LOOKOUT SLOUGH TIDAL HABITAT RESTORATION AND FLOOD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

(SCH# 2019039136)

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION ATTACHMENT 1

PROJECT LOCATION

The Proposed Project Site is an approximately 3,400-acre area located in unincorporated Solano County, California, with a very small portion of the Proposed Project Site extending into unincorporated Yolo County (Figure III-1). The Proposed Project Site is approximately 20 miles southwest of Sacramento and 50 miles northeast of San Francisco. It is bounded by Liberty Island Road on the north, Cache and Hass Sloughs on the south, Duck Slough on the west, and Shag Slough on the east.

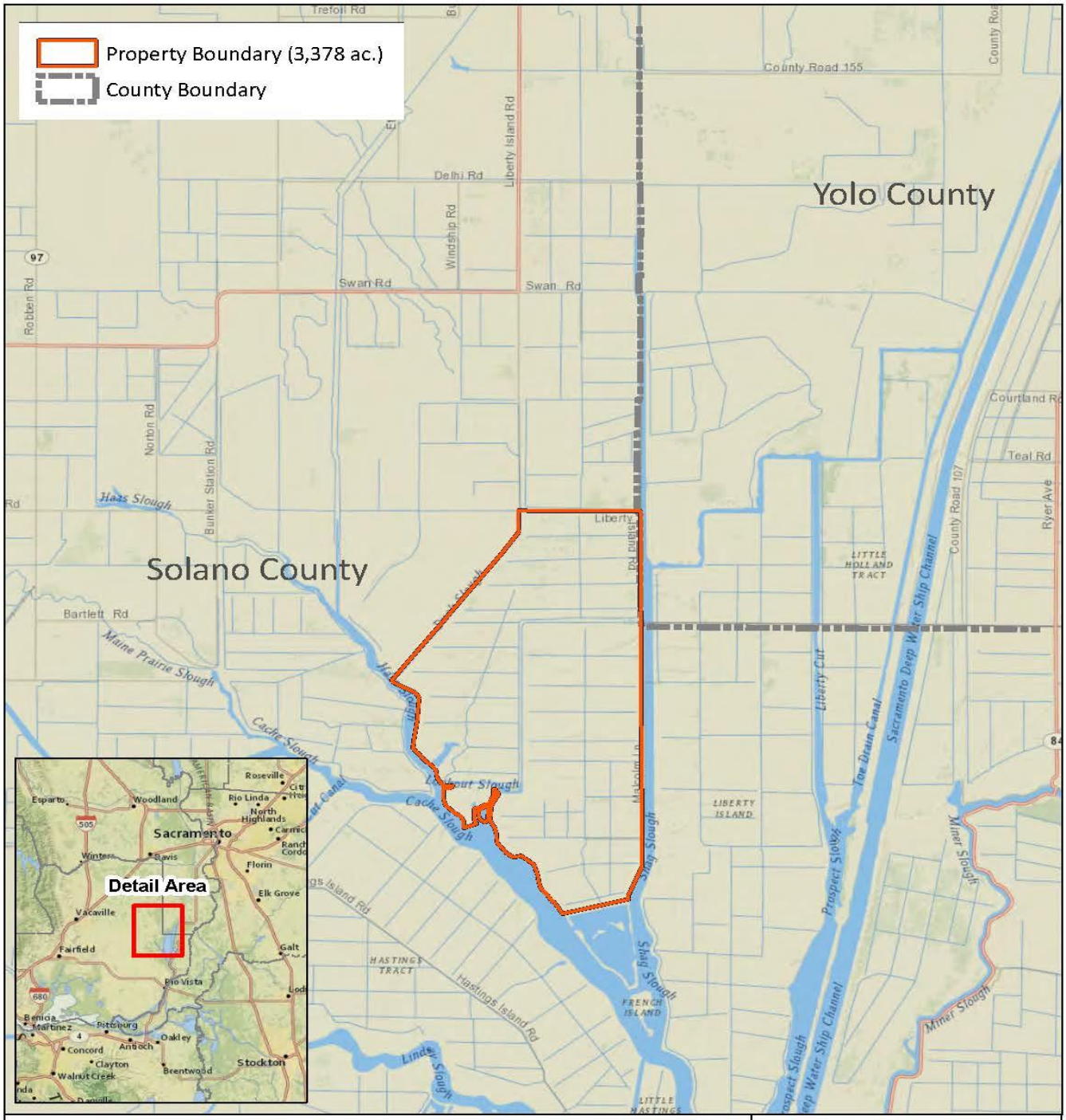

Figure III-1. Project Location

Lookout Slough Tidal Habitat Restoration and Flood Improvement Project

Ecosystem Investment Partners

Prepared by: wra ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

Map Prepared Date: 12/7/2019
Map Prepared By: njander
Base Source: Esri - Nat. Geo.
Data Source(s): WRA

Path: L:\Acad 2000 Files\26000\26293\GIS\ArcMap\2018\Restoration Plan Figures 20181213\Figure 1 Location Map.mxd

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Lookout Slough Tidal Habitat Restoration and Flood Improvement Project was originally developed to partially fulfill a requirement under the 2008 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Delta Smelt Biological Opinion on the Coordinated Operations of the federal Central Valley Project and the State Water Project (2008 USFWS BiOp) to restore 8,000 acres of tidal habitat. Restoration of tidal habitat also would provide access for salmonid rearing at the Project Site and therefore was expected to be credited toward a restoration requirement in the 2009 National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Biological Opinion and Conference Opinion on the Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project (2009 NMFS BiOp). These restoration requirements in the 2008 USFWS BiOp and 2009 NMFS BiOp were carried forward as baseline conditions in the USFWS Biological Opinion for the Reinitiation of Consultation on the Coordinated Operations of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project (2019 USFWS BiOp) and the NMFS Biological Opinion on Long Term Operation of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project (2019 NMFS BiOp), which are the currently effective biological opinions governing coordinated operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project. The 8,000-acre tidal restoration requirement also is a condition (Condition 9.1.1) of the Incidental Take Permit for Long-Term Operation of the State Water Project in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (2081-2019-066-00) (2020 LTO ITP), issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife on March 31, 2020. The 2020 LTO ITP is DWR's California Endangered Species Act authorization to carry out ongoing State Water Project operations.

The Lookout Slough Tidal Habitat Restoration and Flood Improvement Project will create habitat that is beneficial to Delta Smelt and other fish and wildlife species and will also increase flood storage and conveyance, increase the resiliency of levees, and reduce flood risk within the Yolo Bypass. The Lookout Slough Tidal Habitat Restoration and Flood Improvement Project is part of the California EcoRestore Initiative, which seeks to restore and/or enhance 30,000 acres of habitat in the Delta and Suisun Marsh.

The FEIR analyzed three alternatives, including the Lookout Slough Tidal Habitat Restoration and Flood Improvement Project, and the No Project Alternative. The Proposed Project was DWR's Preferred Alternative during the DEIR process. After reviewing public comments and considering the impacts and benefits of the Alternatives, DWR is proceeding with the construction of the Preferred Alternative. When completed, the Proposed Project would provide habitat for Delta Smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*), Longfin Smelt (*Spirinchus thaleichthys*), Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Green Sturgeon (*Acipenser medirostris*), Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), giant garter snake (*Thamnophis gigas*), and other species. The Proposed Project is also designed to meet regional flood protection objectives in a manner consistent with the 2017 DWR Sacramento Basin-wide Feasibility Study.

The Proposed Project involves constructing a new setback levee along Duck Slough and Liberty Island Road. The existing levee at Shag Slough would be breached and partially degraded to provide tidal and flood connectivity between Duck Slough and Shag Slough. The existing

Cache/Hass Slough Levee would be enhanced to increase stability and reduce long term maintenance cost. The Cache/Hass Slough Levee would continue to function to prevent increased water surface elevations upstream of the Cache Slough Complex. Grading, placement of fill material, and revegetation would be used to restore and enhance upland, tidal, subtidal, and floodplain habitat.