratively on the Project.

A. Participants

Project participants will include:

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Central Valley Flood Protection Board
- Department of Water Resources
- Goose Club
- Dos Rios Ranch
- Reclamation Districts 1001 and 1500
- River Partners
- CalTrout
- Trout Unlimited

Additional participants may be added later.

Participants agree to work together as a coalition that prioritizes their relationship and coherence building as the foundation for a positive outcome.

B. Mission Statement

To develop a Conceptual Anadromous Fish Habitat Management Plan for the Lower Sutter Bypass that describes physical alterations to improve floodplain connectivity and habitat while meeting the needs of key stakeholders.

C. Core Principles

Participants agree to work together in a way that goes beyond transactional collaboration and focuses on building alignment and solutions that benefit the coalition as a whole. Participants agree that working in this way will require:

- Airing and resolving old wounds and grievances;
- Being open and receptive to other's perspectives and interests; and
- Being vulnerable and building trust.

Towards this intention, participants agree to adhere to the following core principles:

- Respect for Others and Their Perspectives - Treatment and engagement with each other in a respectful way; respectful communication; and respect for others' time.
- Equity and Inclusivity Among Participants – Valuing all participant contributions equally, and attending to each participant's experience of inclusion in the group.
- Transparency – Openly sharing information and relevant conversations that may occur outside regular Project meetings.
- Unity – Speaking with a unified voice regarding the Project and recognizing joint opportunities associated with evaluating all the three properties together.
- Collaboration – Seeking solutions together and not working outside the process.
- Science-Based Decision Making – This will include: (a) seeking shared understanding through clarifying and agreeing on supporting science; (b) using shared understanding of science as a basis for the development of design alternatives, and (c) using science as a bridge as opposed to as a basis for positioning or invalidating another's perspective.

D. Objectives

The Project will achieve its mission by pursuing the following objectives:

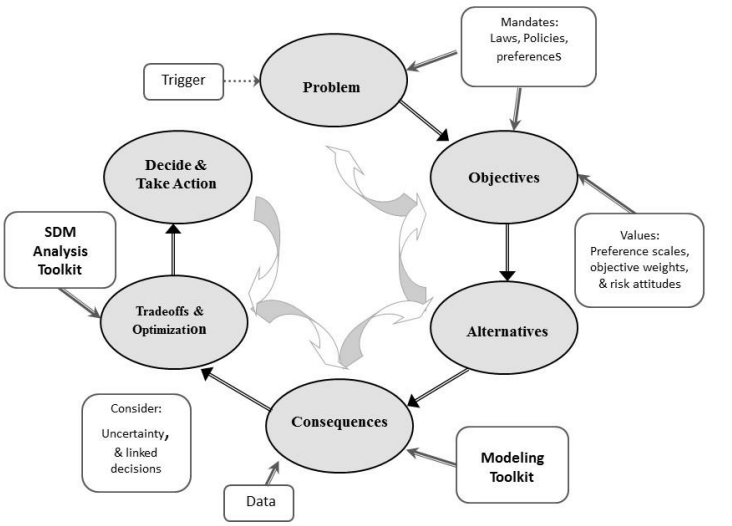
- Create an inclusive, collaborative planning model that empowers participation from stakeholders to scale up solutions for fish population recovery.
- Understand the habitat requirements of migrating salmon and the feasibility of physical and land management changes.
- Increase the frequency, and extend the duration of floodplain inundation to provide high-quality rearing habitats under multiple and various hydrologic conditions.
- Produce fish food resources that can flow downstream as high flows recede and return to the main channel, enriching the rest of the watershed.
- Satisfy regulatory requirements.
- Ensure compatibility with flood system operations.
- Meet landowner needs.

E. Geographic Scope

The Project will include the Lower Sutter Bypass from the Nelson Slough Unit (including portions of the Feather River) to Sacramento Slough. During large flood events flows spill from the Sacramento and Feather rivers into the Sutter Bypass to the north of the project site via three engineered weirs (Tisdale, Colusa, and Moulton). Outside of flooding periods, flows in Butte Creek are largely dictated by flows coming out of the Butte Creek watershed and by operations of the Butte Slough Outfall Gates (BSOG).

F. Process and Schedule

The Project will utilize a Structured Decision Making (SDM) process, as described in more detail in the Project's Process Plan. Typical steps of an SDM are shown in the figure below.



Source: Jean Fitts Cochrane

- Through the SDM process participants will come together, learn about each other's desired outcomes and share concerns and baggage from the past, with the intent of building relationships and trust. Participants will look to science on floodplains to come to a common understanding of flood control, habitat and land owner needs. Based on the common understanding needs, participants will work together to outline a broad suite of project types and considerations to bound the discussion and build a common sense of what is possible and what the conditions around those possibilities are.
- A Core Working Group representing key stakeholders will help guide the Project and engage on technical issues.
- The Core Working Group will articulate objectives, define alternatives, and make a decision on a final concept plan.
- A series of five stakeholder workshops will be planned to inform the local community and provide opportunities for input on specific issues related to restoration in the Lower Sutter Bypass including, fish ecology, agricultural production, flood management and project alternatives.
- Core Working Group meetings and topical workshops will be designed and facilitated by an independent Project Facilitator, working with River Partners and a technical team.
- The Project will be completed within eighteen months.

G. Relationship to Other Processes

The Project will coordinate with other ongoing initiatives involving the Sutter Bypass including, but not limited to:

- Tisdale & Sutter Bypass Flood and Multi-benefit Strategy & Management Plan.
- Tisdale Weir Rehabilitation and Fish Passage Proposed Project.

- Feather River/Sutter Bypass - Nelson Slough Floodplain Habitat Feasibility Study.
- Butte Slough Outfall Gates.
- Nelson Slough Wildlife Area management plans
- CVPIA charter for Nelson Slough WA
- Lower Feather River Corridor Management Plan
- Too big to dream Landscape Scale Plan (RD 108)
- CVFPP, RFMP and Conservation Strategy
- Recovery Plans for endangered species
- CVJV Implementation Plan
- CVPIA Sacramento River
- Sacramento NWR CCP
- Ca Wildlife Action Plan
- California Water Plan
- Sutter Basin Science Working Group