

For Immediate Release

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Note: Pictures and maps available upon request

WORK BEGINS ON SOUTH CYPRESS ISLAND SIDE CHANNEL RESTORATION PROJECT

Project Will Improve Spawning and Rearing Habitat for Salmon and Steelhead

REDDING – Work began this week on the South Cypress Island Side Channel Restoration Project along the Sacramento River immediately downstream of the Cypress Street Bridge in Redding. The project will provide 4.8 acres of new and improved spawning and rearing habitat for Chinook salmon and steelhead in the Sacramento River, including the endangered winter-run Chinook salmon, by connecting existing ponds and low-lying areas within Henderson Open Space to create a continuously flowing cold-water side channel. Two bridges will be constructed to maintain access, public safety and enhance recreational opportunities after the channel is constructed. During project construction, the Henderson Open Space trails will be closed.

The South Cypress Island Side Channel, designed to function even at the lowest allowable Sacramento River flows (3,250 cubic feet per second), creates a much needed ‘fish nursery’ refuge for juvenile salmonids before they migrate out to the ocean. The project includes native riparian planting and other habitat features that will provide protective cover, slower flows, and sources of food. Up to 6,740 cubic yards of gravel excavated from the side channel will be placed in the Sacramento River for spawning habitat and an additional 1,400 cubic yards of finer cobble will be placed across 1.16 acres of the side channel to establish a spawning area.

The project is being funded through a U.S. Bureau of Reclamation agreement and has a wide variety of partners including the Sacramento River Forum, Chico State Enterprises, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, River Partners and the Sacramento River Settlement Contractors (SRSC). The SRSC, led by Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District and Reclamation District 108, are providing the crew for the side channel construction along with consultant expertise in restoration design and special materials handling. Participating SRSC include the City of Redding, Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, Reclamation District 108, Reclamation District 787, Reclamation District 1004, Reclamation District 1500, and the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority.

Project funding is provided through the Central Valley Project Improvement Act Restoration Fund which is co-managed by the Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The project supports objectives contained in the California Natural Resources Agency Sacramento Valley Salmon Resiliency Strategy, NOAA Fisheries Central Valley Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Plan, the Sacramento Valley Salmon Recovery Program, the Upper Sacramento River Anadromous Fish Habitat Restoration Program, and Reclamation’s long-term operation of the Central Valley Project.

For more information about the Sacramento Valley Salmon Recovery Program, contact Cynde Davis at 530-518.7100 or cdavis@gcid.net and for information on the Central Valley Project Improvement Act contact Heather Casillas at 916-223-0028 or hcasillas@usbr.gov.

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