



APPENDIX A

PUBLIC OUTREACH REPORT



APPENDIX A

**PUBLIC OUTREACH
SUMMARY REPORT**

American River Parkway Natural Resources Management Plan

Public Outreach Summary Report

March 15, 2021



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American River Parkway Natural Resources Management Plan Public Outreach Summary Report

Introduction

Between July 2020 and February 2021, the Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP) project team conducted a variety of outreach activities to inform stakeholders and the public about the NRMP, and to solicit input on draft NRMP materials and the future of the American River Parkway. This outreach effort was part of the NRMP Community Engagement Plan, and public feedback from the community engagement process contributed to the development of the NRMP. The outreach allowed the public to provide input on the contents of the NRMP, including chapter text, goals and objectives, projects, and mapping products.

Outreach activities included an online, map-based community survey; two public workshops; an American River Parkway Advisory Committee (ARPAC) NRMP workshop; a County Recreation and Park Commission (RPC) NRMP workshop; two terrestrial resources stakeholders meetings; and a fisheries resources stakeholders meeting.

Key Themes

Outreach participants raised six topics of discussion consistently throughout most of the public engagement activities. These topics, listed below, are considered key takeaways/themes of the NRMP community engagement process.

- Natural resources and public safety impacts associated with homeless encampments are a significant issue of concern.
- Impacts from invasive plant species are significant, and the NRMP should include a comprehensive list of species to be mapped and managed.
- Agencies conducting work in the Parkway need to communicate closely and coordinate regularly with each other and with Regional Parks.
- The Parkway needs better and/or expanded educational signage, materials, and programs to both reduce human use impacts on natural resources and prevent user conflicts.
- Long-term fire fuel reduction and post-fire assessment and restoration plans are needed to successfully address the impacts of wildfire on natural resources.
- Adaptive, long-term terrestrial and aquatic resources monitoring and research activities are essential and should be conducted in partnership with universities and citizen science organizations.
- Impacts from electrical utility vegetation management activities need to be addressed and mitigated.

- Social trails are causing significant resource impacts and need to be removed.

The table below shows the occurrence of these key themes in discussion during each of the outreach activities.

	Homelessness	Invasive Plant Species	Agency Communication and Coordination	Educational Signage and Programming	Wildfire	Monitoring and Research	Electrical Utilities	Social Trails
Online Community Survey	✓							
Public Workshops (2)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
ARPAC Workshop		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
RPC Workshop		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Terrestrial Stakeholders Meetings (2)	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
Fisheries Stakeholder Meeting				✓		✓		

Outreach Activities – Summaries and Findings

The following section provides an overview of each outreach activity and reports overall findings from each activity.

1. Online Community Survey

The interactive mapping exercise (powered by Maptionnaire) was offered for public input between July 15 and September 15, 2020. Participants used interactive maps to identify where they enter the Parkway, as well as what they like, what they don't like, and what they felt should change about the Parkway. Participants also provided feedback on preliminary NRMP goals.

Several of the themes that emerged throughout the survey responses are listed below:

- Access and use of the Parkway is concentrated in the middle and upper reaches.
- The most “liked” places on the Parkway are areas that provide opportunities for enjoying nature and trail-related activities.
- Homelessness, encampments, trash, and personal safety were the most frequently-mentioned concerns about the Parkway.

2. Public Workshops

The NRMP project team held two public workshops on July 16 and July 17, 2020 to inform the public about the NRMP, solicit input on Parkway natural resources management issues, and introduce preliminary NRMP mapping products for feedback.

Workshop participants made the following recommendations:

- Expand the existing list of invasive plant species and include mechanisms to measure success of invasive species management.
- Address poor water quality and high levels of E.coli in the river.
- Employ better social and public education strategies to address resource impacts.
- Ensure that regulatory agencies are communicating with each other.
- Expand research and restoration projects conducted by or in partnership with universities.
- Provide better infrastructure to address resource impacts from encampments.

3. American River Parkway Advisory Committee NRMP Workshop

The NRMP project team held the ARPAC NRMP workshop on July 10, 2020 to provide an overview of the NRMP, including the NRMP status, NRMP Task Force, framework, and preliminary mapping products, to the committee members for feedback.

Committee members commented and/or requested that the NRMP address the following topics:

- Use of signage and other means to prevent user conflicts on trails
- Alignment of the California State University, Sacramento (CSUS) Bushy Lake restoration plan and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Ecosystem Restoration concept
- Inclusion of yellow star thistle in the NRMP’s invasive plants list and updated mapping of the Parkway’s invasive plants
- Resource management issues at Sutter’s Landing Park
- Potential to collect money from recreational and special events and reinvest said money into Parkway management
- Fire fuel reduction activities
- Alignment of electrical utility companies’ wildfire mitigation plans and the NRMP
- Use of citizen science and community-sourced data to inform management objectives and monitoring activities
- Creation of an interagency group to meet frequently to manage NRMP implementation
- Inclusion of non-conforming uses and facilities as topics of discussion

4. Recreation and Park Commission NRMP Workshop

The NRMP project team facilitated the RPC public NRMP workshop on July 23, 2020 to provide an overview of the NRMP, including the NRMP status, NRMP Task Force, framework, and preliminary mapping products, to the committee members for feedback.

Members of the public and commissioners requested the NRMP accomplish the following:

- Set numeric restoration goals.
- Incorporate specific restoration projects and provisions to facilitate future projects.
- Discuss and map past and anticipated future resource impacts.
- Conduct post-fire resource assessments and develop post-fire restoration plans in coordination with local fire departments.
- Remove and/or actively manage wild grapes.
- Discuss culturally significant plants.
- Expand upon the existing invasive plant species list.
- Coordinate adaptive management and quantitative monitoring activities.
- Bring in education providers, search at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and American River Parkway Foundation, to manage portions of Bushy Lake.
- Leverage the NRMP to influence regulatory agencies conducting projects in the Parkway.
- Align the California State University, Sacramento (CSUS) Bushy Lake restoration plan and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Ecosystem Restoration concept.
- Provide NRMP mapping products to the public in an easily accessible format.
- Add a community engagement objective.

5. Terrestrial Stakeholders Group Meetings

The NRMP project team and members of the NRMP Task Force engaged with Parkway stakeholders, including non-profit organization members and informed Parkway users, familiar with terrestrial resource issues during two (2) stakeholder meetings held on December 4, 2020 and January 8, 2021.

The terrestrial stakeholders gave the following feedback on the NRMP’s draft terrestrial management objectives and proposed activities:

- Consider using past restoration projects as reference templates for future restoration projects.
- Consider the feasibility of investing funds in areas heavily impacted by encampments and fires when approving potential restoration projects.
- Address natural resources impacts from social trails and overuse at Sutter’s Landing Park.
- Incorporate culturally significant and pollinator plants.
- Focus on replacing non-native trees with native species to provide important avian habitat.

- Incorporate non-conforming use facilities to allow said facilities to obtain grant funding in the future.
- Discuss the educational value of Camp Pollock and American River Ranch.
- Address impacts of invasive vegetation and spawning gravel placement on stand-up paddle boarding.
- Support the relocation of individuals experiencing homelessness outside the Parkway.
- Address user conflicts.
- Address water quality impacts from trash and encampments.
- Improve access to recreation areas to prevent impacts to sensitive vegetation and habitats.
- Develop baseline resources information against which to compare human use and encampment impacts.
- Create more low terrace floodplain and habitat.
- Prioritize only the most invasive plants species for active management and tolerate naturalized non-native plants.
- Develop long-term plans to protect mitigation trees from fires.
- Address impacts of electrical utility companies' vegetation management activities.
- Create more grassland habitat to benefit burrowing owl, yellow-billed magpies, and other wildlife species.
- Incorporate Western pond turtle as an indicator species for the Parkway.
- Map and prioritize management of all informal trails in the Parkway.
- Curtail illegal activities, including off-road cycling, in unauthorized areas.
- Consider unanticipated impacts from predatory fish resulting from the USACE Arden pond project.
- Create and improve existing pond habitat in the Parkway.
- Utilize, but expand upon the American River Parkway Foundation's invasive plant data.
- Manage in-Parkway areas adjacent to City and other parks to maximize habitat connectivity, particularly for native insect species and mammals that historically occurred in the Parkway.
- Capture all proposed restoration activities in the NRMP to ensure hydraulic modelling analyzes maximum restoration potential.
- Use the NRMP to persuade regulatory agencies to advance Regional Parks' management goals.
- Create new high-elevation riparian and upland habitat in Sacramento Bar.
- Incorporate a chapter detailing research needs.
- Assume higher recreation use patterns for future management planning.
- Incorporate land acquisition as a management objective.

6. Fisheries Stakeholders Meeting

The NRMP project team and members of the NRMP Task Force engaged with Parkway stakeholders, including agency scientists and informed Parkway users familiar with aquatic and fisheries resource issues, during a stakeholder meeting held on February 5, 2021.

The fisheries stakeholders provided the following feedback on the bank protection and fisheries projects presented during the meeting:

- Consider the risk of redd and juvenile stranding in the design of spawning and rearing enhancement and mitigation projects.
- Consider activities that would benefit non-salmonid species.
- Conduct ongoing operations and maintenance activities at spawning enhancement sites to address fish strandings.
- Continue regular monitoring activities to collect data on number of redds and, if possible, fish population counts.
- Use education and/or information to address recreational impacts on redds.
- Monitor and collect data on the frequency and timing of recreational impacts on fry spawning.
- Maintain some pond habitat for diving bird species.
- Address fish stranding in secondary channel areas.
- Consider removing perched and unfunctional island habitat.

APPENDIX A MATIONNAIRE RESULTS SUMMARY

AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN (NRMP) MATIONNAIRE RESULTS SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

This summary includes results of the interactive mapping exercise (powered by Maptionnaire) this project offered for public input between July 15 and September 15, 2020. Starting with a description of the exercise, this summary will then present the thematic results, a respondent profile, supporting data tables, and maps. This presentation of results will also include content analysis of thousands of open-ended responses.

INTERACTIVE MAPPING EXERCISE

This exercise was designed by MIG using the Maptionnaire Community Engagement Platform. The strength of this platform is in sharing information and creating opportunities for meaningful, detailed public input including map-based answers. After a brief introduction to the project, which included a video presentation, respondents had two main tasks.

1. Respond on the map, showing where they enter the parkway, what they like, what they don't like and what should change.
2. Respond to preliminary goals, indicating their level of support and any comments on each of 7 goals.

Figure 1: Interactive Map

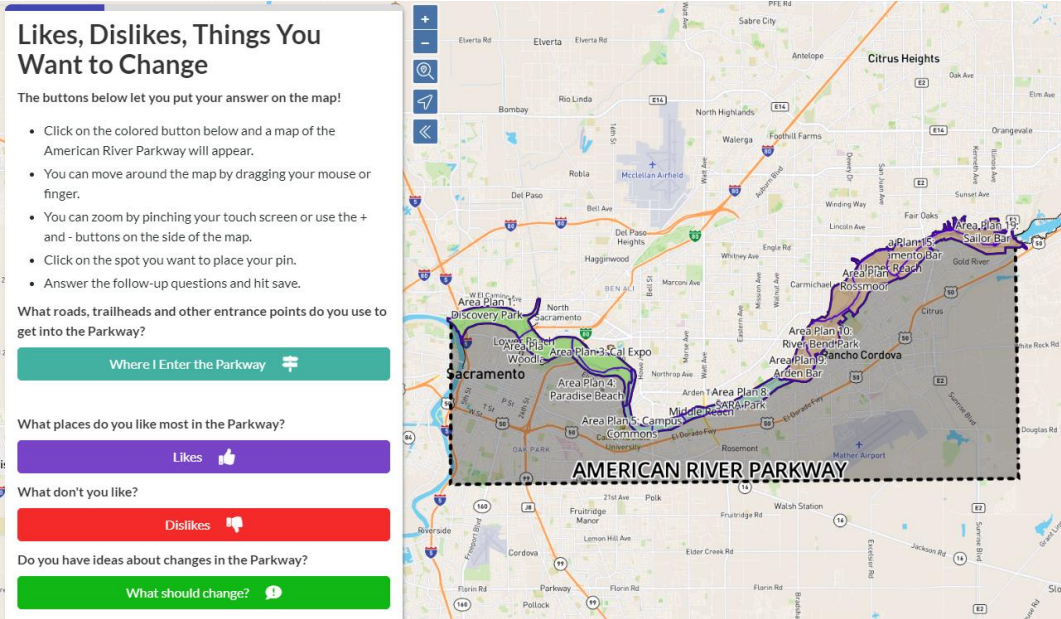
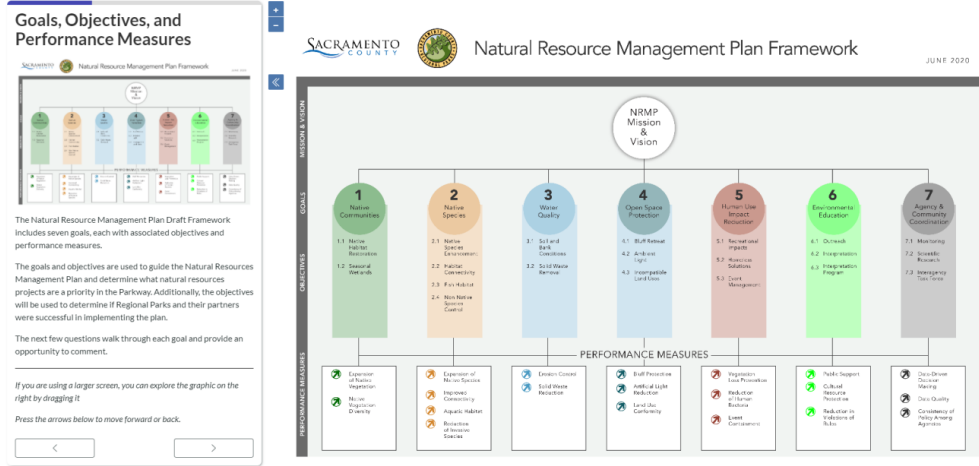


Figure 2: Goal Feedback

American River Parkway Natural Resources Management Plan



A concluding section asked for demographic information to help the team understand who had responded.

The Maptionnaire platform is built from the ground up to be mobile device friendly to maximize reach. The exercise was advertised by project partners through their social media and email channels. Over 1,600 respondents visited the site and answered questions.

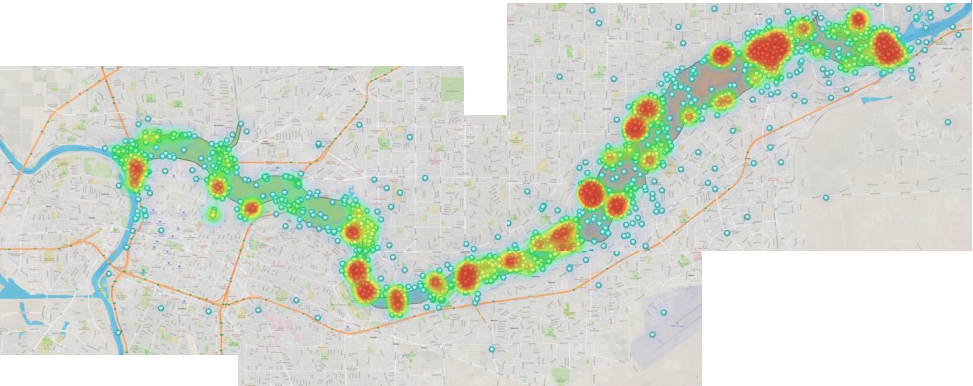
THEMATIC RESULTS

Simplifying the large number of results, the project team identified several themes that capture the essence of many different individual responses. The following is the briefest version of what the users and stakeholders had to say.

Access and Use

- Access and use of the parkway is more concentrated in the middle and upper reaches
- Respondents live all around the Parkway but tend to use the middle and upper reaches the most.
- There are important access points in all three reaches.

Figure 3: Concentrations of Access Points Placed on the Map (Red areas represent the highest concentrations.)



Nature and Trails

- The most "liked" places are important for enjoying nature and trail-related activities.
- Slightly less walking and more cycling in the lower reach
- The most common uses indicated are:
 - Enjoying nature
 - Walking
 - Jogging, Running
 - Bicycling

Homelessness in the Parkway

- Housing and homelessness is a major impact on the American River Parkway.
- The encampments, trash and personal safety were the most frequently mentioned issues.
- The primary focus on the lower reach of the river.
- 22% of open-ended comments throughout the survey mentioned homelessness impacts

Detailed response tables and visuals are provided below.

RESPONDENT PROFILE

A total of 1634 respondents were logged into the database. However, since demographics were optional, the results below are based on a smaller set of respondents who completed them. Overall, respondents:

- Are older, with 34% over 65 and 9% under 35,
- Are working (57%) or retired (39%).
- Primarily speak English, with 5% of respondents indicated they speak a language other than English at home.
- Were largely white, with 9% of respondents identify as non-white.
- Primarily live within a few miles of the parkway (see Figure A-2)

**Note: no questions were mandatory and the response to any given question may be significantly lower than this total. The total number of respondents or “n” is provided with each table below.*

Table 1: Employment Status

	Number	Percent
I'm working	349	57%
I'm not working	27	4%
I'm in school	15	2%
I'm retired	238	39%
Total	617	100%

Table 2: Age Group

	Number	Percent
Under 18	13	1%
18-24	16	1%
25-34	77	7%
35-44	149	13%
45-54	194	17%
55-64	309	27%
65+	391	34%
Total	1149	100%

Table 3: Race and Ethnicity

	Number	Percent
African American/Black	10	1%
Asian or Asian American	30	4%
Caucasian/White (not Hispanic)	646	78%
Hispanic/Latino	26	3%
Native American	8	1%
Prefer not to say	99	12%
Prefer to identify myself in another way	27	3%
Total	825	100%

Table 4: Languages Spoken In Your Home

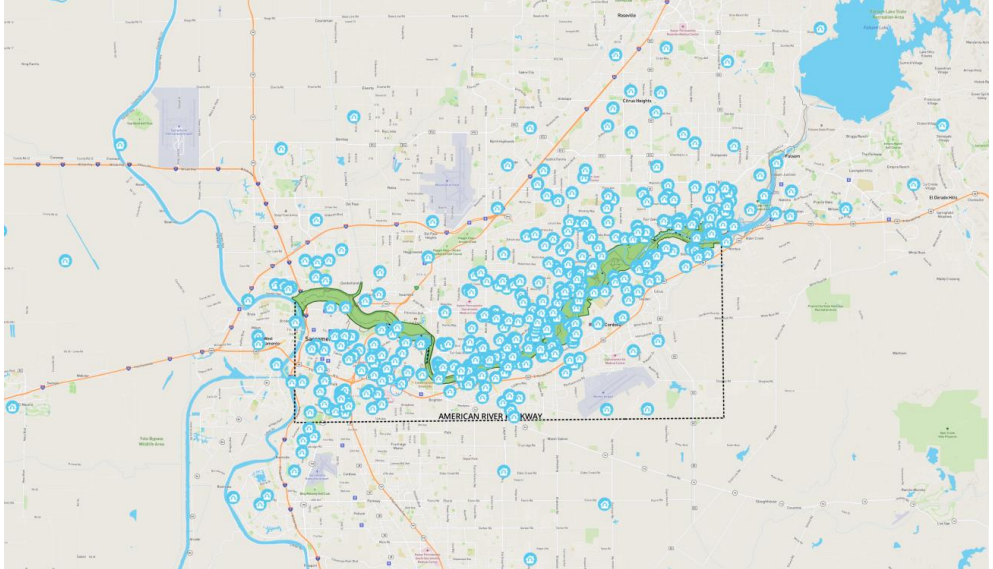
	Number	Percent
Arabic	3	0%
Chinese – Cantonese	3	0%
Chinese – Mandarin	5	1%
English	621	99%
French	10	2%
Japanese	3	0%
Korean	2	0%
Russian	1	0%
Thai	1	0%
Vietnamese	3	0%
Total	626	100%

Table 5: Gender Identity

	Number	Percent
Female	324	49%
Male	301	45%
Non-binary	1	0%
Prefer not to say	41	6%
Total	668	100%

417 Respondents indicated where they live using a pin on the map. The vast majority of these indicated living very close to the American River Parkway. Figure 5 shows the locations of these placed pins.

Figure 4: Home Pins Close to the American River Parkway



RESPONSE TABLES AND MAPS

This survey included both closed and open-ended survey questions as well as an interactive mapping element that allowed respondents to place answers on the map to indicate the precise location the answer applies to. The following maps and tables report the results of this exercise. The full Geographic Information System (GIS) data was delivered separately and can be used for future project support. For some of the map-based answers, follow up questions were asked for each pin placed. Tables describing these responses are noted as a Follow-Up Question and located just below the map of the associated pins.

Table 6: Multiple Choice Question How do you use or enjoy the American River Parkway?

Answer Choices	Number	Percent
Walking, jogging, or running on trails.	716	76%
Enjoying nature, birds, wildlife, views.	603	64%
Bicycling (for fun and recreation)	554	59%
Accessing the river.	526	56%
Bicycling (commute or transportation)	164	18%
Fishing	100	11%
I don't do any activities at the Parkway.	24	3%
Horseback riding	21	2%
Total	937	100%

Figure 5: What roads, trailheads and other entrance points do you use to get into the Parkway? - Points

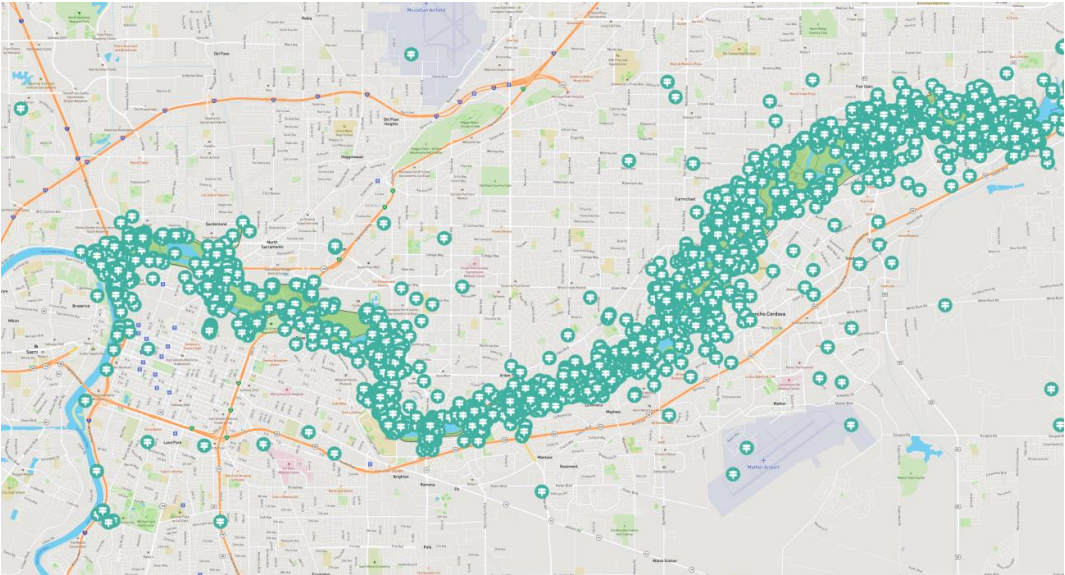


Figure 6: What roads, trailheads and other entrance points do you use to get into the Parkway? - Heatmap¹



Table 7: Follow-Up Question How do you travel to this entrance? Check all that apply.

Answer Choices	Number	Percent
Walk, Jog, Run	1133	37%
Bicycle	1270	42%
Car	1705	56%
Bus	6	0.2%
Total	3035	100%

¹ Heatmaps show the concentration of points as a color shift from blue (few points) to red (many points).

Figure 7: What places do you like most in the Parkway?- Points

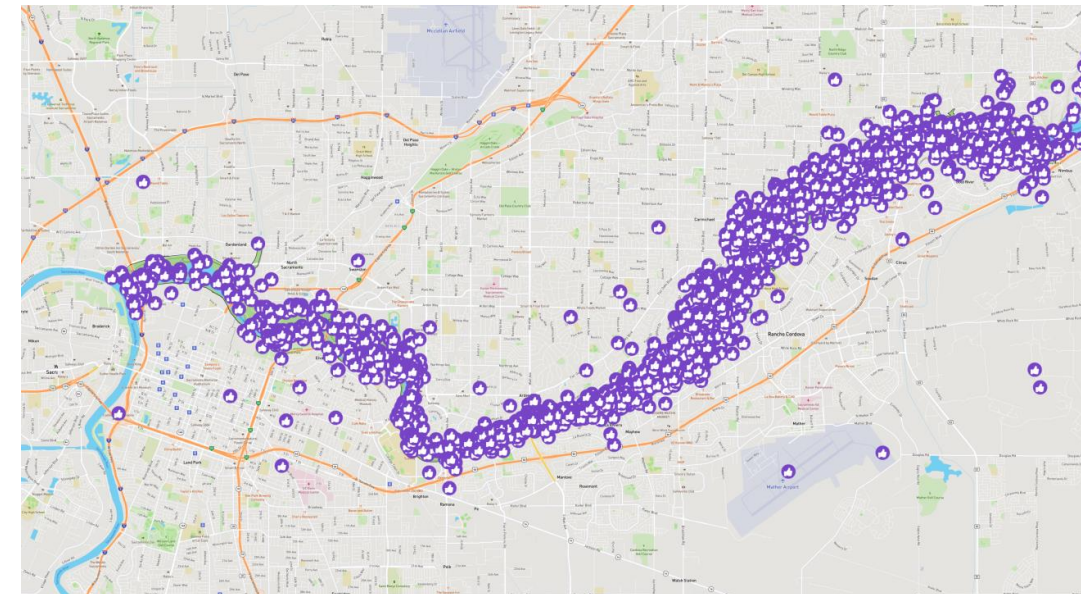


Figure 8: What places do you like most in the Parkway?- Heatmap

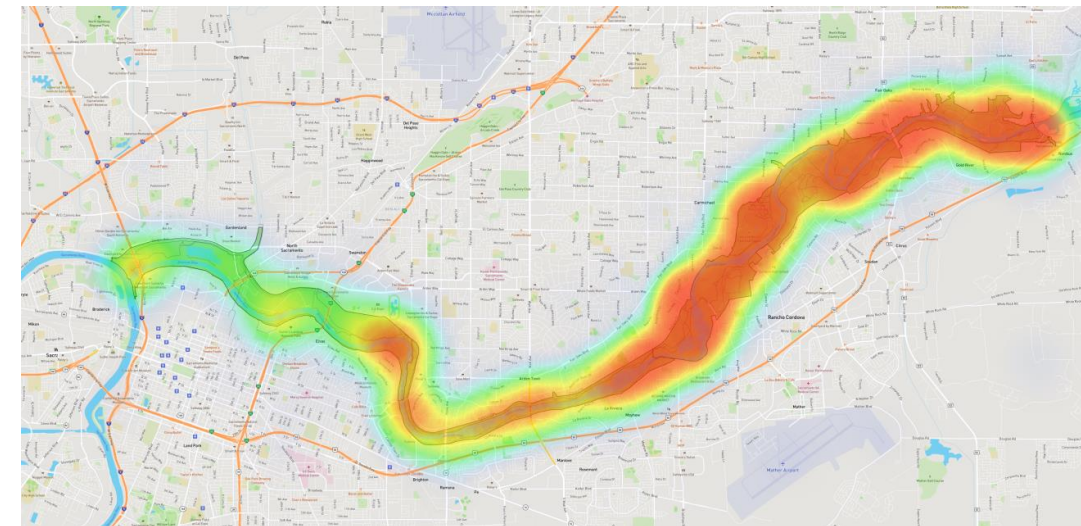


Table 8: Follow-Up Question: What do you do at this location? Check all that apply.

Answer Choices	Number	Percent
Walk	1311	56%
Jog/Run	512	22%
Bicycle	1081	46%
Get in the river	611	26%
Enjoy nature, birds, wildlife	1470	63%
Fish	154	7%
Total	2350	100%

Figure 9: What don't you like? - Points

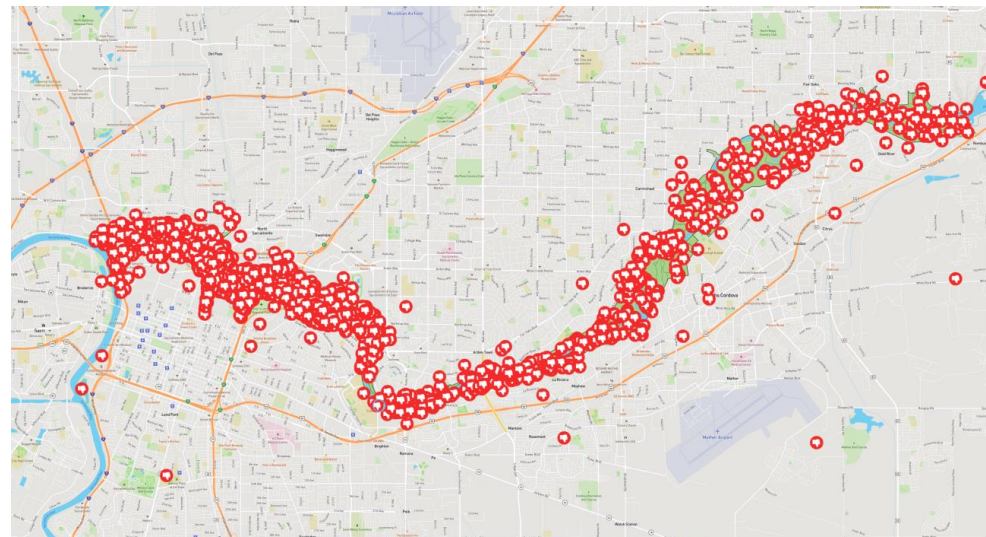


Figure 10: What don't you like? - Heatmap

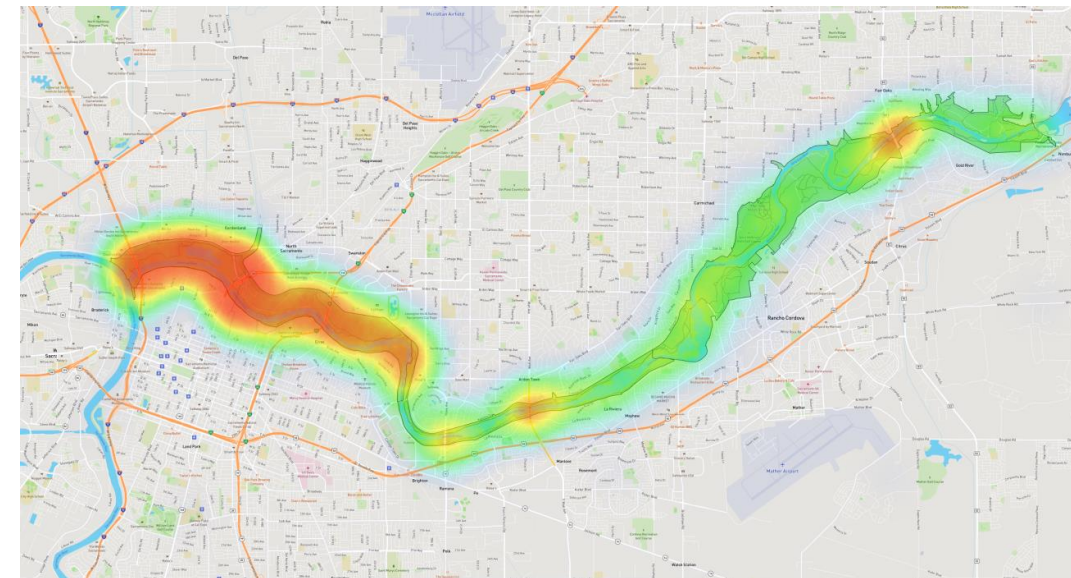


Table 9: Follow-Up Question: Which of the following don't you like at this location? Check any that apply.

Answer Choices	Number	Percent
Noise	92	7%
I feel unsafe here	842	66%
I feel unwelcome here.	392	31%
Trash/garbage dumping	943	74%
Encampments	975	76%
Fire risks	247	19%
I can't get to what I want to see.	68	5%
I can't do what I want to do.	139	11%
Total	1279	100%

Figure 11: Do you have ideas about changes in the Parkway?- Points

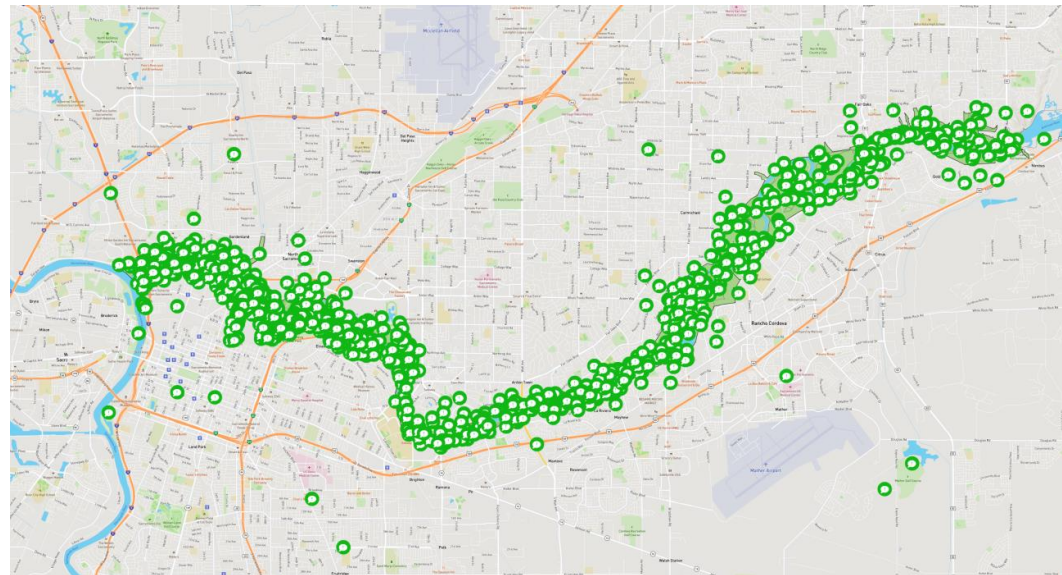
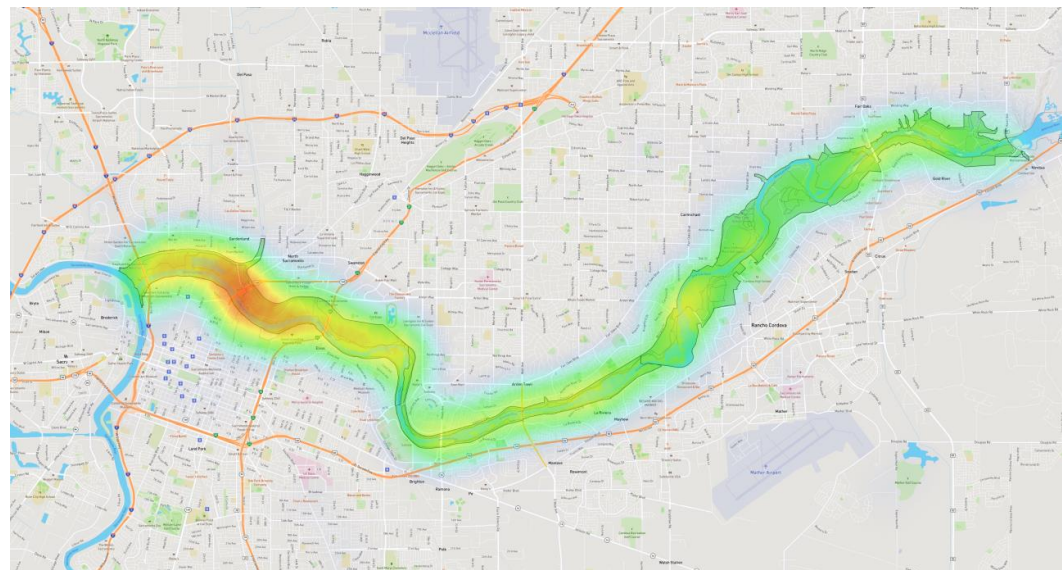


Figure 12: Do you have ideas about changes in the Parkway?- Heatmap



Comments recorded with the 920 pins illustrated above are included in the content analysis at the end of this document.

SUPPORT FOR DRAFT GOALS

Each of the draft goals (as of July 2020) was tested for support. The goals as tested are presented before the table indicating the agreement by respondents. Respondents also had the opportunity to comment on each goal. The comments are included in the content analysis at the end of this document.

Figure 13: NRMP Framework Draft June 2020



Goal 1: Preserve and enhance native communities.

- Objective 1.1: Protect, enhance, and restore **native vegetation communities**, including emergent, riparian, grassland, and woodland habitats.
- Objective 1.2: Protect and enhance seasonal wetlands

Table 10: Do you agree with Goal 1 for the American River Parkway?

Answer Choices	Number	%
Yes, I agree	980	83%
I agree and have comments (please write them in below)	174	15%
I disagree (please add any comments below)	31	3%
Grand Total	1185	100%

American River Parkway Natural Resources Management Plan

Goal 2: Protect and enhance a range of native species over life history stages.

- Objective 2.1: Protect and enhance native species populations.
- Objective 2.2: Protect, enhance, and restore habitat connectivity and travel corridors to support local and migratory species movement.
- Objective 2.3: Restore and protect fish habitat and structure.
- Objective 2.4: Decrease the prevalence of invasive non-native species.

Table 11: Do you agree with Goal 2 for the American River Parkway?

Answer Choices	Number	%
Yes, I agree	974	83%
I agree and have comments (please write them in below)	173	15%
I disagree (please add any comments below)	22	2%
Grand Total	1169	100%

Goal 3: Maintain and improve water quality of the river, its drainages, and the Parkway.

- Objective 3.1: Maintain and improve soil resources and bank condition to minimize erosion and protect infrastructure.
- Objective 3.2: Augment solid waste cleanup and debris removal.

Table 12: Do you agree with Goal 3 for the American River Parkway?

Answer Choices	Number	%
Yes, I agree	957	82%
I agree and have comments (please write them in below)	199	17%
I disagree (please add any comments below)	17	1%
Grand Total	1173	100%

Goal 4: Preserve and enhance open space within and surrounding the Parkway to promote the “naturalistic” character of the land.

- Objective 4.1: Minimize bluff retreat to protect private property and Parkway resources.
- Objective 4.2: Reduce the amount of ambient light impacting natural resources in the Parkway while ensuring a safe park environment.
- Objective 4.3: Limit incompatible land uses adjacent to the Parkway.

Table 13: Do you agree with Goal 4 for the American River Parkway?

Answer Choices	Number	%
Yes, I agree	892	78%
I agree and have comments (please write them in below)	162	14%
I disagree (please add any comments below)	92	8%
Grand Total	1146	100%

Goal 5: Minimize human use impacts in the Parkway.

- Objective 5.1: Minimize recreation use impacts on natural resources.
- Objective 5.2: Manage impacts associated with homelessness in the Parkway.
- Objective 5.3: Control impacts related to large group and special events.

Table 14: Do you agree with Goal 5 for the American River Parkway?

Answer Choices	Number	%
Yes, I agree	705	61%
I agree and have comments (please write them in below)	375	32%
I disagree (please add any comments below)	76	7%
Grand Total	1156	100%

Goal 6: Educate the public on value of the Parkway

- Objective 6.1: Conduct public outreach and educational efforts.
- Objective 6.2: Interpret and protect natural, archaeological, and historical resources to educate the public on the significance of the Parkway in the greater Sacramento region.
- Objective 6.3: Implement a resource interpretation program to influence visitor behavior.

Table 15: Do you agree with Goal 6 for the American River Parkway?

Answer Choices	Number	%
Yes, I agree	897	78%
I agree and have comments (please write them in below)	178	16%
I disagree (please add any comments below)	70	6%
Grand Total	1145	100%

Goal 7: Coordinate with other agencies, organizations, and partners to measure and manage the impact on natural resources.

- Objective 7.1: Develop a robust environmental monitoring program, in cooperation with other agencies and organizations, to adaptively manage the Parkway.
- Objective 7.2: Support scientific research programs that occur in the Parkway and develop data management system.
- Objective 7.3: Set-up an interagency task force for implementation of the NRMP.

Table 16: Do you agree with Goal 7 for the American River Parkway?

Answer Choices	Number	%
Yes, I agree	899	80%
I agree and have comments (please write them in below)	158	14%
I disagree (please add any comments below)	68	6%
Grand Total	1125	100%

OPEN ENDED RESPONSE CONTENT ANALYSIS

The comments recorded along with the agreement/disagreement on each goal were important to understanding the nuance of the respondents' selections. Digging in further to these results, the project team completed a content analysis of each response. This analysis involved examining each comment for mentions of any of what ultimately became a list of 22 classifications (which were developed from initial review of the responses). The table below provides a summary of the number of mentions logged per category. Note that the number of mentions is not the same as the number of comments as some were classified in two categories.

Classification	Number	%
Agree/Important	173	7%
Disagree/Not Important	67	3%
Homelessness	564	22%
Wildfire/Prescribed Burns/Vegetation Management	27	1%
Volunteering/Citizen Science/NPOs/Universities	115	4%
Funding/Human Resources (Rangers)	99	4%
Native Americans/Tribal Resources	21	1%
Recreation/Recreation Provision/User Access	334	13%
Native Vegetation/Native Wildlife/Restoration	148	6%
Invasive Species	95	4%
Private Property/Bluffs	55	2%
Non-Recreational Facilities (Restrooms, Trash Cans, etc.)	53	2%
Erosion	54	2%
Solid Waste	121	5%
Ambient Light/Light Pollution	32	1%
In-Parkway and Adjacent Development	45	2%
Water Quality/Water Levels	58	2%
User Conflicts	20	1%
Interpretation/Education	246	10%
Other	189	7%
Flood Control	10	0%
Monitoring	31	1%
Total (NOT total number of comments)	2557	100%

APPENDIX A

NRMP PUBLIC WORKSHOPS SUMMARY REPORT

AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN (NRMP) PUBLIC WORKSHOP #1 & #2

Thursday, July 16, 2020 ♦ 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
(Workshop #1)

Friday, July 17, 2020 ♦ 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
(Workshop #2)

Online by Zoom

S U M M A R Y R E P O R T

INTRODUCTION

On July 16 and July 17, 2020, Sacramento County Regional Parks and MIG, Inc. hosted two public workshops for the American River Parkway Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP). The purpose of the public workshops was to: (1) provide an overview of the Parkway and NRMP; (2) discuss and understand the purpose of the NRMP; (3) review the overall framework for the NRMP, including its mission and vision, goals and objectives, and performance measures; (4) introduce draft NRMP mapping products prepared by MIG; and (5) receive public feedback, including questions, comments, and suggestions, on the draft NRMP.

Meeting Format and Agenda

The two public workshops occurred on July 16, 2020 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and on July 17, 2020 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. online by Zoom. Three Sacramento County Regional Parks staff and four MIG staff facilitated the workshops. Nine members of the public in total attended the public workshops (Attachment A). The workshops included presentation slides (Attachment B). During the meeting, Daniel Iacofano of MIG recorded key points of discussion in graphic format (Attachment C).

Liz Bellas, Director of the Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks, opened the workshops by introducing the participating Sacramento County Regional Parks and MIG staff members and thanking the public for participating in the workshops. Ms. Bellas disclosed the County's intent to record the workshops. Mr. Iacofano then continued the workshop by stating the purpose of the public workshops, to gain input from the public and Parkway stakeholders on the future of the Parkway and its natural resources. He introduced MIG as an environmental services firm with previous experience in river system natural resources management planning and then asked participating members of the public to give self-introductions.

NRMP PRESENTATION

In both workshops, Bill Spain, an MIG team member and NRMP project manager, carried out a presentation introducing the Parkway; the NRMP background, topic areas, and framework; and draft NRMP mapping. At the end of the presentation, Mr. Iacofano asked the members of the public for questions comments, and suggestions, emphasizing the intent of the County and MIG to hear the participants' thoughts on aspects of the Parkway that need to be protected, issues of concern, and ideas for improving the Parkway.

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, AND SUGGESTIONS

The members of the public presented the following questions, comments, and suggestions to the workshop facilitators. Facilitator responses are in *italics* (paraphrased).

Public Workshop #1

- I am interested in vegetation issues. Will the vegetation maps and the PowerPoint presentation be made available before the release of the final draft NRMP?
(MIG) Yes, the maps will be made available prior to the final draft NRMP.
- I would like to leave comments on invasive species. Yellow star thistle, stinkwort, and other invasive species the Sacramento Weed Warriors (SWW) have been pulling in the Parkway are not on the list on the provided maps nor on the information provided to me by the County.
(MIG) We used IPMP (Invasive Plant Management Plan) point data, including those on removed species, in the maps. We will look into the possibility of incorporating the additional invasive species discussed in this workshop into the NRMP mapping.
- I have a question on the public engagement process. Is this the only opportunity the public will have to comment before the final draft NRMP is pulled together? How will the public find out about the meetings? There are a very small number of people at this meeting.
(MIG) We have put together an online public survey that will be live through August 15, 2020. We are presenting at American River Parkway Advisory Committee (ARPAC) and Sacramento County Recreation and Park Commission meetings, which are open to the public. We will also hold additional public meetings in November 2020 before the public draft NRMP is released.
(Regional Parks) We have asked the ARPAC to share information about NRMP public engagement throughout its stakeholder groups. We have also released information about NRMP public engagement on Facebook, Twitter, the County website, and through press releases. The agendas for the ARPAC and Recreation and Park Commission meetings have also been posted on the County website. Please let us know if you have ideas for getting the word out.
- SARA is concerned about human impacts on water quality. Human and non-human species are impacted by water quality. High E. coli levels in the river are not good. I am wondering if the NRMP will address water quality.

(MIG) Yes, the NRMP will address water quality, mainly through its objectives and performance measures. We know encampments in the Parkway are having an impact on water quality. The Parkway cannot have healthy habitat for species without good water quality.

- I am seeing an increase in Parkway usage. There needs to be better social and public education regarding the Parkway. Trash, including rafts, are impacting the Parkway. How do you measure the human impact in terms of waste? How will the NRMP address waste and trash removal?
(Regional Parks) Parkway maintenance staff pick up trash on a regular basis. We have an agreement with PRIDE industries for trash and debris pick-up. The County tries to focus PRIDE efforts on keeping trash from entering the river. Parkway users can report trash and waste to the City of Sacramento and the County through the 311 app. During a recent American River Parkway Foundation (ARPF) meeting, the participations expressed the intent to focus on helping Parkway users adopt a "pack it in, pack it out" mentality.
(MIG) Social marketing is an effective strategy. We all know about recycling and anti-smoking campaigns. Behaviors change over time. We hope to use social marketing messaging to instill good environment values in Parkway users.
- I think "pack it in, pack it out" is a good idea. We should also look into making sure people use environmentally safe sunscreens. Good Samaritans remove yellow star thistle and trash in the Parkway. We should encourage these people and educate the public on good behaviors.
- Will the full document be made available before the beginning of CEQA?
(MIG) We are looking to releases the public draft NRMP during November of this year.
- Will the NRMP touch on the use of controlled burns for the removal of invasive understory plant species?
(Regional Parks) Yes, the County has removed invasive understory species for fire fuel reduction, though we have encountered challenges. In spring, potential removal areas, such as Woodlake and Cal Expo, are too wet for prescribed burns. By the time the vegetation dried out, we were in the middle of fire season and the fire departments were pinched. We are planning to continue prescribed burns, grazing, mechanical removal, and use of herbicides.
- Will the NRMP include restricting uses, such as dogs, horses, and BBQs, in more sensitive areas of the Parkway?
(Regional Parks) The Parkway Plan established land use designations in the Parkway. Each land use designation allows for different uses. The Parkway Plan is available on the County website for public review. If we were to change a land use designation, we would need to go through an entire State process, so the NRMP will not include altering the existing land use designations.
(MIG) We will pursue the idea of teaching people how to be better stewards of the Parkway. The NRMP will focus on reducing the impacts of human uses within the framework of the land use designations.
- I am very curious about how the Sacramento Flood Control Agency (SAFCA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Regional Parks are maintaining flood control priorities and ensuring the sustainability of flood control and the floodplain. I also think flood control

stakeholders need to communicate with each other.

(Regional Parks) *We want to make sure flood control activities in the Parkway are sensitive to the environment. There are big opportunities for flood protection and interventions, and to use mitigation areas for environmental restoration. Agency coordination is one of our major goals and we hope it will continue beyond the development of the NRMP.*

Public Workshop #2

- I am very impressed with the level of detail in the NRMP materials provided. Will the Area Plan maps and other mapping be part of the NRMP document?
(MIG) *All maps will be in the document and made available on the County website.*
- I would like to emphasize the importance of the infrastructure, specifically the power lines, in the area. There is a need to enhance vegetation and still meet the requirements of utility companies.
(MIG) *This issue is on our radar and we are looking at the possibility of adding power line locations to the NRMP maps.*
- I appreciate the section by section approach and level of detail provided. I am curious as to how you are positioning the plan with respect to historical data, such as the impact of hydraulic mining on the Parkway.
- I am interested in the potential for more infrastructure, such as public restrooms, for the homeless community in the Parkway. I am aware there are various jurisdictions involved, but I would like to advocate helping the homeless community.
(Regional Parks) *There are very specific land use rules at play here. We are limited in what we can do. The County and the City [of Sacramento] are currently working on many programs related to homelessness, especially now with the COVID-19 pandemic.*
- Invasive species is a very important issue. I wonder how the NRMP will measure success.
(MIG) *Perhaps you may be able to help us update our list of invasive species. The NRMP will include mechanisms for reviewing and assessing invasive species management efforts.*
- UC Davis students have worked on natural resources projects at Putah Creek. I hope that California State University, Sacramento (CSUS) will do something similar in the Parkway.
(Regional Parks) *There is an ongoing 5-year restoration project at Bushy Lake that involves CSUS students.*
- I think the Bushy Lake project is a great first step, but I would like to see the program expanded to other areas of the Parkway.
(Regional Parks) *We agree and second that idea.*

Mr. Iacofano ended both Q&A sessions by describing the next steps the NRMP team will take regarding public engagement. The interactive online survey will be live through August 15, 2020. A County Recreation and Park Commission meeting will occur on Thursday, August 23rd. The NRMP team will give presentations during the ARPAC and County Recreation and Park Commission meetings in November 2020. The release of the final draft NRMP will occur shortly before the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is completed. The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors will review and approve the NRMP in early 2021. Ms. Bellas ended the workshops by

thanking the members of the public for their participation, asking the workshop participants to keep an eye out for updated NRMP information on the County website, and giving a reminder to submit written comments to her via email.

**AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY
 NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN (NRMP)
 PUBLIC WORKSHOPS #1 & #2**

Thursday, July 16, 2020 ♦ 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
 (Workshop #1)

Friday, July 17, 2020 ♦ 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
 (Workshop #2)

Online by Zoom

**APPENDIX TO
 SUMMARY REPORT**

ATTACHMENT A: MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Public Workshop #1		
Participant	Organization/Affiliation	Email Address
<i>Members of the Public</i>		
Elliot Chasin	Sacramento Audubon Society	N/A
Dennis Eckhart	County resident; Parkway volunteer	N/A
Shelly Eckhart	County resident; Parkway volunteer	N/A
Amy Rodrigues	Sacramento Valley Conservancy	N/A
Spencer Eberle	County resident	N/A
Stacy Moore	County resident	N/A
Jeff Miller	Save the American River Association (SARA)	N/A
<i>Workshop Staff</i>		
Liz Bellas	Sacramento County Regional Parks	bellase@saccounty.net
Mary Maret	Sacramento County Regional Parks	maretm@saccounty.net
Michael Doane	Sacramento County Regional Parks	N/A
Daniel Iacofano	MIG	danieli@migcom.com
Bill Spain	MIG	bills@migcom.com
Jon Campbell	MIG	jcampbell@migcom.com
Miranda Miller	MIG	mmiller@migcom.com

Public Workshop #2		
Participant	Organization/Affiliation	Email Address
<i>Members of the Public</i>		
Dan Meier	California Native Plant Society; American River Coalition	N/A
Robert Moeller	UC Berkeley, UC Davis; County resident	N/A
<i>Workshop Staff</i>		
Liz Bellas	Sacramento County Regional Parks	bellase@saccounty.net
Mary Maret	Sacramento County Regional Parks	maretm@saccounty.net
Daniel Iacofano	MIG	danieli@migcom.com
Bill Spain	MIG	bills@migcom.com
Jon Campbell	MIG	jcampbell@migcom.com
Nina Anderson	MIG	nanderson@migcom.com

ATTACHMENT B: POWERPOINT SLIDES

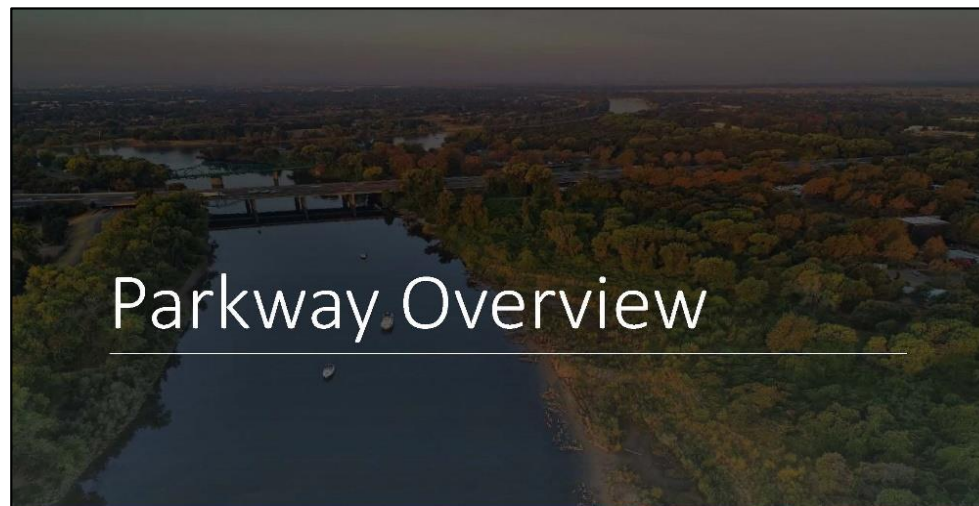
American River Parkway
Natural Resources
Management Plan
Public Workshops
July 16 and 17, 2020

1

Workshop
Overview

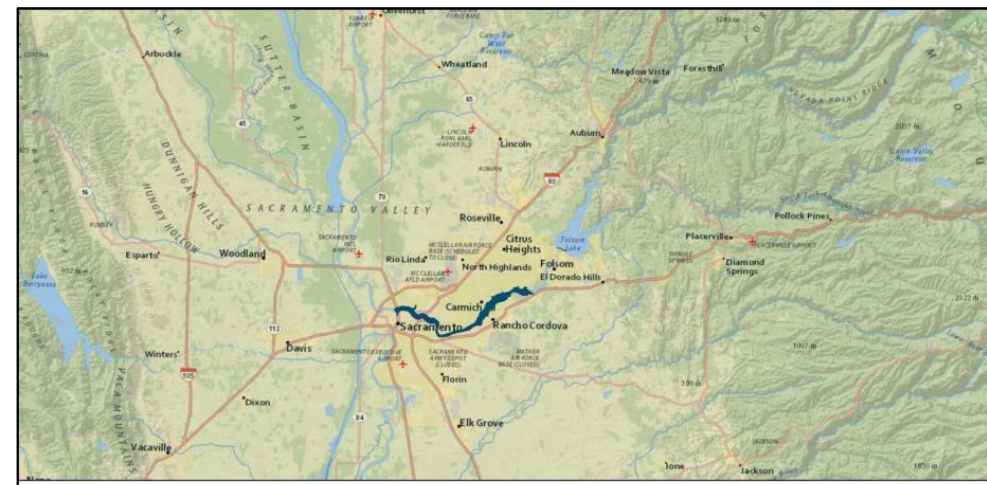
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2. NRMP Background and Topics
3. NRMP Mapping
4. Area Plan Maps
5. Questions / Comments / Discussion
6. Next Steps

2

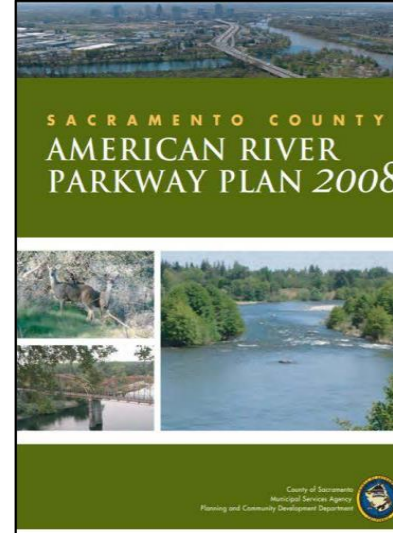
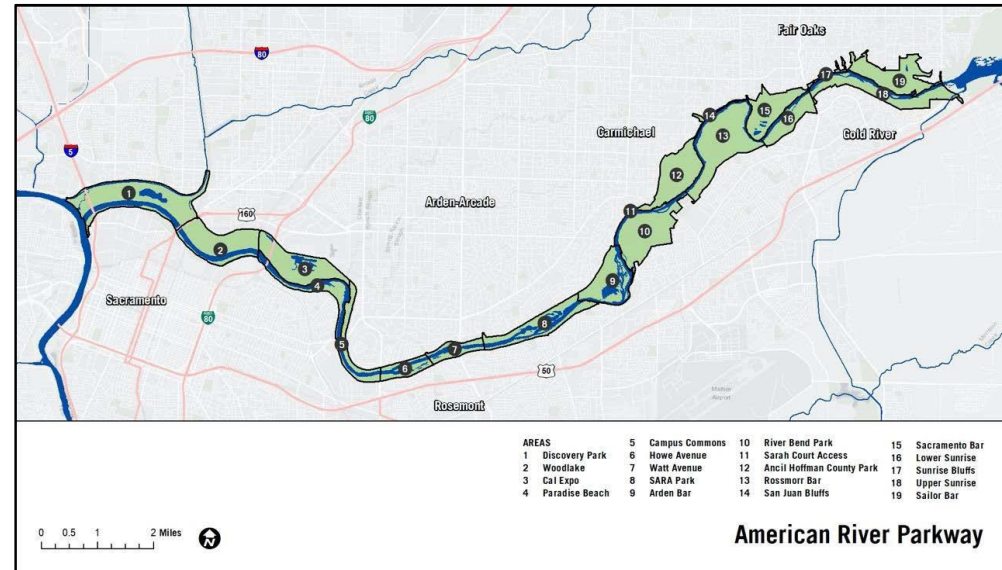


Parkway Overview

3



American River Parkway Region



American River Parkway Plan

The American River Parkway Plan (Parkway Plan) is the primary guiding policy document for the Parkway.

The NRMP is being completed consistent with the Parkway Plan.



Fast Facts about the Parkway

Lower American River is a designated State and National Wild and Scenic River

The Parkway is split into 20 planning "Areas" and covers 7,000 acres

First known American River Parkway concept developed in 1915 by City of Sacramento planner John Nolen

Eight million visitors in 2009

Over 82 miles of trails




Discovery Park



Cal Expo and Paradise Beach

Lower Reach

Discovery Park, Woodlake, Cal Expo, and Paradise Beach Areas



Campus Commons and Howe Avenue

Watt Avenue

Middle Reach

Campus Commons, Howe Avenue, Watt Avenue, and SARA Park Areas

9




Sunrise Bluffs, Lower Sunrise, and Sacramento Bar

Upper Sunrise and Sailor Bar

Upper Reach

Arden Bar, River Bend Park, Sarah Court Access, Ancil Hoffman County Park, Rossmoor Bar, San Juan Bluffs, Sacramento Bar, Lower Sunrise, Sunrise Bluffs, Upper Sunrise, and Sailor Bar Areas



10



Vegetation Communities

The Parkway contains important native vegetation communities, including riparian woodland and forest, elderberry savanna, oak woodland and forest, and valley foothill grassland.

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<p>Valley elderberry longhorn beetle <small>(Photo credit: Jon Keltz, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)</small></p> 	<p>Steelhead – Central Valley Distinct Population Segment <small>(Photo credit: NOAA Fisheries)</small></p> 	<p>Western pond turtle <small>(Photo credit: California Department of Fish and Wildlife)</small></p> 	<p>Swainson's hawk <small>(Photo credit: Brian Rusnaca)</small></p> 
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Native Wildlife

The Parkway is home to and provides potential habitat for native wildlife species, including special-status species protected under State and federal law.

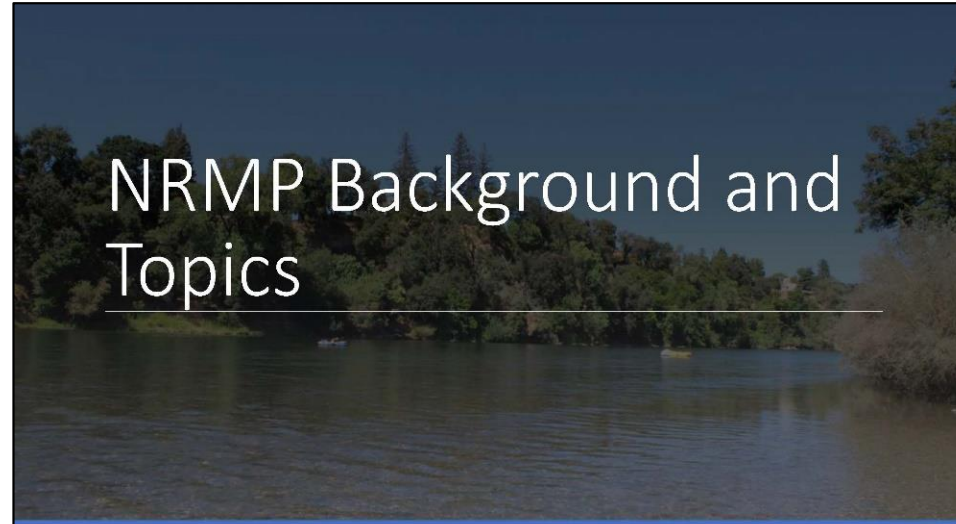
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Native American History

The Parkway lies within the ethnographic territory of the Nisenan Maidu group. The Nisenan Maidu are the earliest known human inhabitants of what is now the Parkway.

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NRMP Background and Topics

14



Purpose of NRMP

Protect and enhance natural resources in the Parkway.

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NRMP Framework

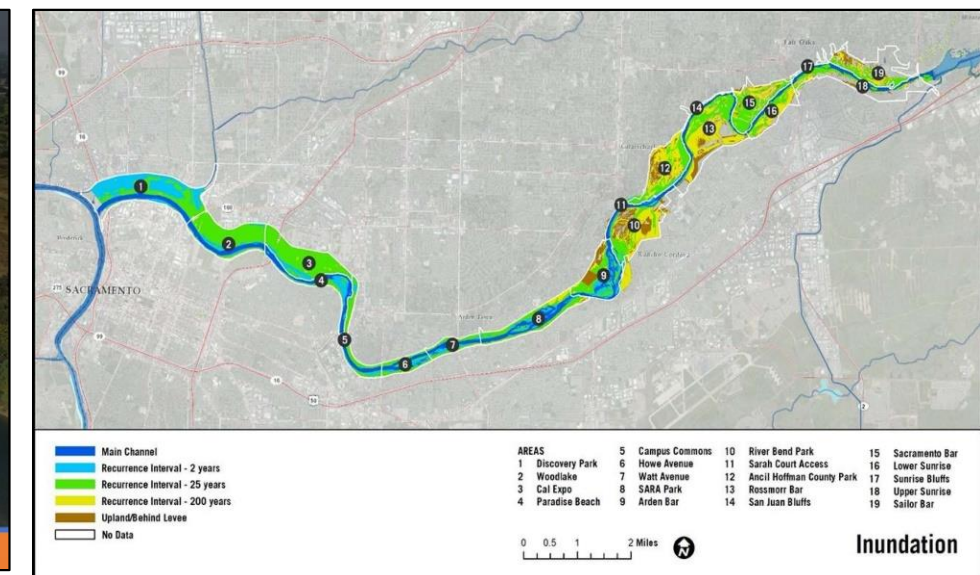
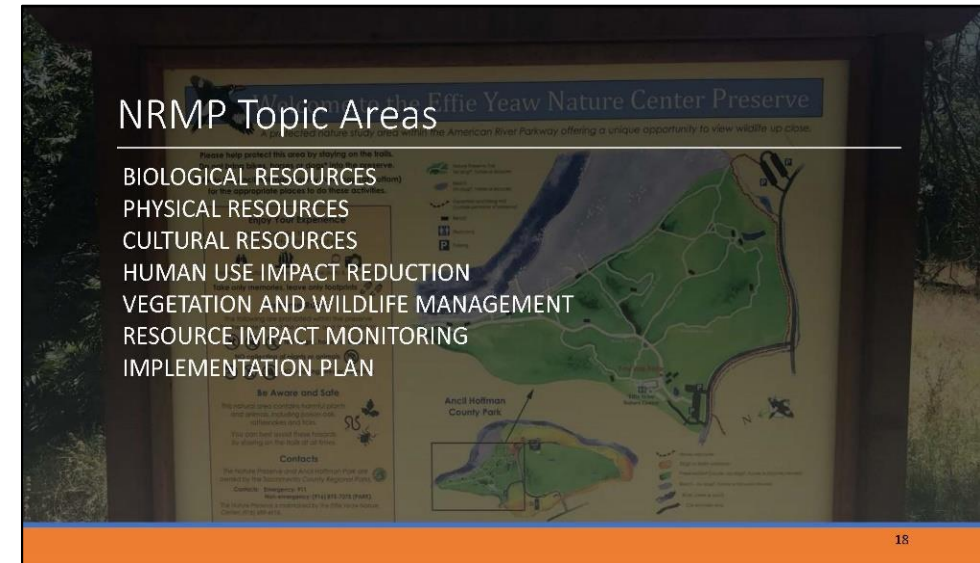
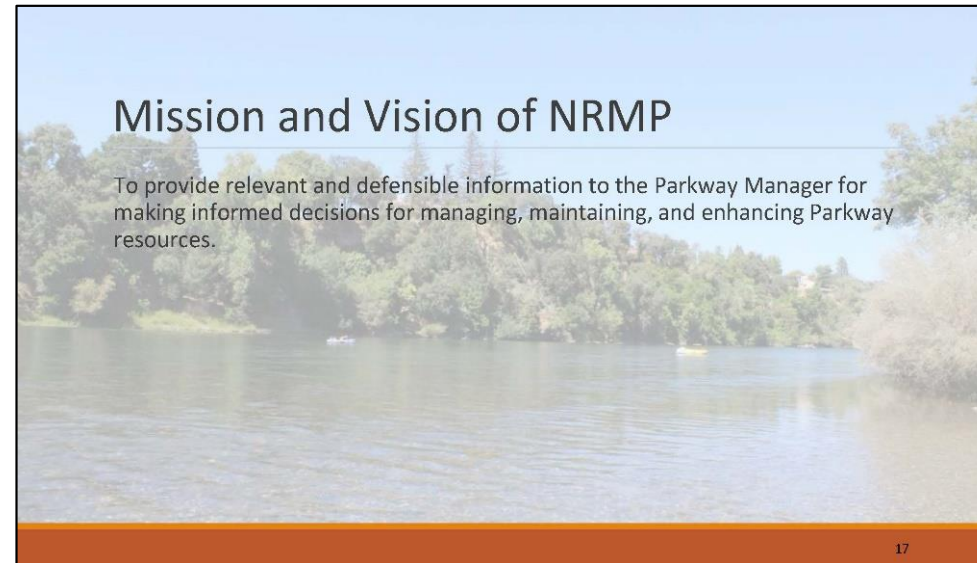
Mission and Vision

NRMP Goals

NRMP Objectives

NRMP Performance Measures

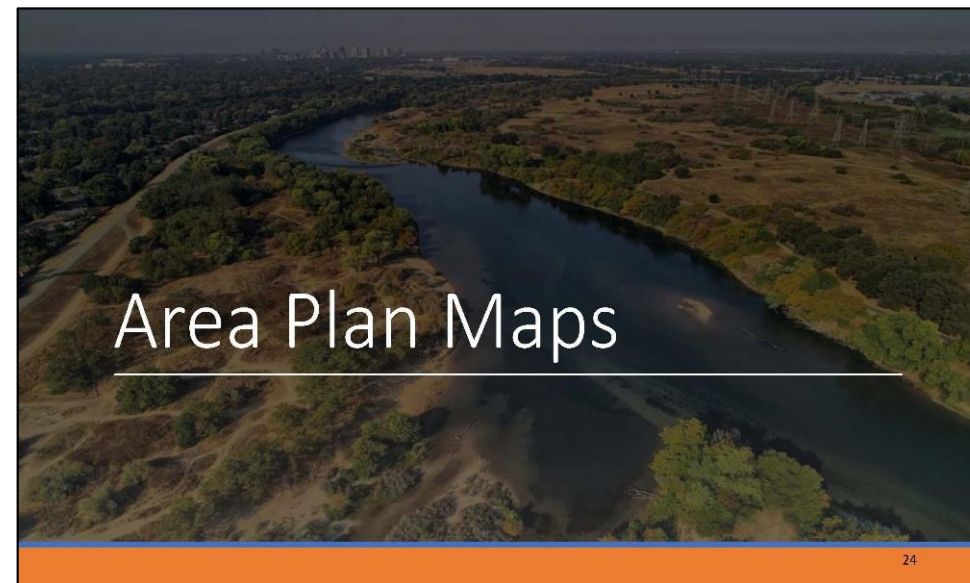
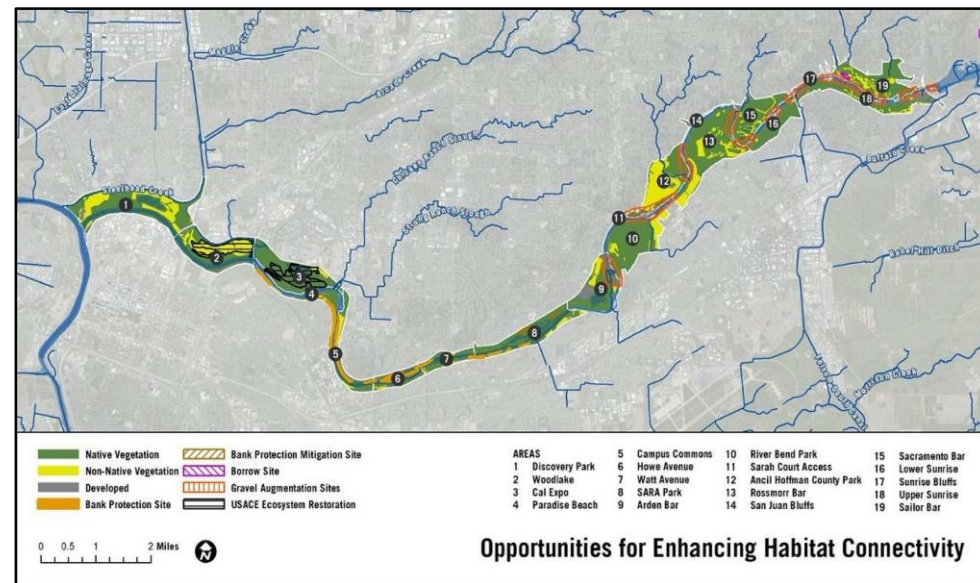
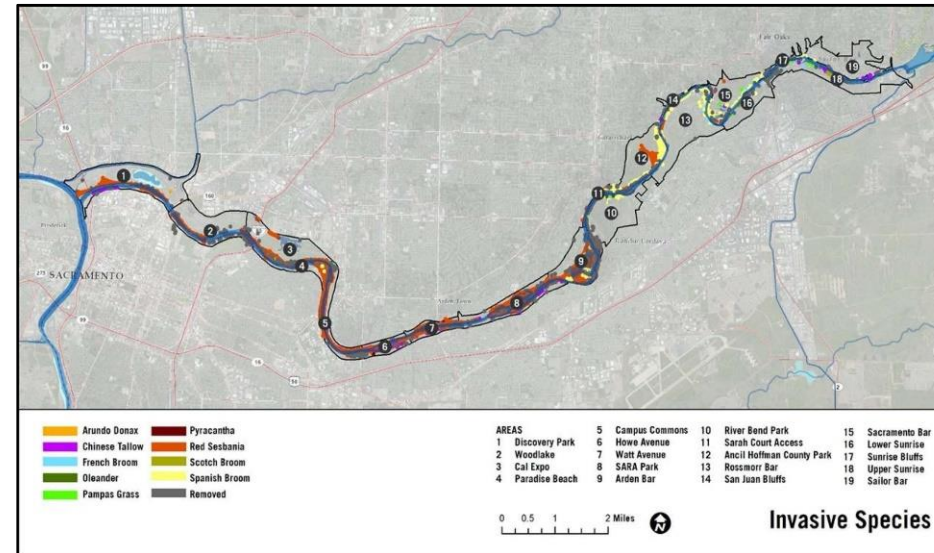
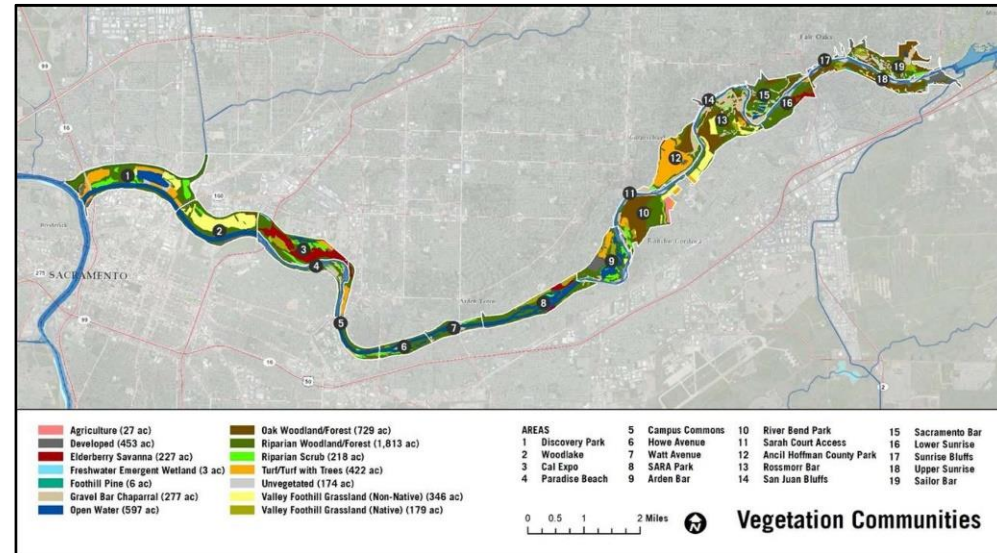
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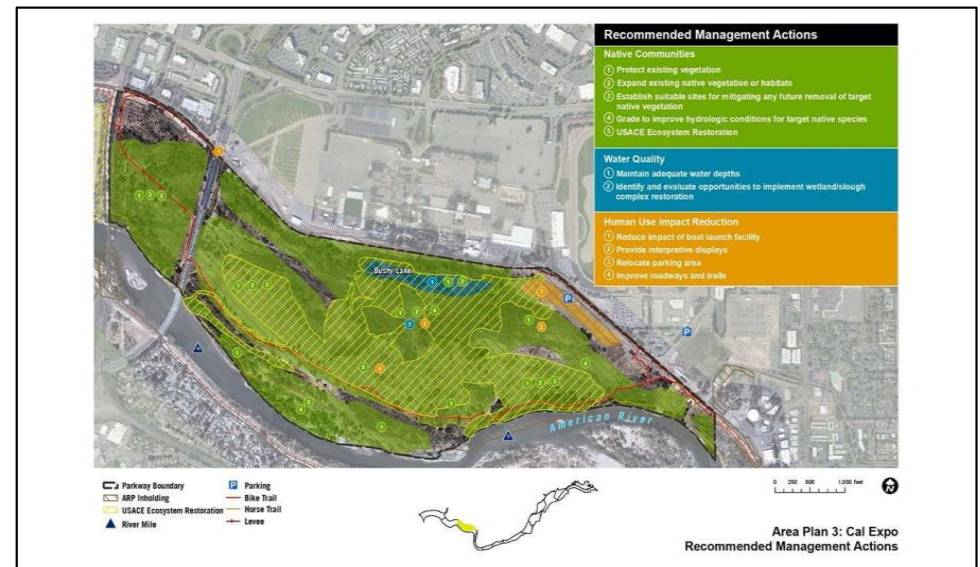
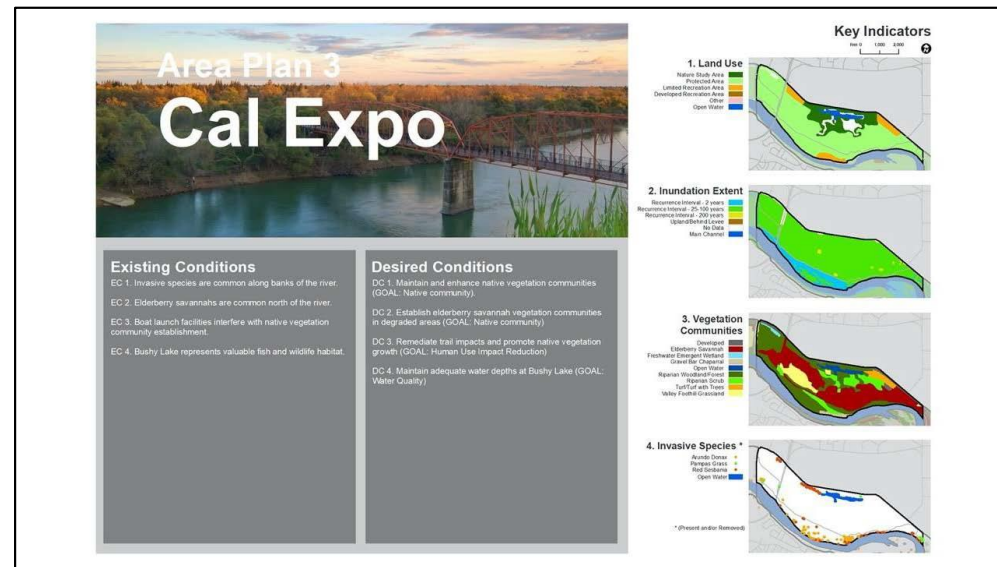
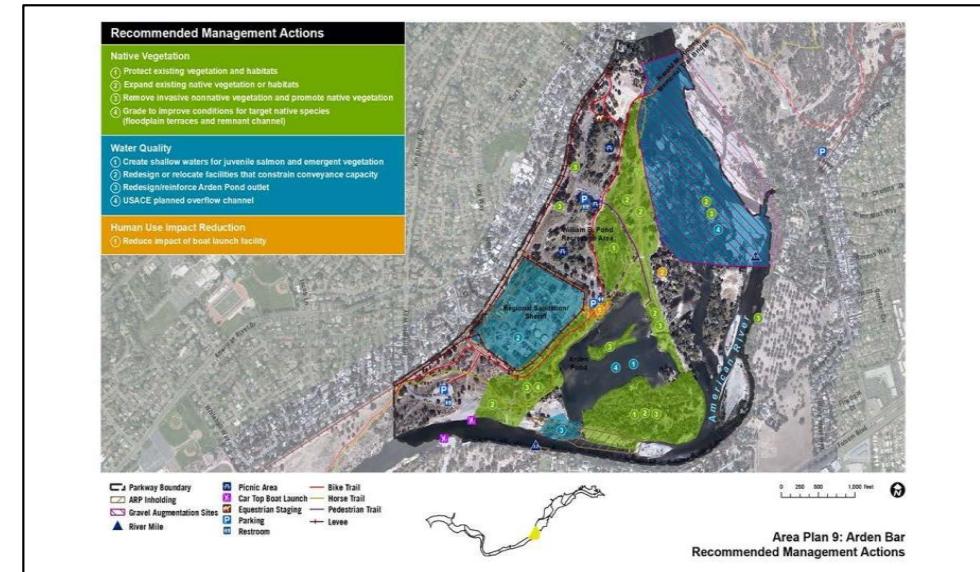
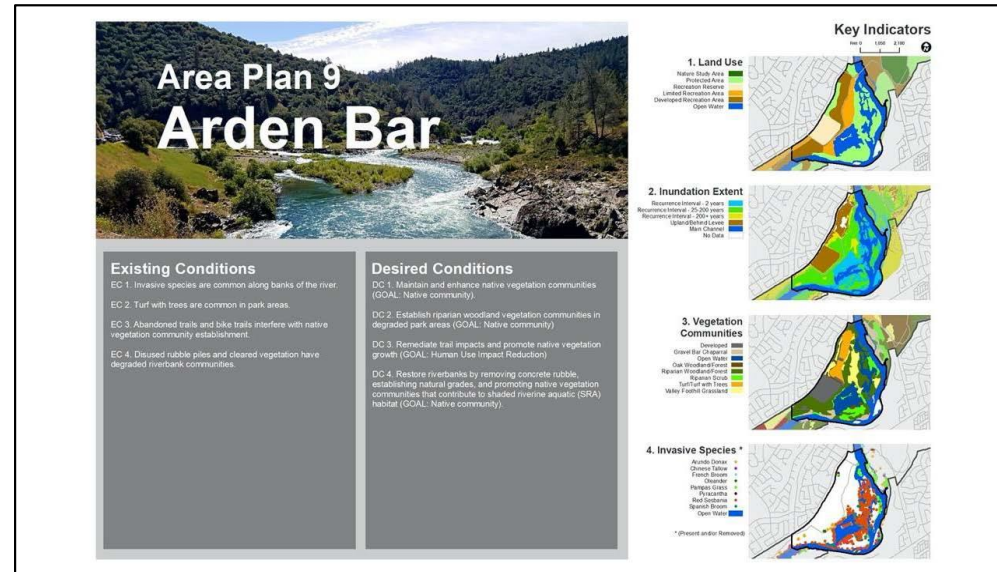



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American River Parkway Natural Resources Management Plan
 Summary Report | Public Workshops #1 & #2 2/26/21







Questions, Comments, and Discussion

29

Questions, Comments, and Discussion

1. What places do you like most in the Parkway?
2. What don't you like?
3. Do you have ideas about changes in the Parkway?



Next Steps

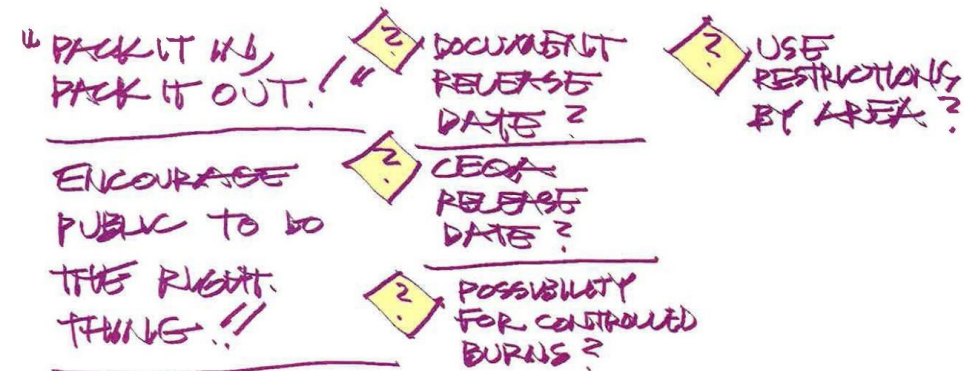
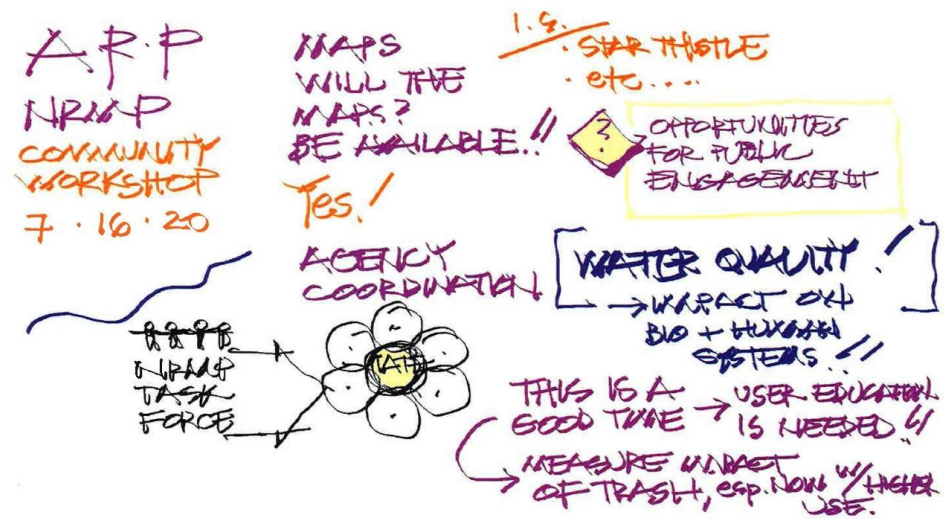
- Online Survey Available through August 15
- Public Draft to be Released Late 2020
- ARPAC and Recreation and Park Commission Meetings (November 2020)
- Board of Supervisors Review and Approval (Early 2021)

American River Parkway Natural Resources Management Plan Public Workshops

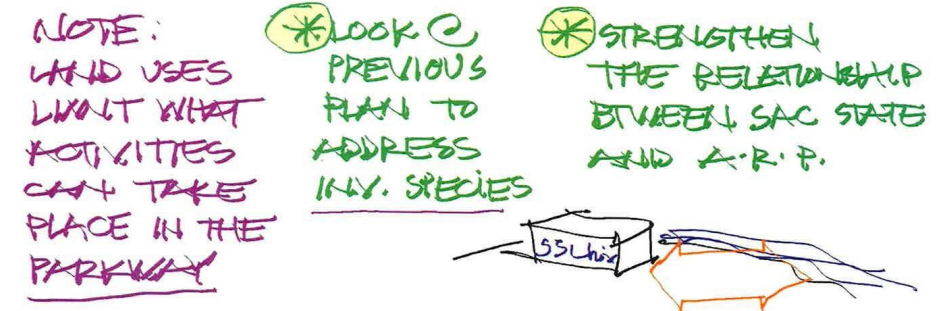
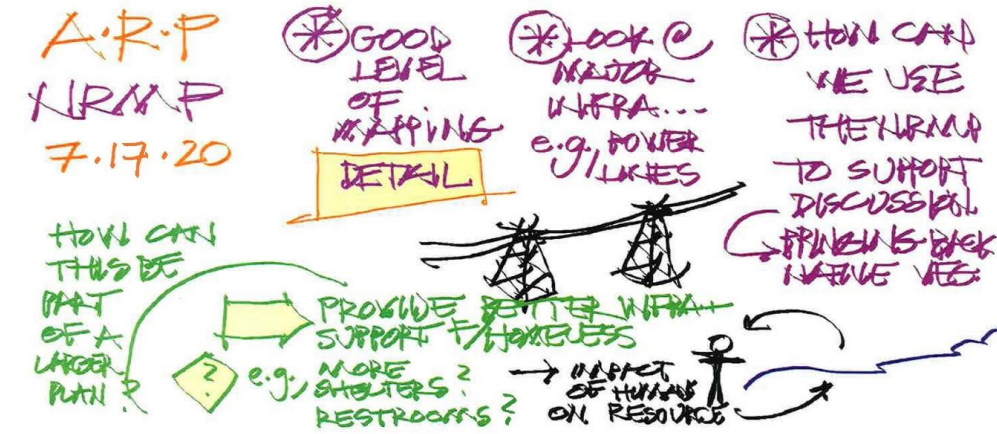
July 16 and 17, 2020

ATTACHMENT C: GRAPHIC NOTES

Public Workshop #1



Public Workshop #2



APPENDIX A
**ARPAC NRMP
WORKSHOP
SUMMARY REPORT**

American River Parkway Advisory Committee
Summary Report | NRMP Workshop, 3/1/21

**AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ARPAC)
AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY (ARP)
NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN (NRMP)
WORKSHOP**

Friday, July 10, 2020 ♦ 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Online by Zoom

S U M M A R Y R E P O R T

INTRODUCTION

On July 10, 2020, the American River Parkway Advisory Committee (ARPAC) held a workshop on the American River Parkway (ARP) Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP). The purpose of the meeting was to: (1) provide an overview and status of the draft NRMP; (2) introduce and describe the NRMP Task Force; (3) describe the NRMP framework; (4) present draft NRMP mapping products.

Meeting Format

The ARPAC NRMP workshop occurred on July 10, 2020, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. online by Zoom. Meeting participants included members of the ARPAC, Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks (Regional Parks or County Parks) staff, and consultant staff from MIG, Inc. Attachment A of the Summary Report Appendix includes the PowerPoint presentation slides displayed and discussed during the meeting.

AGENDA

Daniel Iacofano of MIG, Inc. opened the meeting and asked the ARPAC members to introduce themselves and their organizations to the group. Mr. Iacofano expressed his appreciation to have the opportunity to discuss the NRMP with the ARPAC to gain community input on managing a Wild and Scenic River. He explained the ARPAC members would be given the opportunity to pose questions and comments following the presentation. Mr. Iacofano then presented the meeting agenda, giving a brief overview of each topic of discussion, and handed the meeting over to Bill Spain of MIG, Inc.

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Mr. Spain gave an overview of the draft NRMP chapters, proposed types of implementation activities in the NRMP (i.e., site and land management; visitor management, agency

coordination, oversight, and reporting; and monitoring), the status of the draft NRMP (i.e., preliminary administrative draft, updated administrative draft, and the public draft), the NRMP Task Force, and the NRMP framework (Mission and Vision of NRMP, Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures).

Mr. Iacofano then turned the meeting over to Jon Campbell of MIG, Inc. to give an overview of the NRMP mapping and GIS approach, including draft mapping products and the level of detail included therein. Mr. Campbell introduced preliminary graphics produced for the NRMP, including Parkway-wide inundation, vegetation communities, and invasive species maps, and three Area Plan-specific maps with existing and desired conditions, key indicators, and recommended management actions.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Iacofano opened the meeting to general questions and comments on the scope of the NRMP and the proposed goals and objectives. He prefaced the discussion with a reminder that the NRMP intends to manage natural resources within the boundaries of the American River Parkway Plan, and the NRMP intends to ensure the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency's (SAFCA) concurrent flood control projects maximize benefits to natural resources.

Comments and questions from the ARPAC members are listed below. Responses from the meeting facilitators are given in *italics*. Each individual bullet point may include a single comment and response, or a back-and-forth conversation.

- Is there any plan to prevent horses and/or humans from using bike trails?
(MIG) At this point I am not aware of any plans to do so. There might be potential recommendations to realign trails to protect natural resources. However, recreational user values need to be maintained.
- Does the NRMP's scope include signage to address or prevent user conflicts?
(MIG) I think it will. We want to use some type of uniform signage, nothing too obtrusive. Informing people about proper use will help protect natural resources in addition to ensuring a safe user experience. Therefore, we think signage is going to be a component of the NRMP.
- As an ethnoecologist working with culturally significant plants, I have been awarded a grant by the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) to work with County Parks at Cal Expo on the restoration of Bushy Lake. We have a lot of data, and we have planted at least six (6) acres for eco-cultural restoration. We are adding a combination of culturally significant and pollinator plants. I would like to make sure we get advice from you as we move forward with our conceptual restoration plan. We would like to connect with everyone. I want to make sure Bushy Lake is not recognized as a USACE restoration

project. We are happy to work with Caltrans, USACE, and Cal Expo, but I have not talked to the USACE in the five (5) years I have been out there working with Mary Maret of Regional Parks, Audubon, and others. I want to make sure the extensive research and work we are doing out there is part of this plan. In addition, we are discovering a lot of Western pond turtles have been hit by bikers during the nesting season.

(MIG) That sounds good. We would welcome your help in that regard. That is the purpose for this type of interaction—to make sure we coordinate with these ongoing restoration efforts and ensure the NRMP complements, rather than contradicts, parallel efforts. We would welcome information from you regarding the extent and area of your restoration activity. We need to factor that into the plan.

My goal is to become obsolete and leave a treasure behind for the Lower American River. A stakeholder advisory group is required under my grant; perhaps we can discuss whether I can serve on the advisory committee and get input on our restoration plan instead of reinventing the wheel. I am really looking for partners and collaborators.

(MIG) That sounds great.

- I did not see yellow star thistle on the invasive plant list. Yellow star thistle is a major issue out there. I would like to see the river treated as a habitat corridor for fish. We know we are providing all the elements for the fish in a connected way. We do all these projects, but they never hang together to form a complete picture. Regarding stakeholders, I did not see Leo Winternitz on your list of participants in the NRMP Task Force. I feel we need to call out Sutter's Landing Park. At the moment it is lumped into the Woodlake Area Plan, but it needs its own attention. It has its own significant problems, and it has its own set of resources that are not getting enough attention. It is becoming a high recreation use area. Recreation and natural resource protection are butting heads in that area. The Salmon Festival has been defunct for several years, so please remove that from your list of large events. You might want to insert Aftershock as an intensive group activity that has the potential to be a factor in ecological disturbance. Is urban runoff something we should be looking at as far as water quality is concerned? I am not sure if that is something you want to go into or not. I am also very interested in your NRM #13 in the documents you gave us to look at. You said you were going to look at imprecisely used terms in the American River Parkway Plan [Parkway Plan] and your Task Force was going to agree on some better definitions. I think the stakeholders will want to make sure the new terminology keeps with what we understand the Parkway Plan to be saying. I think we really have to remember that recreation is an important source of funding for the County and for the cities, the City of Sacramento in particular. I would like to discuss if we are collecting money from recreation and special events; at least a portion of that money needs to be reinvested in the Parkway in some concrete way that we can see. During this process, we should take a look at including an update of the Memorandum of Understanding [MOU] with Cal Expo for Bushy Lake. That was supposed to have occurred years ago as part of the Parkway Plan, but it is not complete today. This causes problems when all the parties involved do not know which areas are under their authority.

(MIG) Regarding tweaking any Parkway Plan terminology, yes, there has to be a clear crosswalk if we make any changes. You made some really good points. Regarding urban runoff, we do need to concern ourselves with that from the standpoint of protecting natural resources. There may be pollutants there degrading the vegetation we are trying to establish. It is to our benefit to deal with stormwater runoff and water quality. I think the map we presented with the streams and creek flows coming into the Parkway gives us a clue as to where to focus attention in that regard.

- I know that in previous correspondence we have discussed fire fuel reduction plans. How does that dovetail with the NRMP, or in what section is it mentioned in the NRMP? I would like bring discussion and language related to existing fire fuel reduction activities into the NRMP.

(MIG) We have raised the subject of wildfire protection and vulnerability and we are going to map the risk and vulnerabilities associated with that.

(Regional Parks) We have fire fuel reduction plans that are put together every year. We can look at incorporating those into the NRMP.

- I had a chance to review all the materials. Thank you for a great presentation. In the Human Use section there are two pieces of information related to electrical utilities. Before there was a Parkway, the river was a transmission corridor for federal, state, investor-owned, and community-owned [SMUD] power. The Parkway grew up around the transmission corridor. I think the NRMP minimizes the impact and importance of electrical facilities. I did not see any overlays or mapping of any facilities. I think that is an important aspect of the Parkway. I think it would be important to have a utility representative on the Task Force because electrical utilities are much more significant than the other two line items in the Industrial section of the chapter. We have done a lot of work with Mary and Liz in implementing the wildfire mitigation plans. Utility companies are required to do that as part of State wildfire mitigation plans. This would be the perfect time to align the utility wildfire plans with the NRMP.

(MIG) That is a good point. We are going to be mapping the utility corridors and facilities. That is still to come. I think your idea of having a representative from a utility company for the purpose of coordinating with other agencies is a good idea.

(MIG) We have the utilities data, but I did not include layers on the maps this round. I also did not include wildfire layers, which would be good to include.

(MIG) As we know we are in the height of fire season in California, so this is on our minds. We could do all of this work restoring natural resources and have it wiped out in that area.

- Are you going to re-map invasive species? If not, why?
(MIG) I believe we have to use the data we have currently. We do not have scope nor budget to go out and do original field surveys at this point.
(MIG) We have gone back and forth on how we want to present yellow star thistle. We have that as polygon data, rather than as point data. We are trying to figure out a way

to incorporate yellow star thistle. We do not have an opportunity to re-map invasive vegetation at this point.

- I am concerned as well. I think I heard that the most recent mapping information you have is from 2011. Is that correct?
(MIG) 2011 is as far back as we reached. We looked at the data up to 2019, maybe 2018.
- Are you using the American River Parkway Foundation's (ARPF) Invasive Plant Management Plan (IPMP) data?
(MIG) Yes, this is IPMP data.
So, you are using our maps, not a different source of information?
(Regional Parks) Yes, I used all the information I could get, including from Google Maps, and data maintained by the ARPF.
- I was concerned the benchmark was going to be 2011 and that is not realistic. I have only been working with invasive plants since 2011 and I know that certain areas are very different than they were 10 years ago. What are you using as the benchmark for sensitive species and native plants?
(Regional Parks) It depends upon the sensitive species to which you are referring. Is there one you are most concerned about?
Elderberry is one of them, but I do not know that much about sensitive species. I also know there are potentially a lot more invasive, non-natives we should be targeting in addition to the species we target currently. Fennel, hemlock, and stinkwort were not presented in your list earlier.
(MIG) Please send us a list of invasive or special-status species you would like us to add to our list of species of concern.
(MIG) For sensitive species we are using CNDDDB. We are also going to look into iNaturalist data. We would supplement that information with local knowledge, and we may even remove some species we retrieve from CNDDDB if they are extraneous.
(Regional Parks) We picked our invasive species based upon the IPMP. I have other species mapped, including black locust, tree of heaven, and fig. I could put together a yellow star thistle map, if needed. So, there is more information that I have but have not included on the maps because we decided to limit our scope to the worst weeds and those that have been vetted through the IPMP.
- How recent is the totality of this data on invasive species?
(MIG) I believe we are looking at 2011 to 2018. I do need to double check that range of years.
- How can we add our local knowledge to this database?
(MIG) If you have GIS point information on invasive species, we could consider including that data. Please send it to us. If you have data in other formats, we will accept it and see if we can figure out ways to incorporate it into our products.

To whom should we send out information? We have a lot of information on River Mile (RM) 12 south garnered over many years working in that area.

(MIG) Please send any information you have to Liz Bellas with Regional Parks. We will incorporate it into our invasive species map. We welcome that citizen science component.

- I heard you mention citizen science and iNaturalist as potential sources of data. There is tremendous information about bird life provided through eBird, which is the Cornell University site that most Audubon members participate in.
(MIG) We have access to that dataset and we will be looking into the information it can provide.
- In Section 7.3 of the document you gave us, you talk about an interagency task force or group. I really would like you to explore what that is supposed to mean. There are so many fingers in the Parkway. I would like to see an interagency group that meets regularly, keeps the Parkway Plan and NRMP front and center, and constantly interfaces to make sure that the plans are being implemented as envisioned.
(MIG) We agree. As is evident, you have all worked on this project in one way or another. We need a way to keep everything organized and maintain that cross-agency communication. That is why agency coordination is a goal of this document, Goal #7 to be exact.
- I wanted to add there are some additional notable facilities in the Discovery Park Area, specifically, Camp Pollock. I do not know how much detail you are going to include regarding other recreational facilities. In addition to small special events, there are day use picnic tables, parking facilities, and other existing recreational opportunities. While privately managed, Sacramento Valley Conservancy is held to the same standards and oversight by Regional Parks as far as our compliance with the Parkway Plan. So, I wanted to note there are more facilities than those currently reflected in the NRMP materials.
(MIG) Is there room here to work with the individuals managing that facility in terms of making it more compatible with the existing and surrounding natural resources? What is your take on how that facility impacts natural resources?
Sacramento Valley Conservancy directly manages Camp Pollock, which is owned by the State Lands Commission. All our existing uses are in compliance with the Parkway Plan. I think Camp Pollock is worth noting in this document. We also have GIS data on invasive species that I would be happy to forward to you.
- Utility company vegetation management activities are referred to as ecosystem simplification in Chapter 6 of the draft NRMP materials. However, in fact, we call our activities integrated vegetation management. It may look like we are taking down trees at random. However, at the foundation of our activities, there is the elimination of invasive species and the propagation of an environment where native species can survive. We worked in Serrano last year, and if you want to see how a utility company

can restore the natural aspects of a landscape that is how it is done. I can share pictures of that work.

(MIG) That is a good point. To the extent that we can all follow best practices as individual actors and agency players, then that is all helping to move in a common direction. If vegetation management is conducted in the way you described, then there are multiple benefits that we can attribute to utility corridors.

Mr. Iacofano ended the open discussion period with a discussion on next steps, including online public meetings, an online map-based survey, and additional meetings with ARPAC and the Recreation and Park Commission (RPC). He then thanked the ARPAC for its feedback and turned the workshop over to Ms. Bellas for final comments. Ms. Bellas thanked Mr. Iacofano for the presentation, encouraged the meeting participants to send in written comments, and reminded the group of the upcoming online survey starting July 15, 2020.

Zoom Chat Comments

The following comments were made in the Zoom Chat feature during the workshop. Comments are verbatim.

- This Bushy Area is an ongoing Eco Cultural Restoration Project and funded for a Conceptual Restoration Plan, with a reference six-acre project underway by Sac State.
- All written comments can be sent to Liz Bellas, bellase@saccounty.net
- I can be reached at Michelle Stevens, stevensm@csus.edu if you would like an update or more information on Bushy Lake. We are updating our web site www.bushylake.com plus a Wikipedia page.

**AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY (ARP)
NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN (NRMP)
WORKSHOP**

Friday, July 10, 2020 ♦ 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Online by Zoom

**APPENDIX TO
SUMMARY REPORT**

ATTACHMENT A: POWERPOINT SLIDES

American River Natural Resources Management Plan Overview for the ARPAC

July 10, 2020

1

Meeting Overview

1. NRMP Overview and Status
2. NRMP Task Force
3. NRMP Framework
4. NRMP Mapping
5. Area Plan Maps
6. Questions / Comments / Discussion
7. Next Steps

2

NRMP Overview and Status

3

NRMP Chapters

- 1.0 INTRODUCTION
- 2.0 NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
- 3.0 PARKWAY SETTING
- 4.0 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES
- 5.0 PHYSICAL RESOURCES
- 6.0 CULTURAL RESOURCES
- 7.0 HUMAN USE IMPACT REDUCTION
- 8.0 VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
- 9.0 RESOURCE IMPACT MONITORING PLAN
- 10.0 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

4



Implementation Activities

Includes the following types of actions:

1. Site and Land Management (Including Restoration)
2. Visitor Management
3. Agency Coordination, Oversight, and Reporting
4. Monitoring

5



1. Site and Land Management

- Identifying Area for Restoration
- Facilitating Restoration Activities
- Protecting Special Status Species
- Managing Areas Impacted by Human Uses including recreation
- Managing Environmental Threats to Existing and Restored Lands

6




2. Visitor Management

Using Interpretation and Messaging to Encourage Desired Visitor Behaviors

Enforcing- Rules and Regulations to Curtail Undesirable Visitor Behavior

7



3. Agency Coordination, Oversight, and Reporting

Sacramento County Regional Parks coordinates with numerous agencies to minimize impacts on the natural resources in the Parkway:

- WCB
- SAFCA
- Water Forum
- Army Corp
- US Fish and Wildlife
- DWR
- CVFPB


8



4. Monitoring
ENSURE GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES ARE MET AND ADAPT IF APPROPRIATE

9

NRMP Status



Preliminary Administrative Draft Delivered to Regional Parks (February)

Task Force Commences (June)

Updated Administrative Draft (Chapters 1,2,3 and 7) Provided to Advisory Committee and the Public

Public Draft (November)


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NRMP Task Force

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NRMP Task Force




We are at a unique time where several efforts are coming together, and it makes sense to formalize the necessary collaboration.

This collaboration will be carried out through the **Natural Resources Management Plan Task Force**

Regional Parks and the Wildlife Conservation Board are funding preparation of the Natural Resources Management Plan

SAFCA is funding the Natural Resources Management Plan Task Force in Cooperation with Regional Parks



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NRMP Task Force Member Organizations

- Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks
- Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency
- The Water Forum
- U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
- Wildlife Conservation Board
- Central Valley Flood Protection Board
- American River Parkway Foundation
- Sacramento County Department of Environmental Review and Assessment
- WRC Environmental
- ICF
- MIG

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NRMP Framework

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NRMP Framework

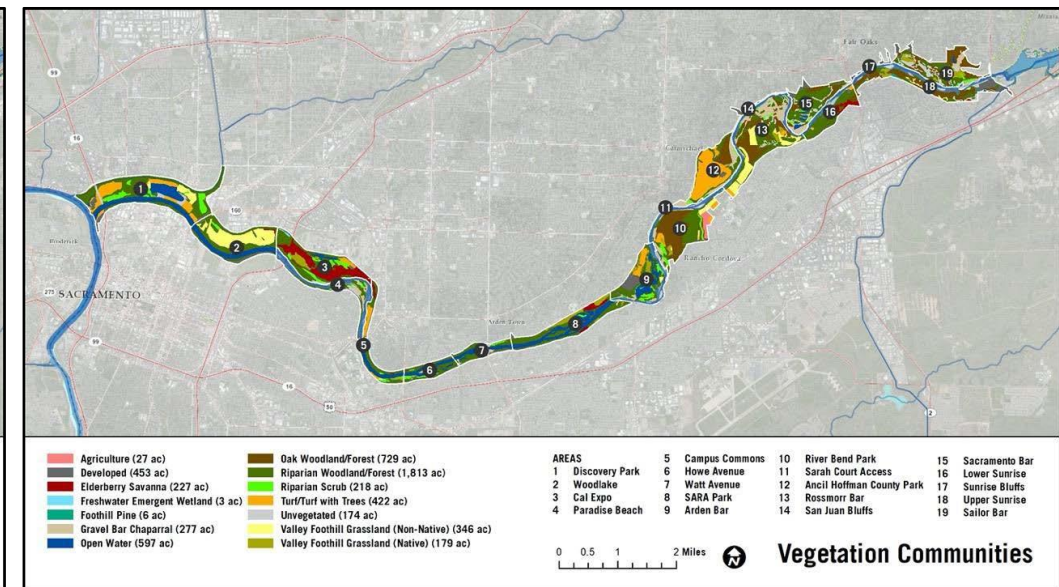
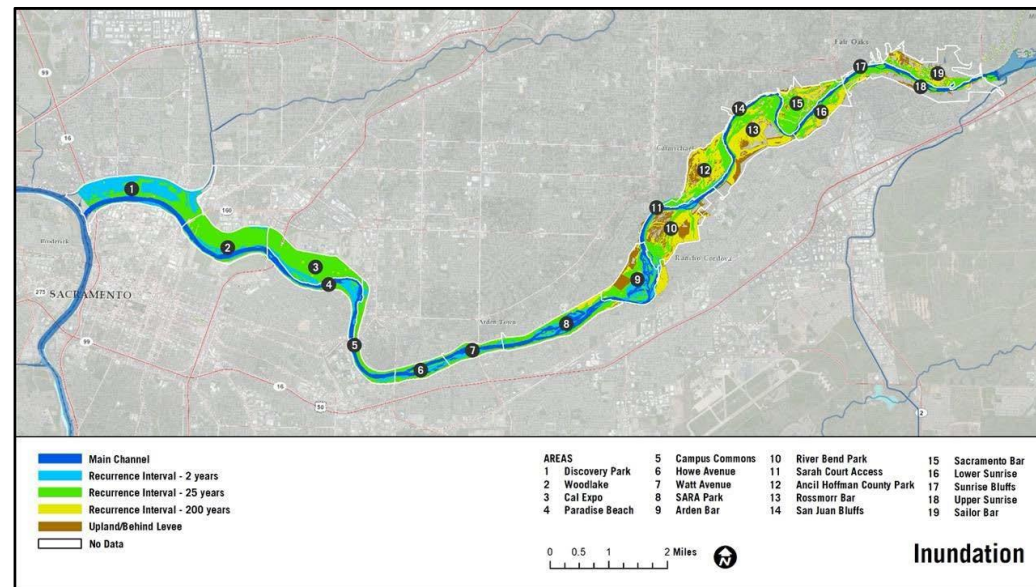
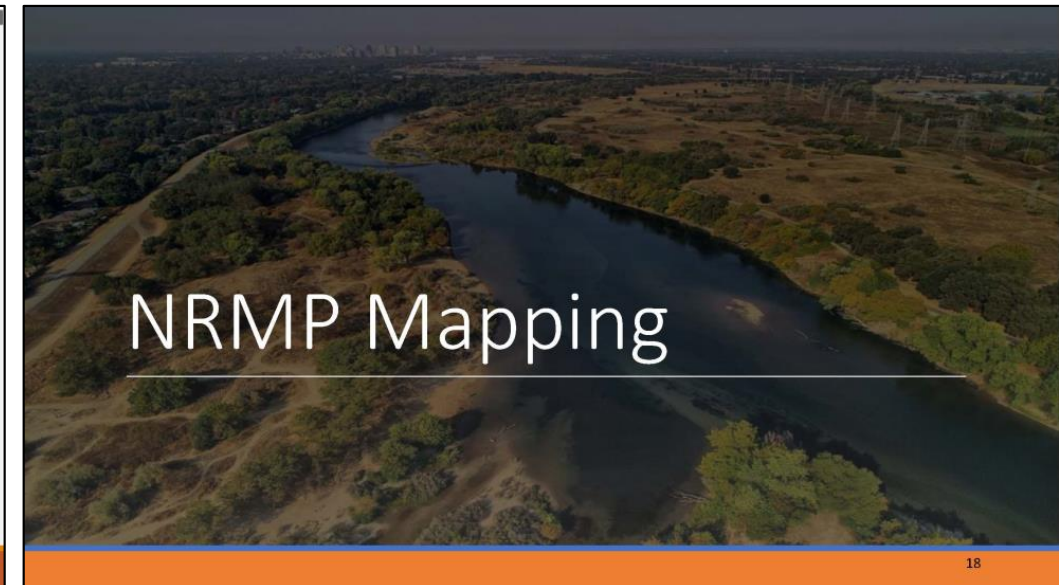
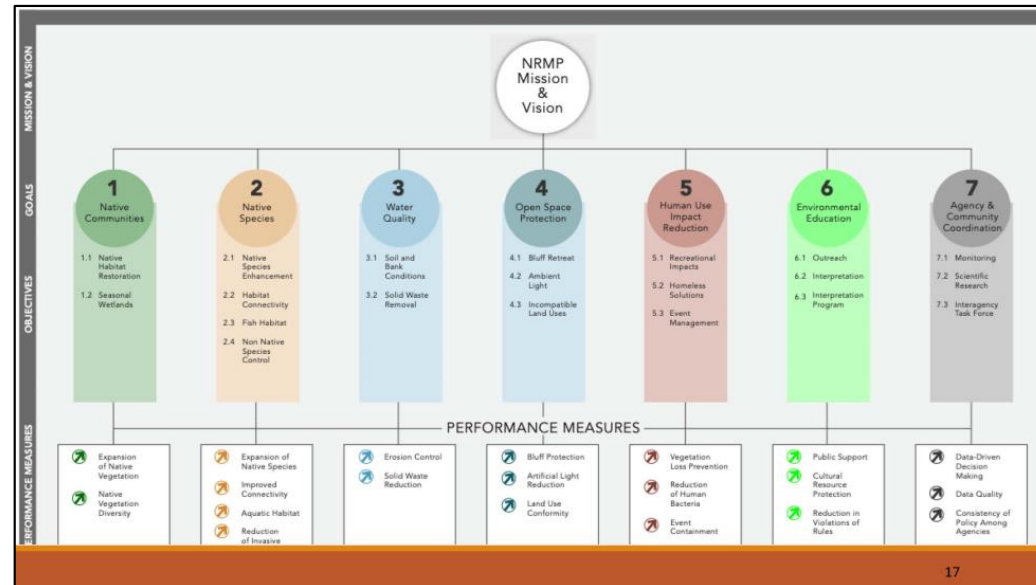
- Mission and Vision
- NRMP Goals
- NRMP Objectives
- NRMP Performance Measures

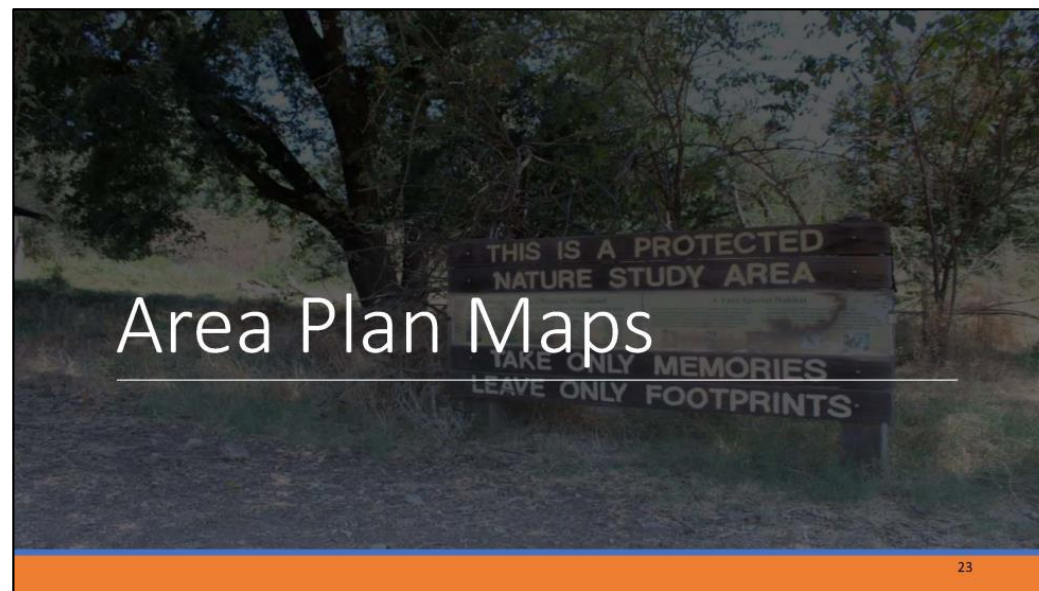
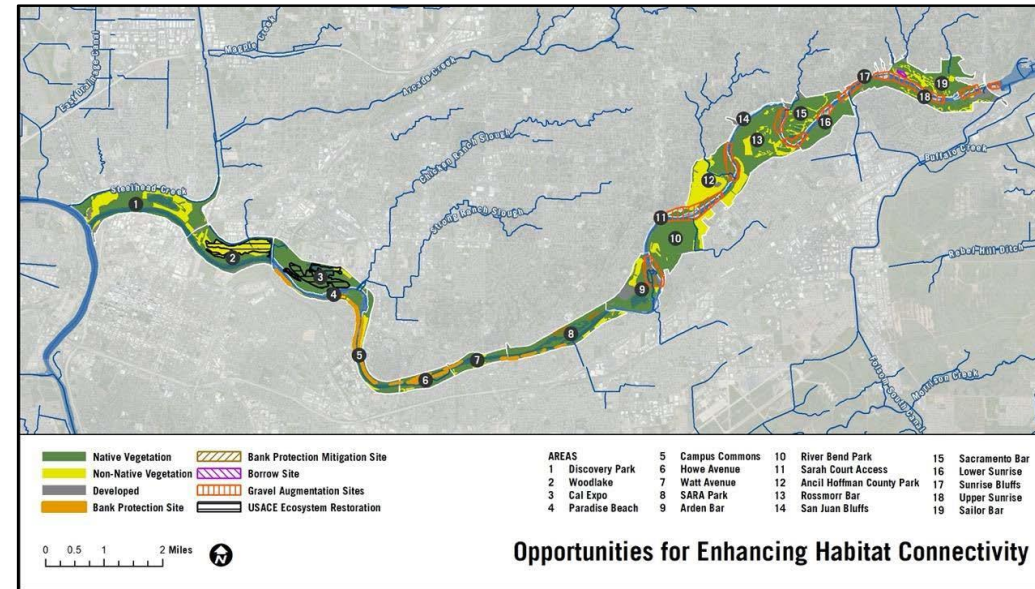
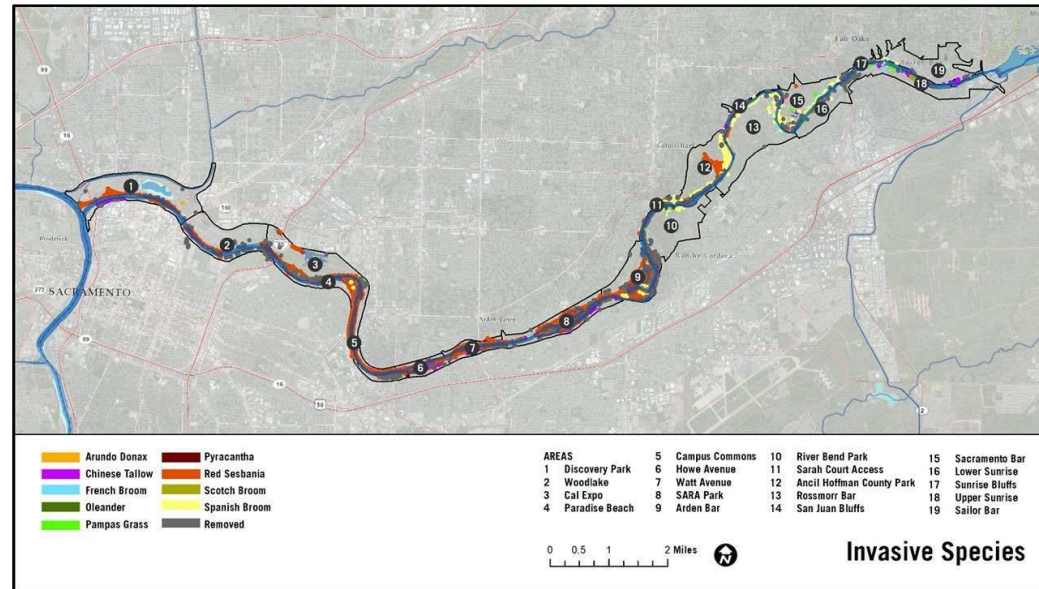
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Mission and Vision of NRMP

To provide relevant and defensible information to the Parkway Manager for making informed decisions for managing, maintaining, and enhancing Parkway resources.

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Area Plan 2 Woodlake

Existing Conditions

- EC 1. Invasive species are common along banks of the river.
- EC 2. Turf with trees are common in park areas.
- EC 3. Abandoned trails and bike trails interfere with native vegetation community establishment.
- EC 4. Deused rubble piles and cleared vegetation have degraded riverbank communities.
- EC 5. Upland vegetation is establishing on former spoil piles east of Urretia pond.
- EC 6. Portions of Discovery Park are owned by private entities.

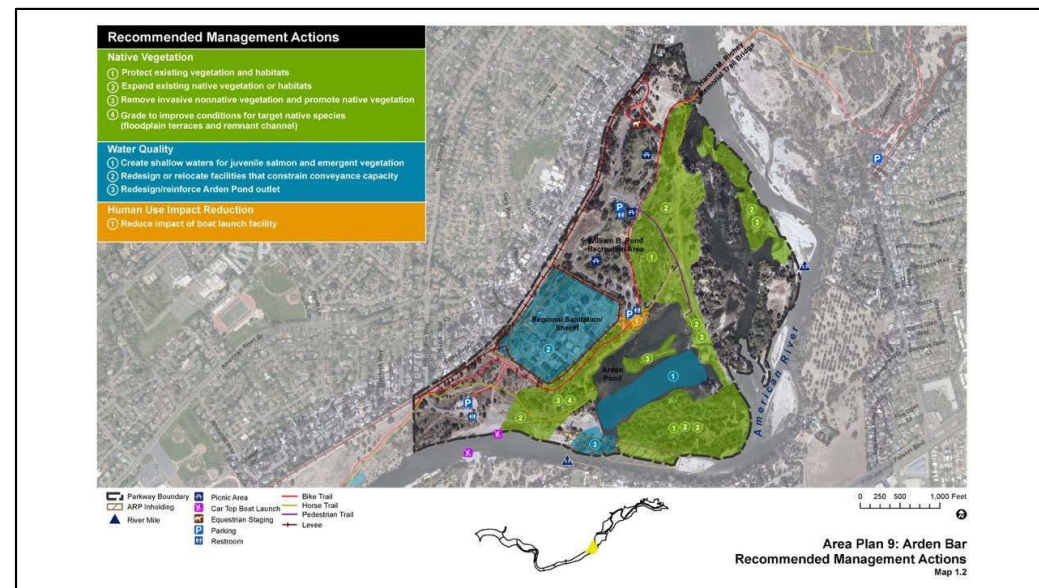
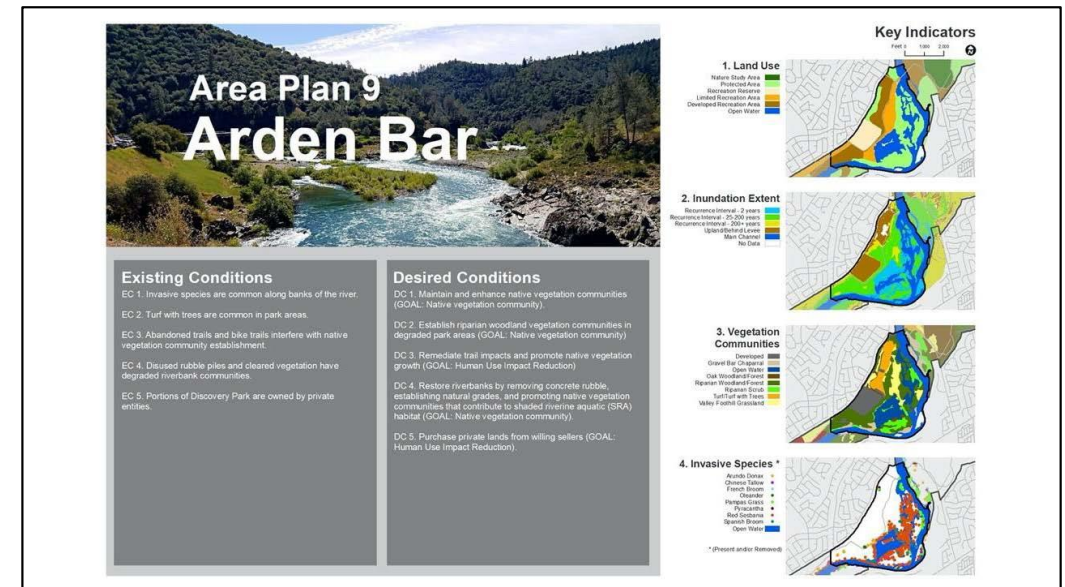
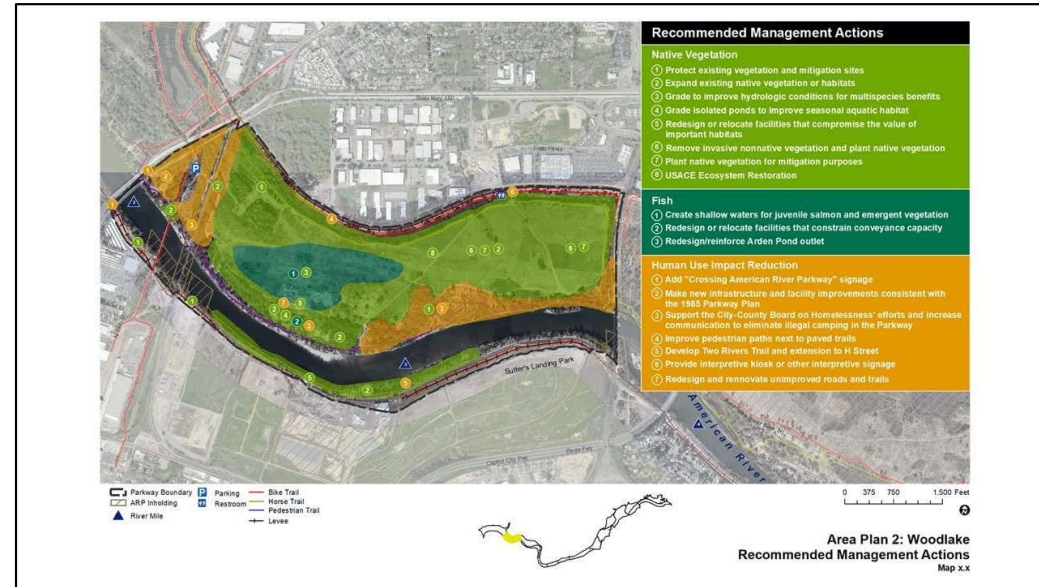
Desired Conditions

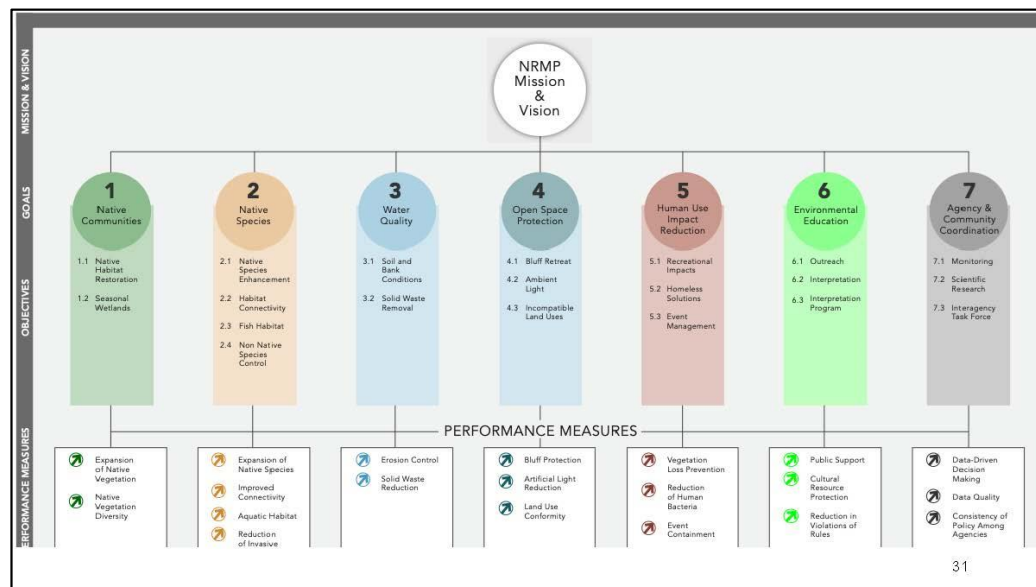
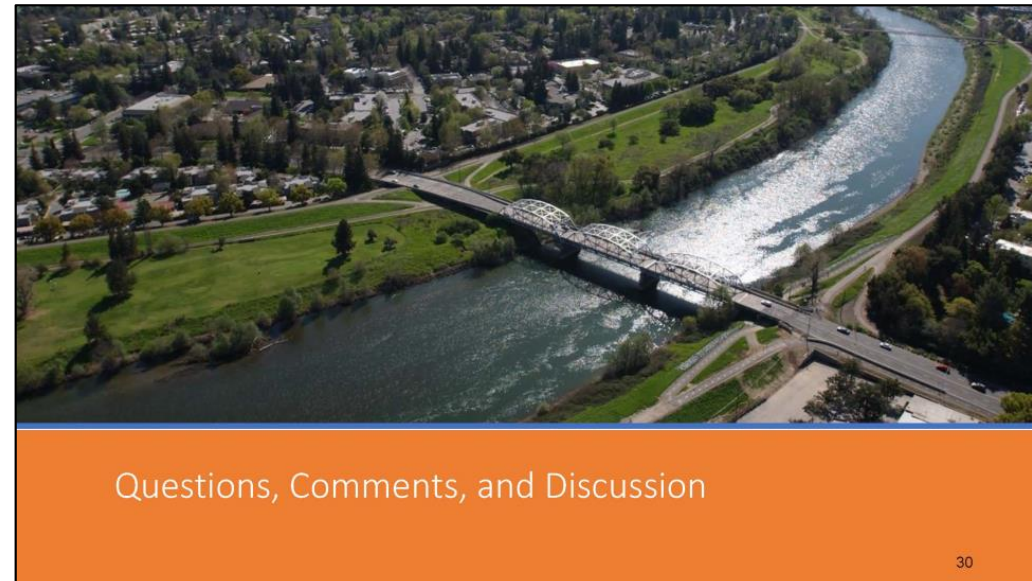
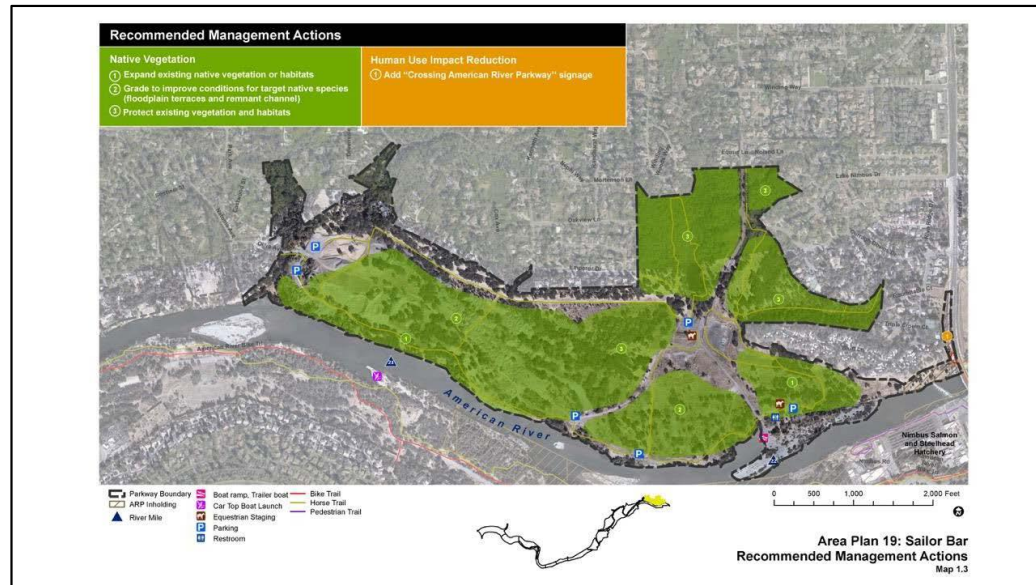
- DC 1. Maintain and enhance native vegetation communities (GOAL: Native vegetation community).
- DC 2. Establish riparian woodland vegetation communities in degraded park areas (GOAL: Native vegetation community).
- DC 3. Remediate trail impacts and promote native vegetation growth (GOAL: Human Use Impact Reduction).
- DC 4. Establish and promote native vegetation communities around Urretia Pond (GOAL: Native vegetation community).
- DC 5. Restore riverbanks by removing concrete rubble, establishing natural grades, and promoting native vegetation communities that contribute to shaded riparian aquatic (SRA) habitat (GOAL: Native vegetation community).
- DC 6. Grade or remove upland areas to restore riparian vegetation communities (GOAL: Native vegetation community).
- DC 7. Purchase private lands from willing sellers (GOAL: Human Use Impact Reduction).

Key Indicators

- Land Use**
 Protected Area
 Limited Recreation Area
 Designated Recreation Area
 Open Space
- Inundation Extent**
 Recommended through 2 years
 Recommended Interval: 20-50 years
 Recommended Interval: 100 years
 Unknown/Not Evaluated
 No Data
- Vegetation Communities**
 Disturbance Level
 Riparian Woodland Cover
 Riparian Shrubland
 Sub-Tropical Forest
 Shrubland
 Valley Forest/Grassland
- Invasive Species ***
 Arundo Donax
 Pampas Grass
 Red Sesbania
 Scotch Broom
 Open Space

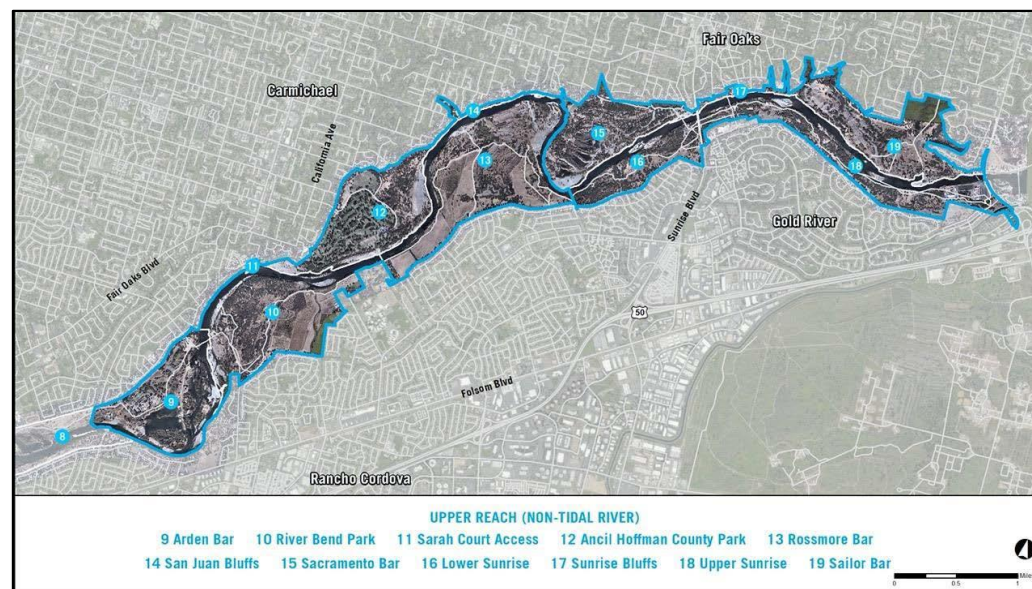
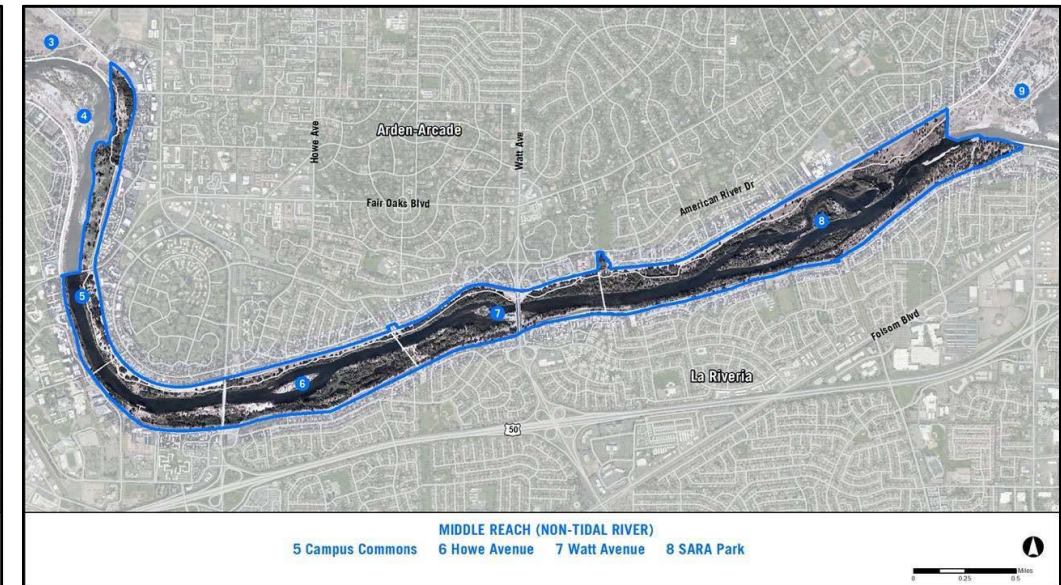
*Present and/or Remedy





Discussion Topics

- Chapter 1 Introduction
- Chapter 2 Natural Resource Management Goals and Objectives
- Chapter 3 Parkway Setting
- Chapter 7 Human Use Impact Reduction (see maps)



Next Steps

- Online Public Meetings (July 16 and 17)
- Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting and Presentation (July 23)
- Public Draft Released (Late 2020)
- ARPAC and Recreation and Park Commission Meetings (November 2020)

American River Natural Resources Management Plan Overview for the ARPAC

July 10, 2020

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APPENDIX A
**RPC NRMP
WORKSHOP
SUMMARY REPORT**

**RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION (RPC)
AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY (ARP)
NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN (NRMP)
PUBLIC WORKSHOP**

Thursday, July 23, 2020 ♦ 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Online by Zoom

S U M M A R Y R E P O R T

INTRODUCTION

On July 23, 2020, the Sacramento County Recreation and Park Commission (RPC) held a public workshop on the American River Parkway (ARP) Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP). The purpose of the meeting was to: (1) provide an overview and status of the NRMP, (2) describe the NRMP Task Force, (3) present draft NRMP mapping products, and (4) receive community and commissioner feedback on the draft NRMP materials.

Meeting Format

The RPC NRMP Public Workshop occurred on July 23, 2020, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. online by Zoom. RPC Commissioners, Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks (Regional Parks) staff, consulting staff from MIG, Inc., and members of the public participated in the meeting. Attachment A of the Summary Report Appendix contains slides from the workshop's PowerPoint presentation.

OPENING

Following initial roll call, Lilly Allen of the RPC began the meeting, reminding participants to put themselves on mute when not speaking. Liz Bellas of Regional Parks gave a self-introduction, introduced Daniel Iacofano of MIG, Inc., and thanked all participants for dedicating their time to the NRMP public workshop. Ms. Bellas then handed the meeting over to Mr. Iacofano.

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Mr. Iacofano first explained the structure of the public workshop, noting the first segment of the meeting would consist of a PowerPoint presentation and the remainder of the meeting would be reserved for open discussion during which the public and commissioners would be given the opportunity to pose questions and comments. He then gave a brief background of MIG's previous work with river corridor management projects, and introduced Bill Spain and

Jon Campbell, additional MIG staff members working on the NRMP. Mr. Iacofano also noted the NRMP development team had successfully held two (2) NRMP Task Force meetings prior to the public workshop.

Mr. Iacofano began the PowerPoint presentation, first presenting the workshop agenda. The agenda and PowerPoint presentation included the following topics: Parkway Overview, NRMP Task Force, NRMP Overview and Status, NRMP Framework, NRMP Mapping, Area Plan Maps, Questions/Comments/Discussion, and Next Steps. Mr. Iacofano gave an overview of the Parkway and the NRMP Task Force; Mr. Spain discussed the NRMP Overview and Status, including NRMP topic areas and the proposed NRMP implementation program, and the NRMP Framework, including mission and vision, goals, objectives, and performance measures; and Mr. Campbell presented the draft mapping products produced for the NRMP, including inundation, vegetation communities, invasive species, and habitat connectivity maps, and Area Plan-specific management maps.

DISCUSSION PERIOD – MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Mr. Iacofano opened the meeting to questions and comments from the public. He emphasized the NRMP is a natural resources management document recommended under the American River Parkway Plan (Parkway Plan), and while the Parkway Plan delves deep into recreational and event facilities, the NRMP is intended to focus predominantly on natural resources protection and enhancement.

Ms. Allen paused the meeting briefly to note that while normally members of the public would be given three (3) minutes to speak, individuals commenters would be given less time to speak during the workshop due to the large number of community members present.

Questions and comments from members of the public are recorded below. Responses are shown in *italics*. Individual bullet points may include a single question and response, or a back-and-forth conversation.

- I would first like to thank Liz Bellas and her staff for doing a tremendous job with a low budget for this type of operation, and to thank the RPC for providing guidance to the County, the Task Force, and consultants. I have used the Parkway over the last 30 years. Part of the importance of the NRMP is in determining the type of Parkway we will leave future generations. This is about the legacy of this generation of County decision makers, Parks and Recreation staff, the Commission, and the public. Over the last 30 years, we have seen significant degradation of the Parkway and its resources. The NRMP provides the greatest opportunity to restore those resources. I was very happy to hear Daniel talk about restoration and enhancement. I would like to share several slides with the group. There are several things I think the NRMP needs to include to be effective. I was pleased to read through the materials. First, I think the NRMP should have set numeric restoration goals. Unless you have metrics to abide by in the plan, the public does not have an understanding of what the Plan means, and it is hard to measure our

progress. In addition, numeric goals give those of us who want to support the implementation plan a target to work toward to raise public funding to make sure we can implement those projects. Second, it is important to incorporate specific restoration projects and provisions to facilitate future projects. You may have areas that need restoration later on, and through the NRMP you can get buy-in for restoring those areas in the future. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and others may include those areas as earmarked for future restoration. Third, it is important the NRMP discuss and map past and anticipated future impacts. We need to have a sense of what areas have been damaged over the past 20 -30 years. The draft materials provide good discussion on the types of impacts, but it is important to discuss the scale of those impacts, where the impacts occurred, and where we may address them. It is important to anticipate future impacts. We are going to see more flood control work along the Parkway and proposals for I-80, Highway 160, I-5, and, potentially, regional transit. Bridges can have severe adverse impacts upon the Parkway in terms of biology and public uses. It is important the NRMP includes standards for mitigation and enhancement that projects need to meet to get approved, and to require all mitigation and enhancement occur within the Parkway or on adjacent lands. It is also important to prevent and mitigate damage from fires. This picture was taken from Discovery Park on Sunday morning. This is the most recent Parkway fire, and it wiped out key riparian areas and trees. More trees would have been wiped out had it not been for previous fires that wiped out a significant amount of the riparian canopy between the bike trail and the river. This is part of the legacy we will leave our children and future generations if we are not aggressive in terms of restoration efforts. Understanding there are fires is one thing. Preventing fire and taking action to mitigate and restore these areas is important. Over the last 10 years, I have seen numerous fires along the downstream section of the river. Following these fires, the wild grapes invade the areas and take over. It is important the NRMP recognizes invasive plants include native plants. Trees did not regenerate in those areas because the ground was covered with wild grapes. We have an ecosystem that is out of balance. Natural predators that would keep the grapes in check are no longer present. The grapes provide ladders by which fires reach the tree crowns. I suspect that is part of the reason we lose the major trees in this area. From Discovery Park to Northgate along the trails where trees were lost to fires and PG&E vegetation management, the trees have been swamped with wild grapes. There is a lack of regeneration of sycamores and other riparian vegetation because of the grapes. We are also losing the diversity of species in this area. The grapes are turning part of Steelhead Creek and other areas into monoculture. The next slides show areas in Discovery Park up to the Urrutia property where we are losing habitat diversity and the ability to regenerate trees because of wild grape infestations. The blue dots are where major trees were lost, and some of those areas were recently impacted by fire. As you go up the river you see other places where we have lost major trees that are not growing back because the wild grapes are out of control and need to be properly cut back and managed. We need to get the grapes off the trees to avoid the crown fires that take out 40- to 80-year-old sycamore trees that are a crucial part of the environment. This graphic shows the Urrutia property and areas impacted by invasive grapes. Again, the

blue dots show where trees were lost. I would encourage you to look at all invasive plants, not just non-natives. On fires, it is very important that within a short period of time following a fire, the County assesses the damage that occurred to determine whether the area will regenerate by itself as it does in some areas, or whether you need to have active restoration to restore that habitat to prevent the ongoing damage that we see in the lower sections of the river. I am glad to hear the folks of MIG discuss habitat connectivity. Habitat connectivity can also occur using adjacent properties in tributaries like Steelhead Creek. One of the major opportunities to expand habitat connectivity is with Sutter's Landing Park and Urrutia, which is high priority, as you discussed in the NRMP. I will leave it at that. My more specific comments are in the materials I provided. Thank you to Liz for including my comments in your packet. I am happy to answer any questions about these comments and my written comments. I also want to thank each of you because you each play a critical role in making sure that we give future generations a Parkway we can all be proud of.

(MIG) Thank you. That was an excellent presentation. We have your presentation recorded so we can take a look at your points in more detail at a later time.

- As many of you know, I work at Bushy Lake. I am hopeful that the data we have gathered over the past five (5) years can contribute to the NRMP and help make the efforts more successful and integrated into the larger work you all are doing. I have been out on the Parkway observing the river. Sacramento State University has been serious in the engagement of science on the river, community service, and bringing school children out to the Parkway. I think we have an opportunity to bring the magic of science at Bushy Lake to Sacramento State students and Arden Arcade students who do not have that opportunity. Specifically, the first part of our design is very adaptive. Adaptive restoration involves doing experiments, seeing what works, and having good data. Then, you can contribute what you do to the larger restoration success along the river. One of the things we are doing is planting fire-resilient vegetation that also happens to have a low roughness coefficient and is significantly used by cultures along the river. Culturally significant plants are an element currently missing from the draft NRMP. Important cultural plants are white root, which are used for baskets, mug wort, a medicine plant, and fiber plants (i.e., milkweed and dogbane), which are important for insects. Tarweeds, the madias and hemizonias, are also important. Elderberry, oak, and these plants can be mapped, and we can invite traditional management, in part to address the grapes. I was asked by the Miwok people to harvest the grapes and help get a permit from Regional Parks to harvest the grapes as a building material for traditional construction of the roundhouse up at Indian Grinding Rock State Park. So, on one hand, the wild grapes are important for traditional gathering, but the grapes do also provide a lot of habitat. I want to make sure invasive species like poison hemlock and white top are included because they are starting to proliferate. We are doing more experiments with plants for pollinators. The big thing we have been doing with adaptive restoration is the wildlife in the corridors. We have watched and learned about the Western pond turtles. The river is a porous system, so the turtles come and go where they have room. We are conducting detailed study partly through our conceptual restoration plan to

determine how the turtles are doing. Overall, they are not doing well, and they are on the verge of being listed. They are the kind of animal everybody loves. Recently, I was asked by a homeless woman on the Parkway if I knew anything about turtles, and she presented me with a giant red-eared slider turtle. I told her it was laying her eggs, so I put it back in the river. I am trying to say that everybody I talk to out on the Parkway loves the turtles. I think coordinating adaptive management and quantitative monitoring that feeds back into the overall restoration success on the river is vital. I also told the sheep handler how the sheep were helping the turtles find a place to nest. They [the goats] are doing an exceptional job out there. They are really clearing out the brush and the weeds and making the landscape more fire resilient. I would like to turn over large portions of Bushy Lake to people who know more about education, like Effie Yeaw or the American River Parkway Foundation. I want to invite you all to come out some time, especially when we are trapping, marking, and releasing. A beaver came out last year and the beaver have changed the landscape, making walkways, and the turtles are using the walkways to go up and out to the land, lay their eggs, and then return to the river. Everyone thinks the Parkway is just ratty with trash and homeless people, but on the inside it is just incredible. Thank you.

(MIG) Thank you. You presented good comments.

- I made quite a few comments at the American River Parkway Advisory Committee (ARPAC), and I hope those comments will be incorporated. One thing that occurred to me as I listened to everyone speak is that on a practical level, I want to know how you address taking this plan and applying it to projects or agencies who are working in the Parkway. I am thinking of PG&E and the clear-cutting they do. If we have an NRMP in place, how would we apply that, and what levers would we have to make sure PG&E repairs the damage they did? Will this NRMP hold power to be used when others do damage in the Parkway? Also, Caltrans has indicated previously in environmental documents that the agency would come in, do a project, and restore the area to the condition in which they found it. We do not necessarily want the landscape restored to the conditions we found it in if the condition was invasive grasses, for instance. We might want to look at the NRMP and ask these agencies to apply remedies when they come back in to restore. I am thinking about how this will all work on a practical level. That is where we get stuck as Parkway advocates. We are commenting on these projects and we have to interject ourselves in the damage that has been done. Do you see the NRMP as a real tool we can use?
(MIG) I think you make an excellent point. We can use the occasion of those agencies seeking approval to do things that would impact the Parkway to actually ask them to help us implement the recommendations of this NRMP. So, I think it comes down to how things are stated in the environmental document. There will be CEQA review of the NRMP as is required. That will become part of the baseline information that agencies will need to address when they do any kind of work that would have an impact on natural resources in the Parkway. Liz, do you want to comment on that further? The idea in the NRMP being coordinated with the agencies is that we would have their buy-in as a result.

(Regional Parks) *You are correct. Working with all the agencies in our Task Force will ensure that we are keeping them close to the table and we have a better understanding of the things they will be doing. We will be driving the ship, so to speak, and we need to make it clear what we desire for the Parkway as the Parkway manager, and give the agencies the tools and the roadmap to do the restoration in the way that it needs to be done for the betterment of the Parkway.*

I am hearing you say that when agencies, such as PG&E and others, are applying for permits to County Parks to do work, you would hand them the NRMP.

(Regional Parks) *We have the utility companies at the table with our Task Force. Of course, the document will be available to them. Remember that PG&E is not applying for permits from us because they have the right-of way and are doing work within their legal right-of-way. It is not something that we are permitting.*

Okay, so their work does not require a permit from you, but rather from Fish and Wildlife. You know if Fish and Wildlife is going to have to comment on a project?

(Regional Parks) *CDFW is at the table too because they are on the NRMP Task Force. The Task Force itself is enabling us to bring all these players together so that everyone is well aware of what we are trying to accomplish with the Parkway's natural resources. So, they will not be working in a vacuum and they will know we have this NRMP in place.*

When the County is reviewing a project, from a regulatory standpoint it has something to point to say to require an action and we will already have a plan in place for where a particular type of restoration or mitigation needs to occur.

- I would like to take a minute and go back to Bushy Lake. From the planning and coordination for the NRMP, we have learned that the USACE has identified Bushy Lake as a site for their Ecosystem Restoration project. Knowing that Sacramento State is working on a conceptual restoration plan out there, I am wondering if you know who Dr. Stevens can contact to make sure that, when developing the conceptual restoration plan, she is considering these other preliminary designs that have been developed for this site and can see if she can incorporate those designs into her plan. I do not know if that would be somebody from the USACE or the Sacramento Area Flood Control Area (SAFCA), perhaps Greg Ellis, or someone who would have more information on the best-buy plan for the Bushy Lake area.

(Regional Parks) *SAFCA would be an excellent group for Dr. Stevens to work with. I believe that Tim Washburn and Gregg Ellis are going to be reaching out to Dr. Stevens to discuss these very things. There are some preliminary plans in place, but I do not know how quickly they are going to be implementing anything. During our Task Force meeting today, I believe SAFCA mentioned the plans are at 15 percent design. I do not know if those plans are at a point where they could be incorporated into Dr. Stevens' plan. We want to make sure they are talking to each other, so they are not duplicating work or doing things that contradict one of the plans. We are well aware of this situation and we will definitely make that Dr. Stevens is aware of the existing USACE plans, but SAFCA would be the conduit for us.*

I know Dr. Stevens is going to be collecting some valuable information about the terrestrial and aquatic environments out there. I think it would be good to share that

data with SAFCA and the USACE to see if they can use that information when moving forward with their designs for their Ecosystem Restoration best-buy plan. I think there is a lot of opportunity here. I really hope you all can put Dr. Stevens in touch with whoever is best over at SAFCA or the USACE.

(MIG) *You made a great point. We are definitely connecting the dots here.*

- Is Caltrans on the team [NRMP Task Force]?
(MIG) *Caltrans is not a member of the Task Force.*
Okay. Even if Caltrans is not on the Task Force, they need the NRMP in their hands.
(MIG) *We agree.*

DISCUSSION PERIOD – COMMISSIONERS

Ms. Allen then transitioned the meeting to a discussion period in which the commissioners were given the opportunity to pose questions and comments.

Questions and comments from the commissioners are given below. Facilitator responses are shown in *italics*.

- I am going to work backwards. Looking at the comments Corey made, I want to highlight the idea that we following up with fires is an important thing to do. As you observe areas that have been damaged by fires, you see that damage persist years later. Things do not always grow back in quite the same way. Conducting assessments and coming up with a plan for a location for restoration over the six (6) months or two (2) years following a fire is key. I know sometimes fire benefits the environment and allows for new growth, but this would allow us to decide if the fire is okay and we let it be, or if we address it. I want to highlight that I thought that is a great and thoughtful idea. I also have questions about the invasive plants. When we remove an invasive plant species, do we replace it with a plant that belongs there or do we just leave the area empty?
(Regional Parks) *When we remove invasive exotic plants, we generally do not replant ad the invasive plants are usually mixed with other desirable species, such as willows. Willows grow into those spaces on their own. We would not want to just leave a big mud hole. That would not be a good thing to do. For example, we decided not to remove yellow flag iris plants because they would leave huge holes. When you plant something, it takes a lot of resources to help the roots grow and to keep beaver and deer off of it. We have found the most success with letting the native plants in the vicinity fill in those spaces.*
Does that provide enough diversity of native plants? When I look at the map, there are only a couple pockets of native plants. Are we having any shortages of any particular native plants and should we look at giving them more native habitat? Should we just let the native plants already in those areas spread?
(Regional Parks) *There are places that need a wholesale do over. That is where we put our mitigation sites. We install irrigation systems and tree cages, and we maintain the*

plants for several years. So, there are some areas for which we want to put a lot of money and effort into restoration. However, if we are just pulling a plant here or there, as we do when pulling a Spanish broom from a gravel bar or pulling a red sesbania off the bank, it does not work really well to replant afterwards.

So, your approach is to remove minor problems and let native species in the vicinity move in. With big problem areas, you replant fully. My other question relates to the maps, which are great. Will those maps be available to the public and easy to access? And will you be able to zoom in and zoom out of them? I know they are very useful for the people who are using them, but as a member of the public, they are also very interesting.

(MIG) We intend to make those maps available. They are a great resource for all the organizations active in the Parkway, including Dr. Stevens and her organization. We think they are good tools for all agencies and members of the public.

The Arden Bar map contains an item to reduce to reduce boat ramp effects. Does that mean you are going to remove the boat ramp, or will you alter the existing boat ramp? Are there more detailed plans on what you do with a general recommendation or is that left to the Parks department to sort out?

(MIG) That is a great question. We do not have the site-specific survey data to be able to do a design for that boat launch. Design would come with the next stage when a group would come along to zero in on Arden Bar. The intent of that directive is not to remove the boat ramp but to make it more compatible with the native vegetation and the other natural resources in that area. That would be the intent.

So, when it is time to do a mitigation plan, then the group would look at those recommendations and get detailed in how they are going to go about altering the boat ramp. The current planning process gives the what and how you want something to look like and the why comes next version when you are actually making the action?

(MIG) Precisely. That is exactly the procedure. Thank you.

- I am curious to learn more about the invasive wild grapes. I was unaware of the problems that these cause, and the advantages of them naturally occurring. I know Corey's correspondence specifically addresses concerns with the grapes. What would a long-term approach for that species look like under this type of management plan?
(Regional Parks) It is important to look at our objectives for the species. If your objective is to take care of the ladder fuels to protect the cottonwood trees and it is a dry year, then you would want to focus in on that issue. In general, even though wild grapes seem like they are invasive they are doing exactly what they are supposed to be doing. They are providing habitat for the birds that eat the grapes and they provide a lot of shade for the understory. It is true that they are not good sometimes for the tree they are growing on, but that is not always the case.
(Member of the Public) The wild grapes are a native species and they do have some habitat value. The problem is they can help fires get into the crown of the trees. When you have the fires, you lose trees, and they are not regenerating because sunlight cannot get into the soil. The wild grapes also compete with trees for water and nutrients. It is important to urgently remove wild grapes from trees, so we do not lose

more trees. Secondly, look to see where we lost trees and where we want to see trees regrow and start cutting back the grapes in those areas. We can make them ecologically helpful, but we do not want to create a monoculture. To create a healthy riparian area, you need several stages of habitat from trees to midstory to stuff on the ground, especially stuff that is going to create shaded riverine aquatic (SRA) habitat. The wild grapes interfere with that. I think I would recommend to immediately get the vines off the trees so we do not lose trees. Then, engage the Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps in a removal and long-term maintenance program to keep the grapes in check so that they are located where they can contribute to the environment, but they are not so invasive that they reduce the ability of the trees to regenerate and the ability of other plants that we need to maintain the diversity of the Parkway to regenerate. I would be happy to take folks on a tour from Discovery Park to Northgate so you can see how extensive the problem is. I have seen this area significantly degrade over the last 30 years and the grapes are one of the major reasons why this system is overwhelmed and cannot regenerate the trees and other types of plants we need. I have worked on river parkway projects and river projects since 1982 and I am just amazed that this situation has been allowed to get as bad as it is.

(Commissioner) Dr. Stevens had a group that wanted to harvest those grapes. Is that something that would assist with in the removal of the grapes or was that more of an action to keep the grapes where they are so they can be harvested?

(Member of the Public) The idea is a combination of monitoring what is going on along the river and managing where grapes are a threat to trees. Also, we want to have more open landscape to invite First Nations people in to harvest the grapes. A combination of science and traditional knowledge is needed..

(Commissioner) To me that sounds like a win-win situation. If there is an option to pursue a multi-beneficial solution, as is the case here where the action would be environmentally and culturally beneficial, I think that is a great pairing.

(Regional Parks) I think it would be better for biologists and ecologists to determine the answer to this question.

(Commissioner) One of the things I am hearing is that there is a lot to understand with grapes on the Parkway and that ancestral cultural resources are also present. Liz, do you think it would be appropriate to ask Mary, Corey, and Dr. Stevens to spend some time developing a program or a small working group around grapes? It seems like a hot topic.

(Regional Parks) I think that we should allow the NRMP to continue through this process. I think we will have some of the answers we need through the development of the NRMP. If this question is not answered within the NRMP, we will have additional opportunities for public comment to make sure we are addressing it thoroughly. I think discussing this issue in depth is a bit premature at this time. As far as allowing native peoples to do the harvesting, we do have an encroachment permit with the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok to do those very activities along the Parkway. We would like to explore and expand upon those relationships.

(Commissioner) How will you square away this situation and question of whether there are too many grapes, not enough grapes, and where the grapes go and if they are hampering tree growth. It seems like you are going to take this back and digest it, but

are you going to come back to the RPC or are you going to call this out in a special, clear way? How can the public track this issue?

(Regional Parks) *The public would want to track the issue through the development of the NRMP. This situation is part of the reason why we are doing this plan. We are clearly laying out all of our objectives and goals for the Parkway natural resources. This is the very vehicle in which the issue would be addressed. I think we need a little bit more time to fully vet all of this information through our Task Force and our technical experts that are at the table so that we can have this information for the public. Again, this is not the last time that we are going to be receiving public comments. We are going to have two public workshops in November, much like this one, and the environmental review process for the document will provide another mechanism for public comment. This is the very tip of the iceberg and just the beginning of our public interaction. Please allow us some time to do our work and call us out if afterward you think we did not do enough.*

(Commissioner) Can I request that in November you highlight this grape debate? I do not know if I will remember, but it is of great interest. Perhaps you can develop a slide on the issue.

(MIG) *This can be addressed along with the dozens of other native or non-native species that we have in the Parkway. We need to have objectives for each of those species. It is not always clear which direction we should take. There seem to be two (2) or three (3) approaches just for this one.*

- As a long-time user of the Parkway, this is very exciting and I am excited to be part of this. I have been using the Parkway for over 30 years myself. I have seen it in various stages throughout that time. The one thing I have a great deal of concern about from a restoration standpoint is the post-wildfire response plan. It would be great to see a full restoration, revegetation, and erosion control component to a response after we experience a fire. I will concur with Corey's observation made earlier. Every summer, we have several fires. Unfortunately, it is tough area to access some of these areas and the fires cannot be addressed quickly. Fires are an eyesore and cause a loss of wildlife habitat, and the erosion affects the water quality downstream. I would like to see a response plan with a clearer partnership developed with Metro Fire, if needed. Thank you.

(Regional Parks) *I think it is important to note we work with a couple of different fire agencies. One is Sac Metro and one is City Fire. These two agencies have different philosophies on how they treat fires. Sac Metro tends to go in and put the fire out quickly and make sure they have contained the fire to as little acreage as possible. City Fire will let it burn to the river area and the fire might burn more acreage than we would like to have burn. One thing I want this NRMP to address is a clear objective that we share with these fire agencies. There may be areas where it is appropriate to let the land burn, but for the most part, our objective should be to put the fire out as quickly as possible and minimize the number of acres burned. I want the fire agencies to have very clear objectives and direction on what we need to have happen.*

(Commissioner) Thank you, Liz. That was exceptionally informative for me and probably a lot of other people here.

(Commissioner) To follow up, I understand there are different approaches by different agencies. However, I am more concerned about a more scientific approach to wildland fire response. I understand and agree that while it is not always great to see burned areas larger than what we would like, wildfire is a key component of the landscape. In some cases, I would just like to see a more science-based and environmentally based fire response. Regardless of how I think the fire looks, I would like to defer to the experts and hope to have a plan to restore, revegetate, and protect from erosion.

- I have a handful of questions and comments. In your slideshow, your Arden Bar photo is not of Arden Bar. I do not see hills like that in Sacramento. I would be happy to send you nice pictures of Arden Bar.

(MIG) *We are addressing the pictures and will have those sorted by the end of this process.*

I am also thinking about bullet number 6, which is Environmental Education and has 6.1 Outreach, 6.2 Interpretation, and 6.3 Interpretation Program. I am wondering how you are developing numerical metrics for reaching the community and doing outreach. I am assuming that the survey is multilingual and are you tracking how many people of different languages are taking the survey. Are you going into community groups near and far in the Sacramento region? Are you giving presentations in Spanish and are you reaching the African-American community and Farsi-speakers? We have a huge, diverse population here full of people who are not always English-speakers, or may not prefer to give formal comments in English. How is your group addressing that?

(Regional Parks) *The wonderful thing about our County website is the ability to select whatever language you would like, and it translates everything for you. I do not believe we would have the opportunity to translate the survey into those multiple languages. I would like to do that. I was grappling with this issue. Providing language-accessible materials is a very clear objective that we have from the WCB and in general. I am thinking about adding some additional language to our natural resource management page instructing people who need materials in a different language to contact a specific person and we make sure we can provide those materials. The County has several contracts for interpretive services, and it is usually a pretty quick turnaround, so we can get those materials to the people who desire them. As far as outreach on the survey itself, we are always looking to do more. We reached out on social media and we did a press release. Shockingly, there seem to be other things in the world the press is covering ad nauseum. We did get a couple small articles and we will continue on that course. Mary is going to assist us with getting the survey on NextDoor for the entire County. We are also working with some of our partners to make sure they are spreading the survey on their e-serve lists. We are getting it out there as much as we can. Mr. Iacofano can speak to how many responses we have received in one week. I was impressed by the number of people who have responded.*

(MIG) *We have 80 respondents as of last week when we last checked the survey statistics. That was very soon after the survey launched on July 15th. We are keeping that map-based survey online at least until the middle of August and we will continue to*

promote the availability of it. It is mobile friendly meaning you do not need to have a computer. Most people have access to smartphone technology these days.
(Commissioner) Thank you for that. Perhaps we can be a little proactive and ask the translating service to proactively translate the survey for folks. I am excited that 80 people have responded to the survey, but this County has 1.5 million people. I think we need to do more here. There are experts in this field. I do not know why we should not spend some resources really figuring out how to communicate with our community that we serve.
(MIG) *Okay. We will follow up on that.*
(Commissioner) Feel free to reach out to me if you would like to run things by me or talk offline. I am happy to talk, especially about this. I think we should make sure we are engaging the community and not just our partners in how we should develop the plan. I also think this should be done in a way that adheres to adaptive management. I have an amendment to the mission and vision slides. Bullet 7 (Agency and Community Coordination) contains 7.1 Monitoring, 7.2 Scientific Research, and 7.3 Interagency Task Force. I am a little dismayed to see there are no community items under a community coordination goal. I think adding a community section that is accessible to all, especially outside these one-off nightly meetings, would be very valuable.
(MIG) *Okay. We are making note of that.*
(Commissioner) A community member is saying in the chat that we need to ensure the full plan is released to various environmental and social justice groups. There are many environmental justice groups in the community, and she did not receive anything from them or from other local environmental groups. I think there is a good bit more to do in terms of outreach here. Thank you all for your commitment to this important topic as we move forward.

CLOSING

Mr. Iacofano ended the open discussion period, noting the workshop had been recorded and the workshop participants gave great comments. Mr. Iacofano gave thanks to the RPC for the opportunity to present on the NRMP. One commissioner requested to be sent the list of groups Regional Parks and MIG contacted as part of its outreach efforts, and Mr. Iacofano agreed to send the list.

The RPC then concluded the NRMP workshop.

**RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION (RPC)
AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY (ARP)
NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN (NRMP)
PUBLIC WORKSHOP**

Thursday, July 23, 2020 ♦ 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Online by Zoom

.....
**APPENDIX TO
SUMMARY REPORT**
.....

ATTACHMENT A: POWERPOINT SLIDES

American River Parkway
Natural Resources
Management Plan

Parks and Recreation Commission
July 23, 2020

1

Meeting Overview

1. Parkway Overview
2. NRMP Task Force
3. NRMP Overview and Status
4. NRMP Framework
5. NRMP Mapping
6. Area Plan Maps
7. Questions / Comments / Discussion
8. Next Steps

2

Multi Benefit
Strategy

Natural
Resource
Protection

NRMP

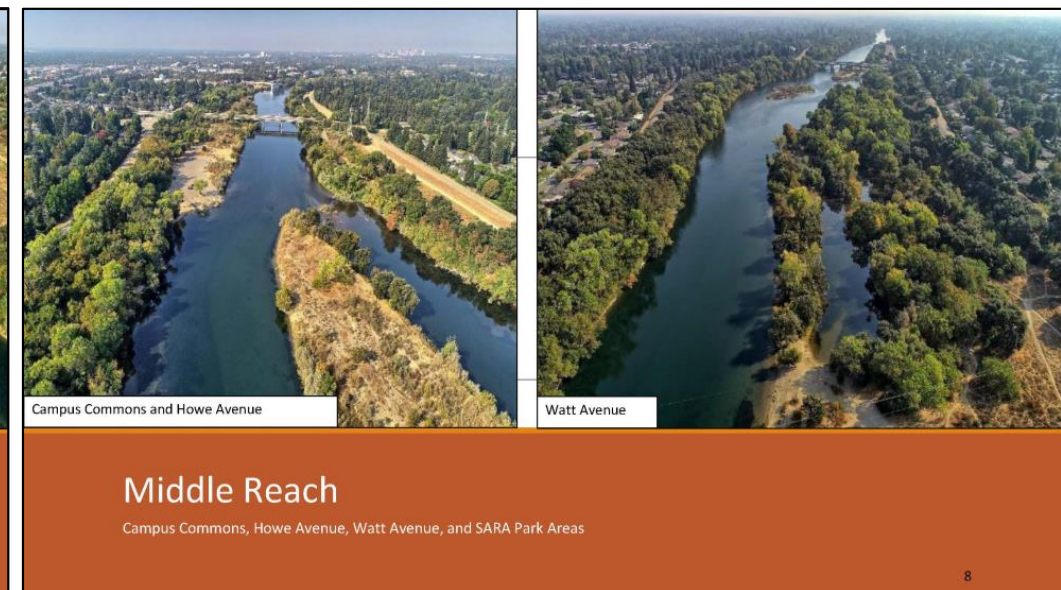
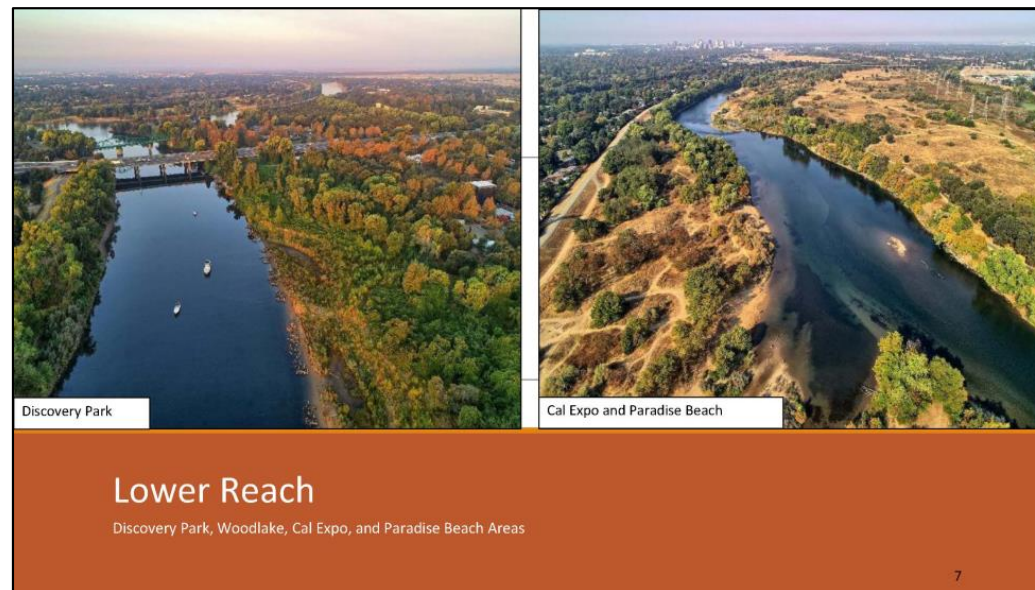
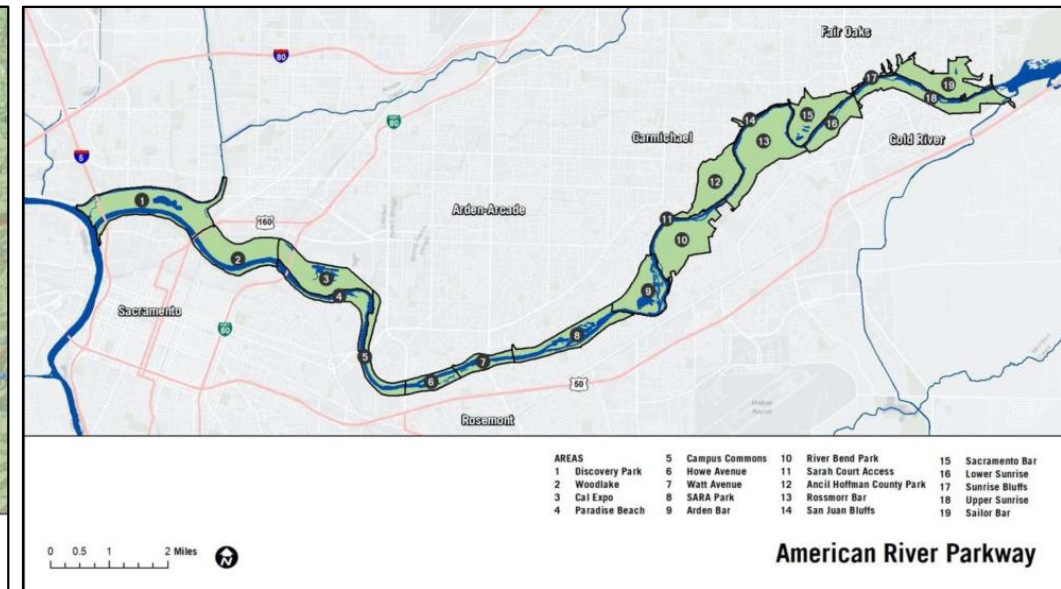
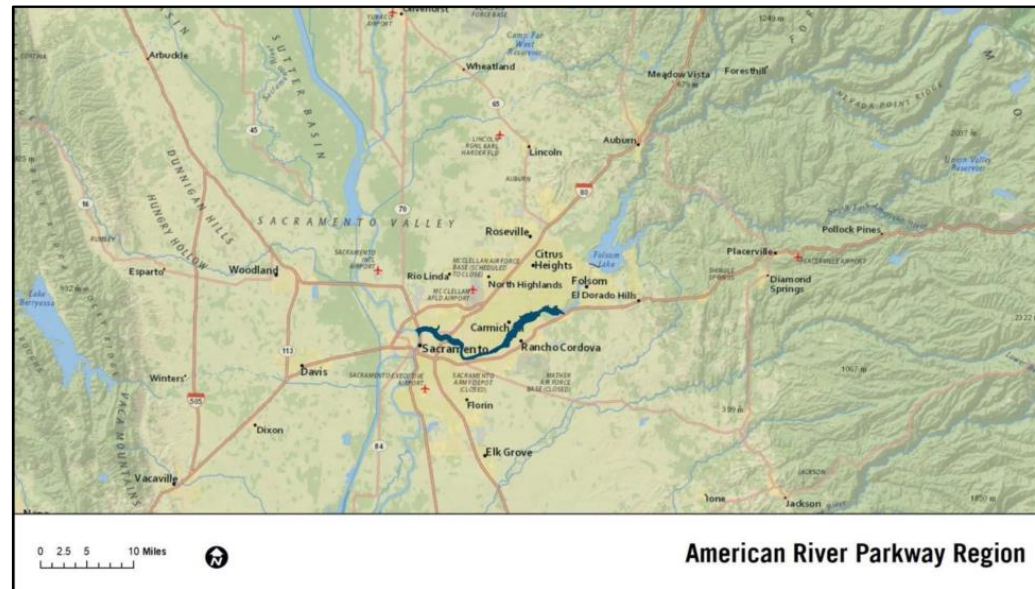
Recreational
Opportunities

Flood
Management

3

Parkway Overview

4



Sunrise Bluffs, Lower Sunrise, and Sacramento Bar

Upper Sunrise and Sailor Bar

Upper Reach

Arden Bar, River Bend Park, Sarah Court Access, Ancil Hoffman County Park, Rossmoor Bar, San Juan Bluffs, Sacramento Bar, Lower Sunrise, Sunrise Bluffs, Upper Sunrise, and Sailor Bar Areas

9

Valley elderberry longhorn beetle
(Photo credit: Jon Katz, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

Steelhead – Central Valley Distinct Population Segment
(Photo credit: NOAA Fisheries)

Western pond turtle
(Photo credit: California Department of Fish and Wildlife)

Swainson's hawk
(Photo credit: Brian Rusnick)

Native Wildlife

The Parkway is home to and provides potential habitat for native wildlife species, including special-status species protected under State and federal law.

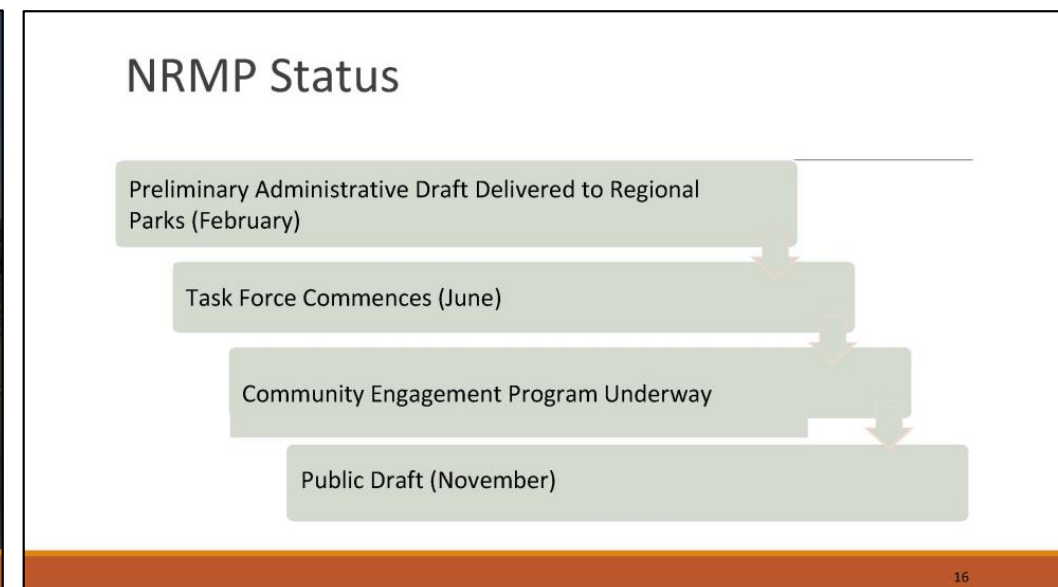
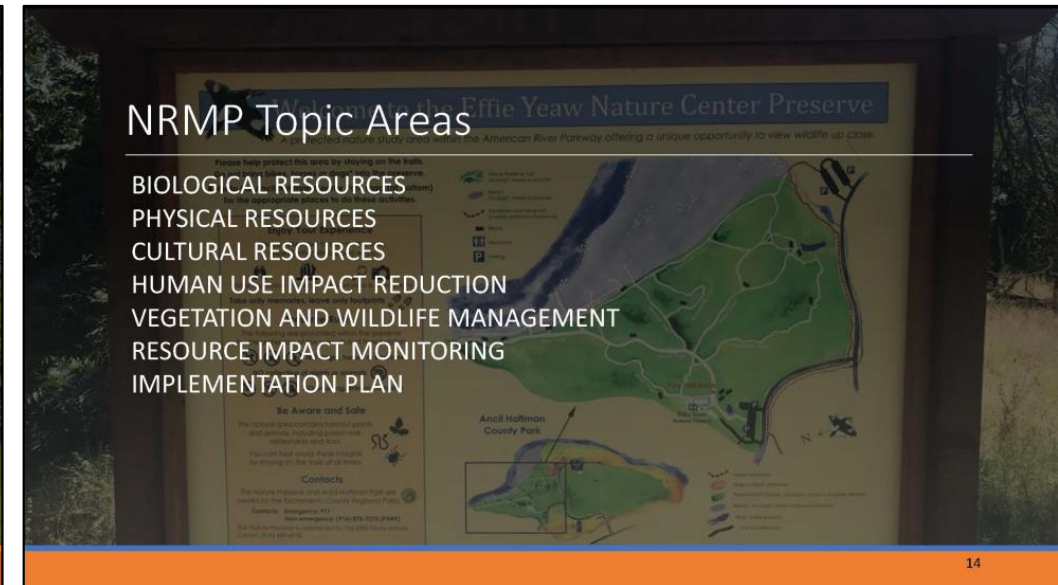
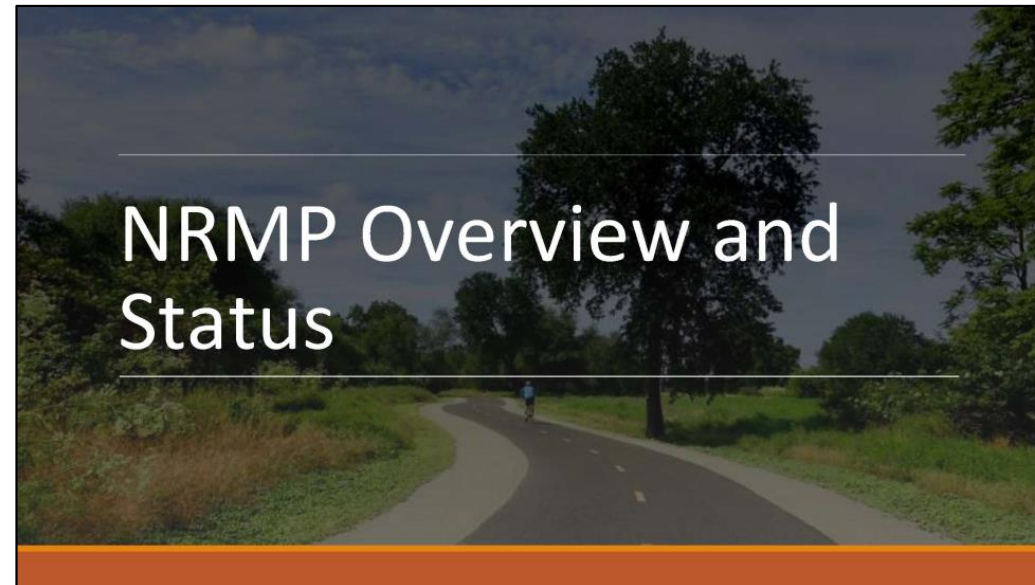
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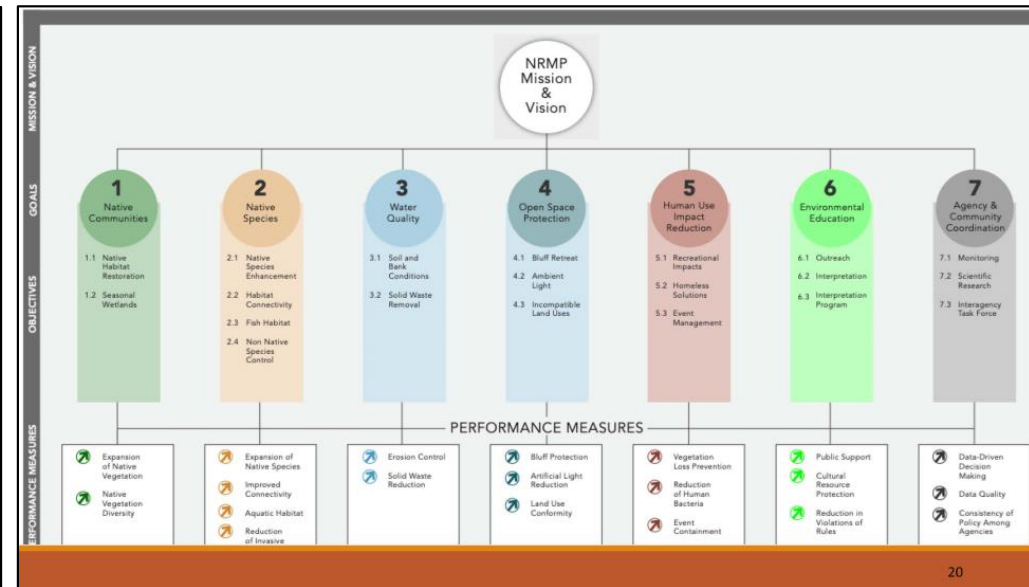
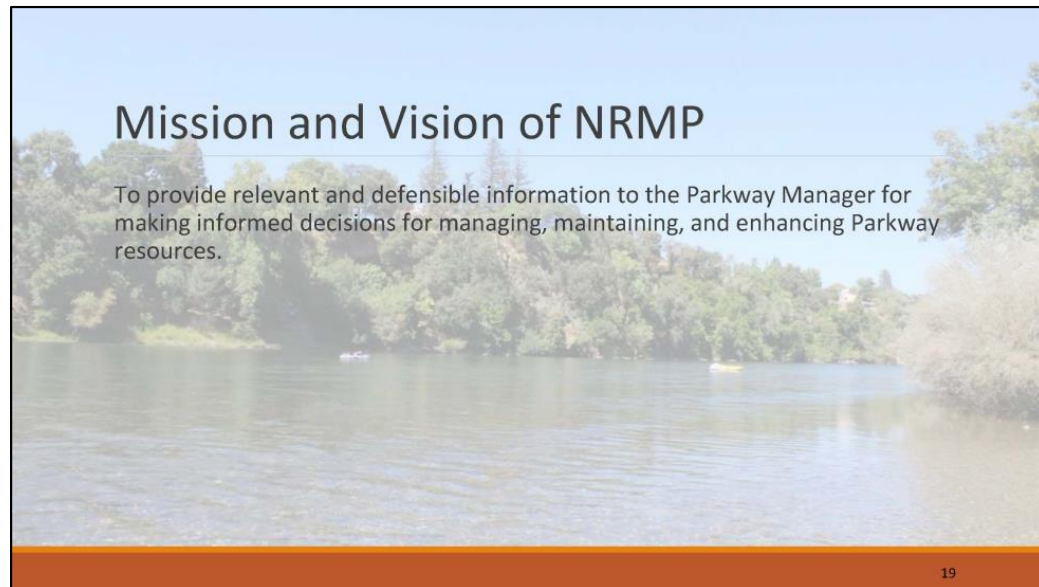
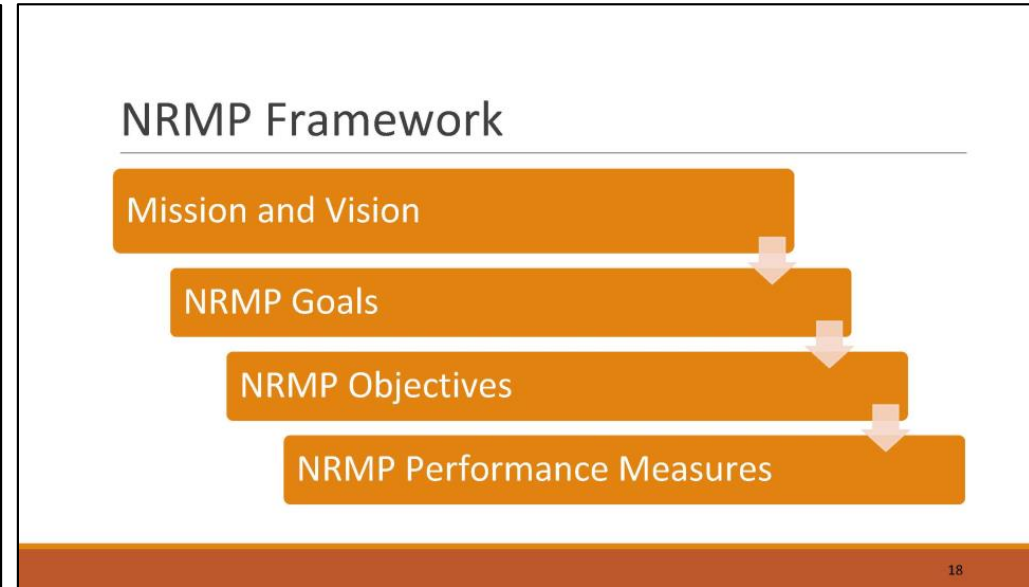
NRMP Task Force

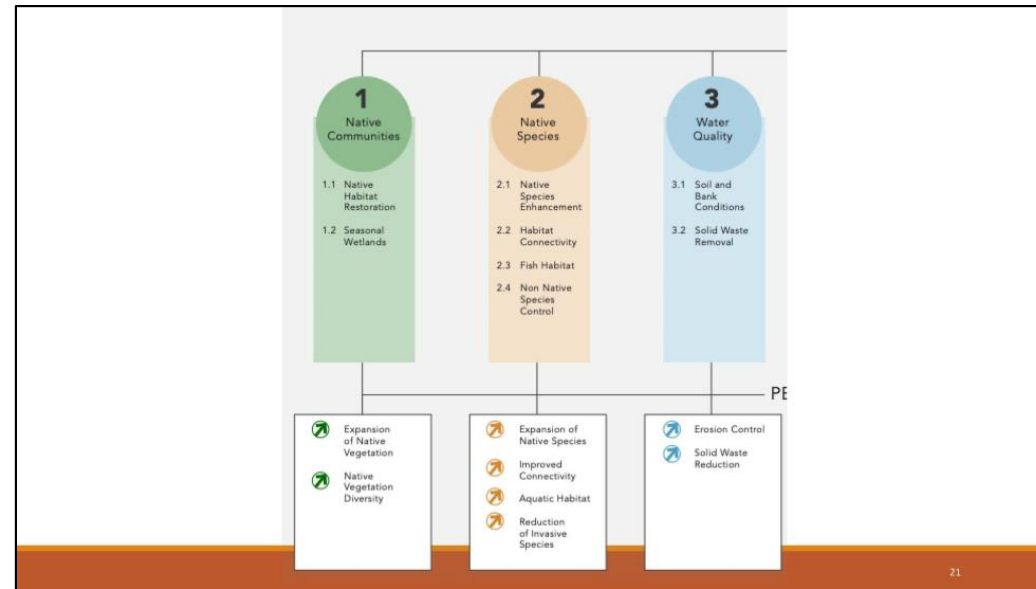
NRMP Task Force Member Organizations

- Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks
- Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency
- The Water Forum
- U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
- Wildlife Conservation Board
- Central Valley Flood Protection Board
- American River Parkway Foundation
- Sacramento County Department of Environmental Review and Assessment
- WRC Environmental
- ICF
- MIG

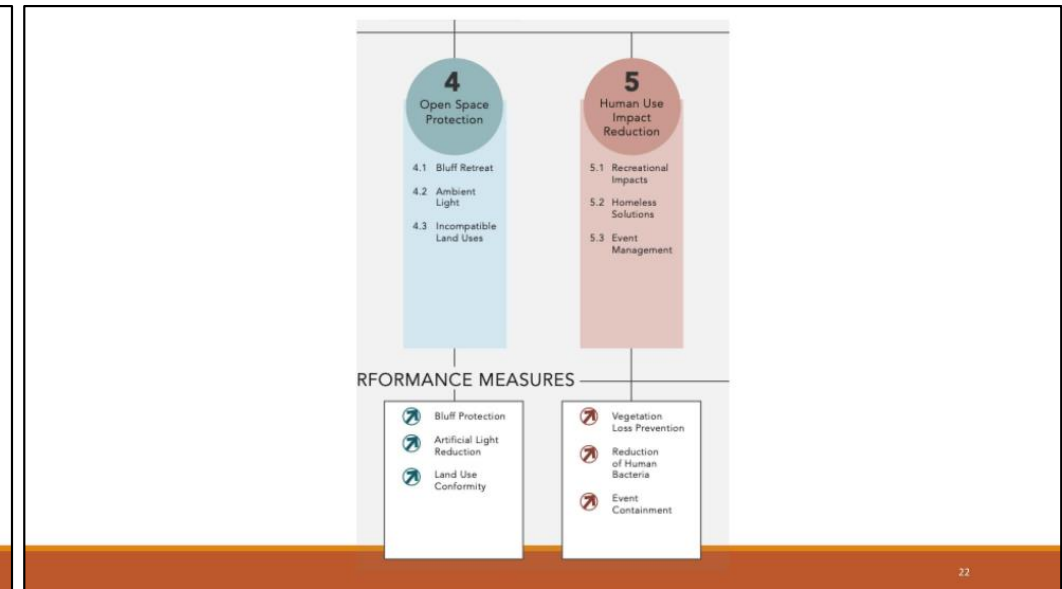
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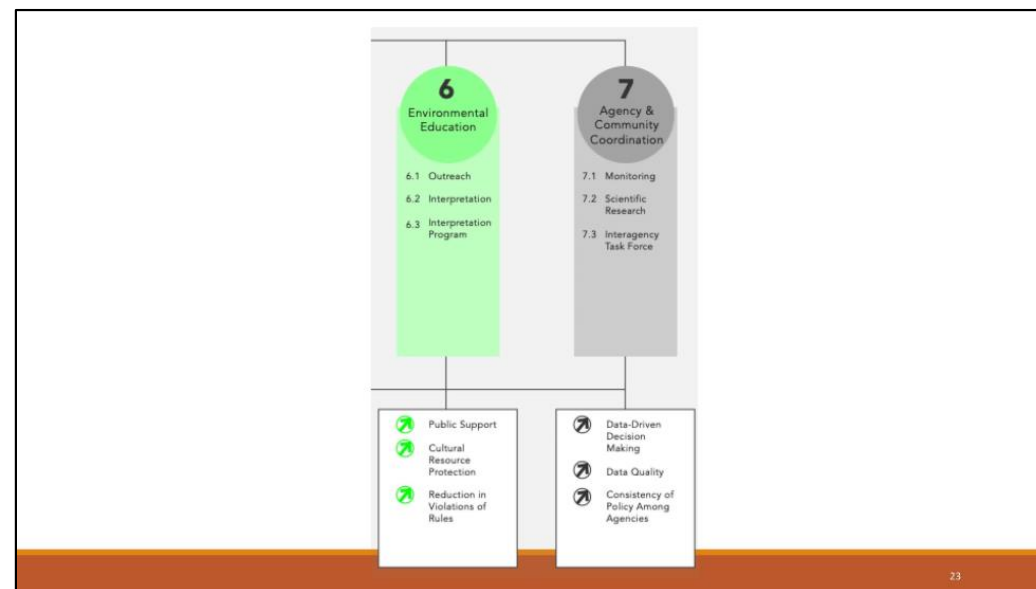




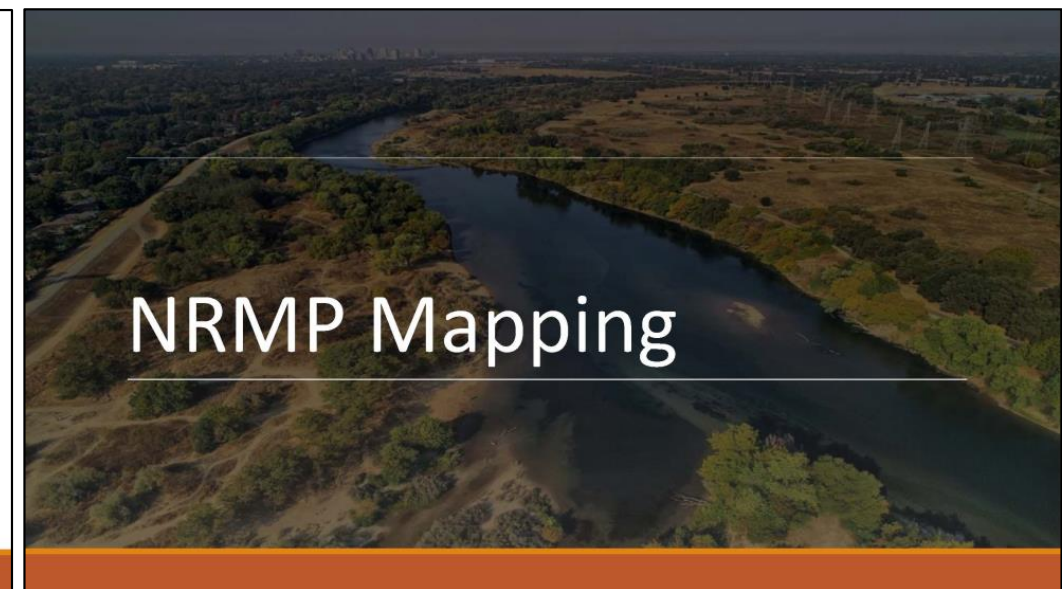
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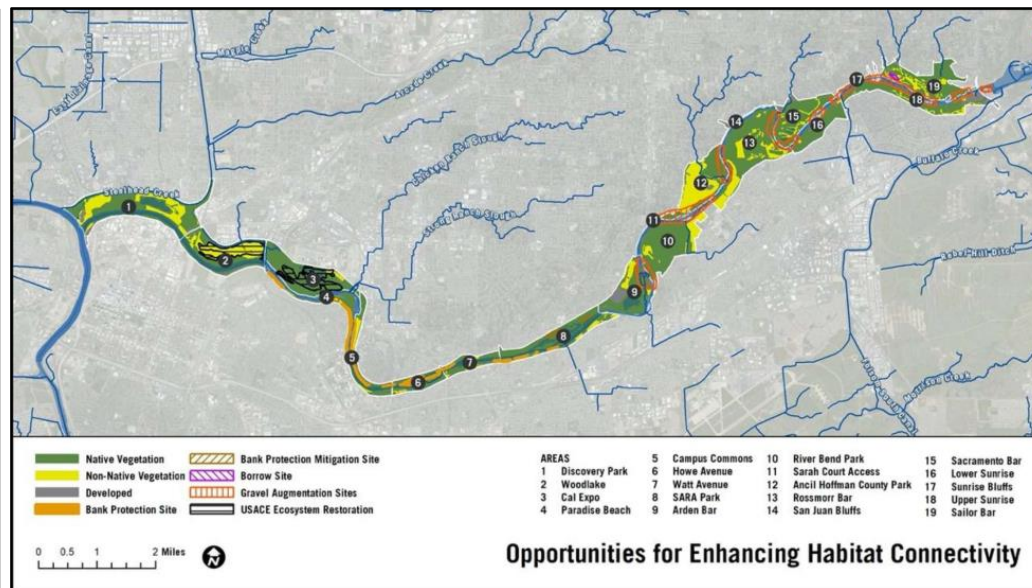
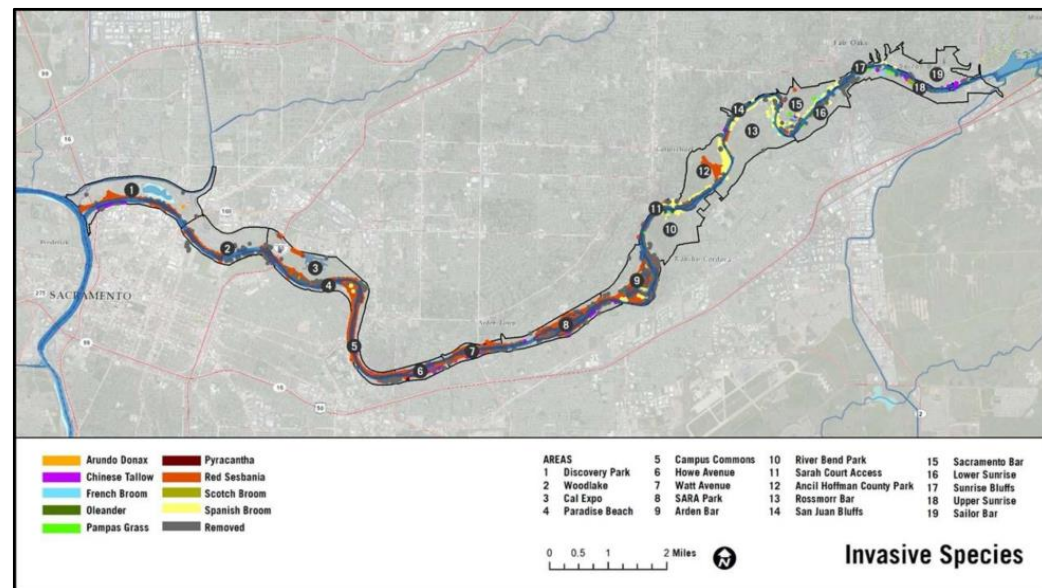
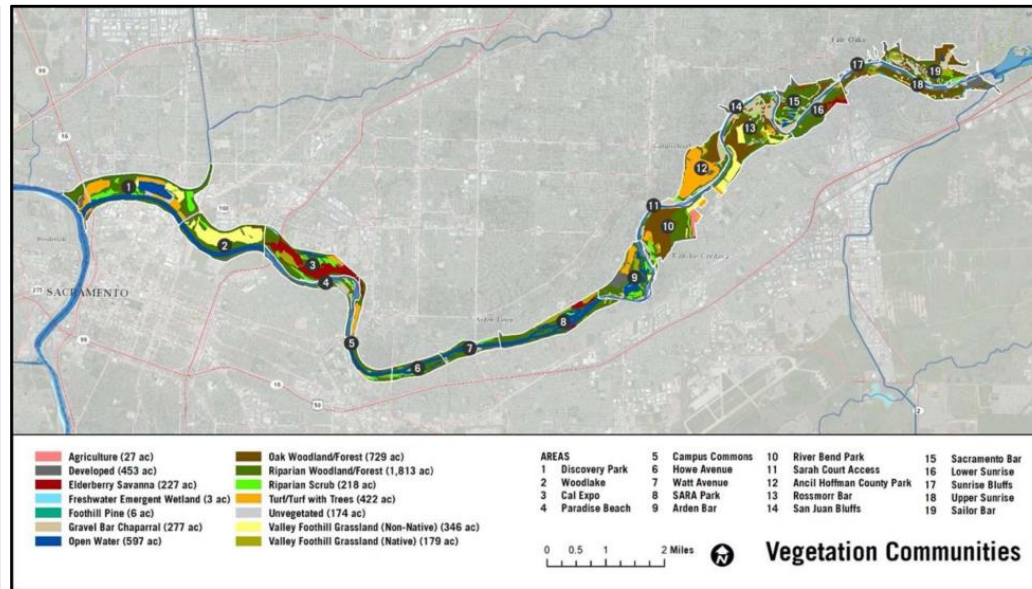
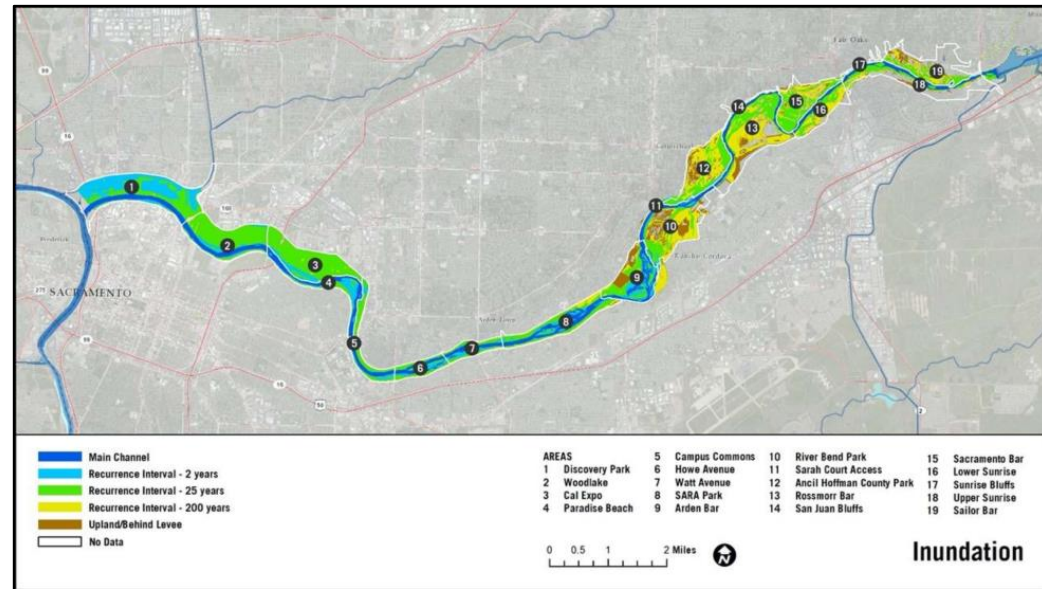
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Recreation and Park Commission
 Summary Report | ARP NRMP Public Workshop, 3/1/21





Area Plan 9 Arden Bar

Existing Conditions

- EC 1. Invasive species are common along banks of the river.
- EC 2. Turf with trees are common in park areas.
- EC 3. Abandoned trails and bike trails interfere with native vegetation community establishment.
- EC 4. Discarded rubble piles and cleared vegetation have degraded riverbank communities.
- EC 5. Portions of Discovery Park are owned by private entities.

Desired Conditions

- DC 1. Maintain and enhance native vegetation communities (GOAL: Native vegetation community).
- DC 2. Establish riparian woodland vegetation communities in degraded park areas (GOAL: Native vegetation community).
- DC 3. Remediate trail impacts and promote native vegetation growth (GOAL: Human Use Impact Reduction).
- DC 4. Restore riverbanks by removing concrete rubble, establishing natural grades, and engineering native vegetation communities that contribute to shaded riverine aquatic (SRA) habitat (GOAL: Native vegetation community).
- DC 5. Purchase private lands from willing sellers (GOAL: Human Use Impact Reduction).

Key Indicators

1. Land Use

2. Inundation Extent

3. Vegetation Communities

4. Invasive Species *

Area Plan 9: Arden Bar Recommended Management Actions

Recommended Management Actions

Native Vegetation

- 1. Protect existing vegetation and habitats
- 2. Expand existing native vegetation or habitats
- 3. Remove invasive nonnative vegetation and promote native vegetation
- 4. Grade to improve conditions for target native species (floodplain terraces and remnant channels)

Water Quality

- 1. Create shallow waters for juvenile salmon and emergent vegetation
- 2. Redesign or relocate facilities that constrain conveyance capacity
- 3. Redesign/reinforce Arden Pond outlet

Human Use Impact Reduction

- 1. Reduce impact of boat launch facility

Area Plan 19 Sailor Bar

Existing Conditions

- EC 1. Invasive species such as Chinese tallow, Spanish broom, and pampas grass are present along riverbanks and/or wetland features.
- EC 2. Fish populations have declined due to historic land uses in the area.
- EC 3. Fish habitat areas have been degraded from natural conditions.
- EC 4. Gravel used in augmentation projects is washed downstream and impacts downstream habitats.

Desired Conditions

- DC 1. Maintain and enhance native vegetation communities (GOAL: Native vegetation community).
- DC 2. Increase the quantity and quality of spawning and juvenile rearing habitat for Fall run Chinook, salmon and Central Valley Steelhead (GOAL: Water Quality).
- DC 3. Perform gravel augmentation projects to create in-stream habitat features and side channels (GOAL: Water Quality).
- DC 4. Monitor gravel augmentation projects to determine the impact on downstream habitats (GOAL: Water Quality).

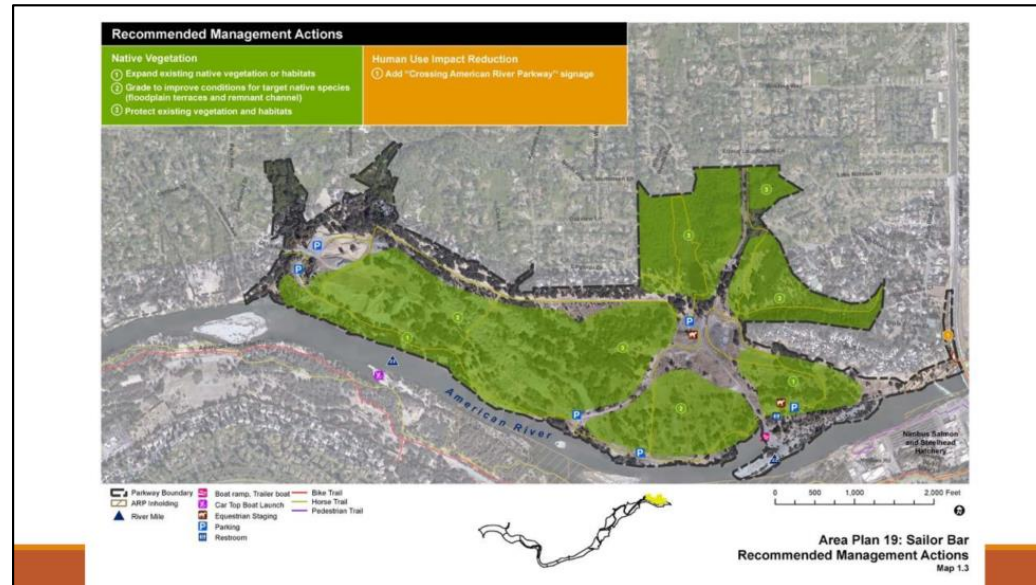
Key Indicators

1. Land Use

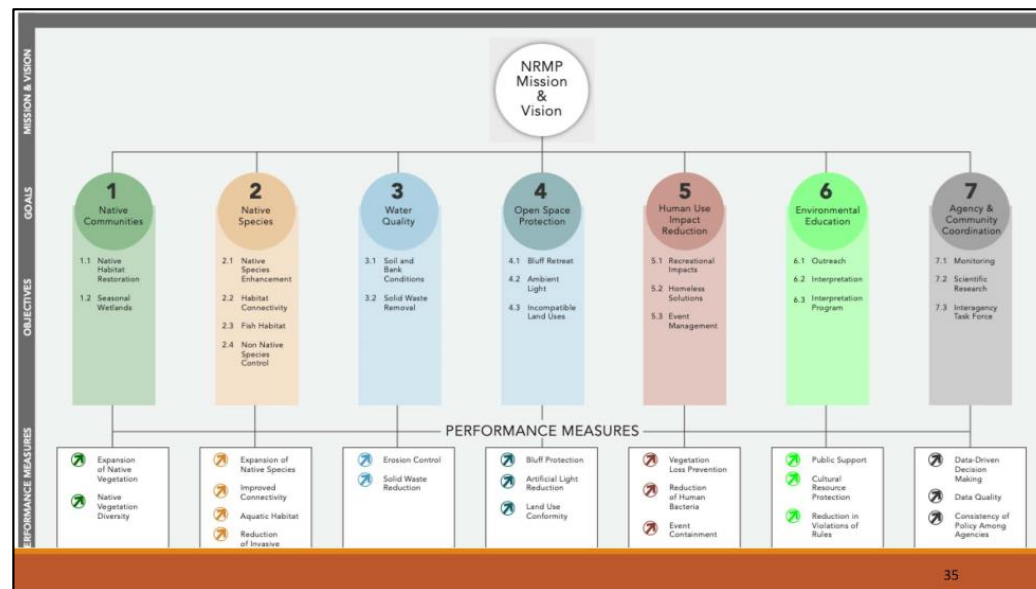
2. Inundation Extent

3. Vegetation Communities

4. Invasive Species *



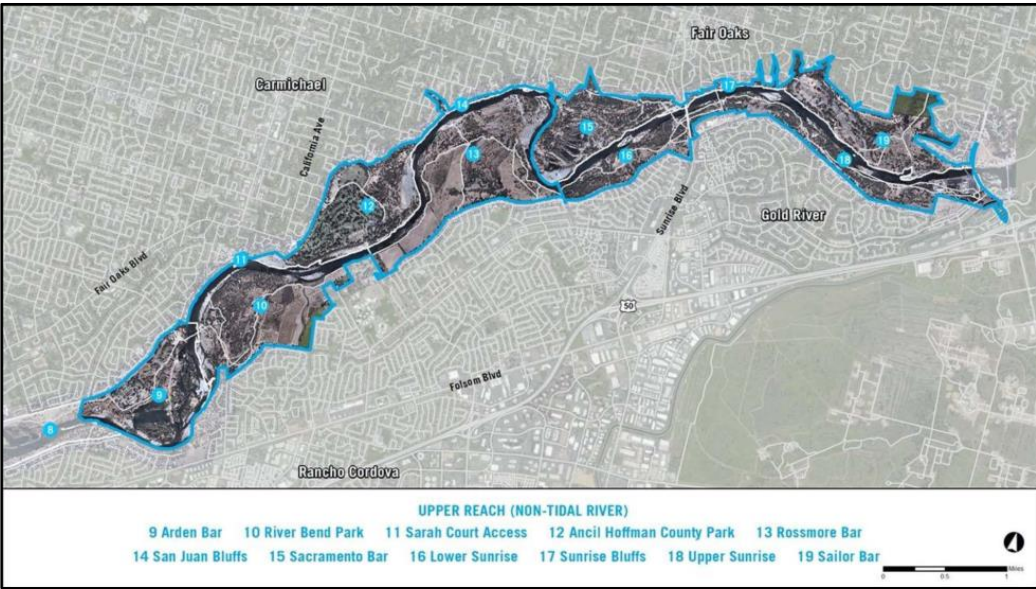
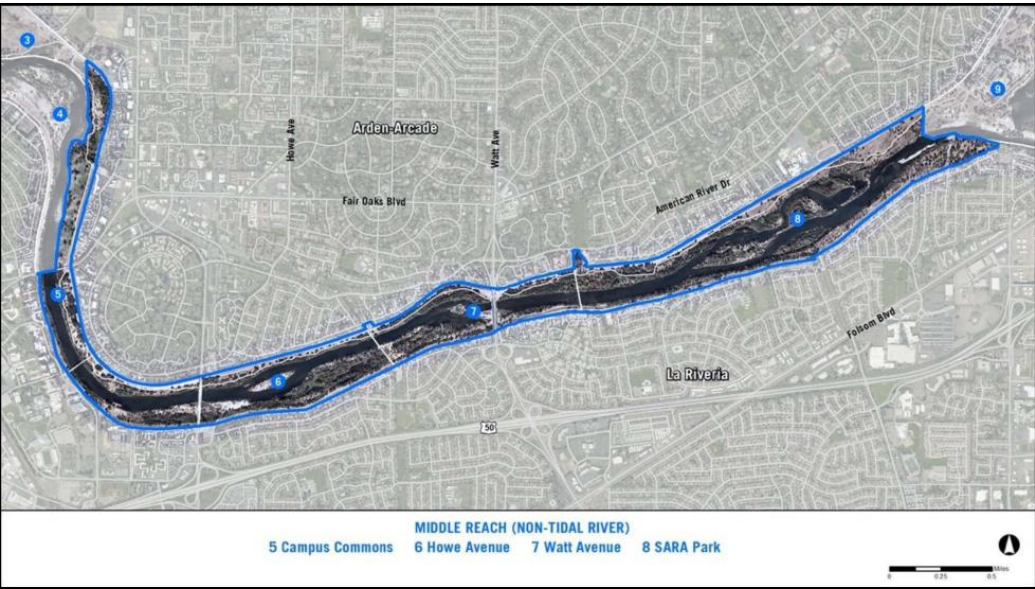
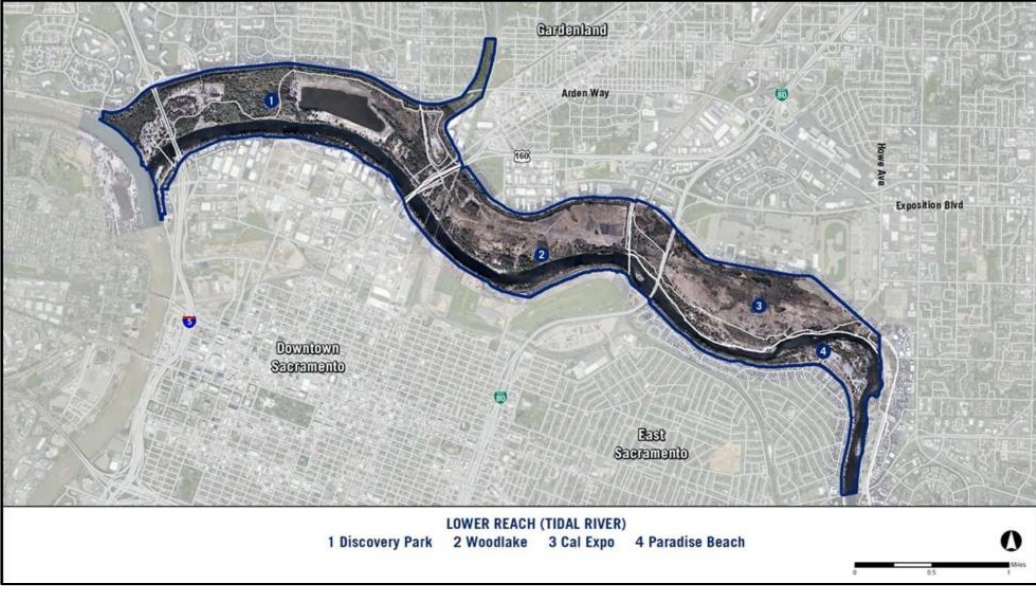
Questions, Comments, and Discussion



American River Parkway Natural Resources Management Plan

Parks and Recreation Commission
 July 23, 2020

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APPENDIX A

ARP TERRESTROIAL STAKEHOLDERS MEETING SUMMARY REPORT

American River Parkway Natural Resources Management Plan
Summary Report | ARP Stakeholders Group Meetings #1 & #2, 3/1/21

AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY (ARP) NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN (NRMP) ARP STAKEHOLDERS GROUP MEETINGS #1 & #2

Friday, December 4, 2020 ♦ 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
(Meeting #1)

Friday, January 8, 2021 ♦ 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
(Meeting #2)

Online by Zoom

S U M M A R Y R E P O R T

INTRODUCTION

On December 14, 2020 and January 8, 2021, Sacramento County Regional Parks, MIG, Inc. and ICF, Inc. co-hosted two ARP Stakeholders Group meetings for the American River Parkway (ARP) Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP). The purpose of the meetings was to: (1) present an overview of the NRMP; (2) introduce draft NRMP mapping products; and (3) discuss Parkway natural resources management by Parkway reach.

Meeting Format and Agenda

The two ARP Stakeholders Group meetings occurred on December 4, 2020 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and on January 8, 2021 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Eleven ARP Stakeholders Group members and five facilitating staff attended the meetings (Attachment A). The meetings included presentation slides (Attachment B).

Both meetings began with an introduction period in which the meeting facilitators and ARP Stakeholders gave self-introductions. During both meetings, Bill Spain of MIG, Gregg Ellis of ICF, and Jon Campbell of MIG gave a presentation introducing the Parkway; the NRMP background, topic areas, and framework; the draft NRMP goals; the proposed NRMP vegetation management categories; and the draft NRMP mapping products. Throughout the meetings during the discussion periods, Mr. Spain and Mr. Ellis asked the Stakeholders Group for feedback on the draft mapping products and proposed NRMP terrestrial management actions by Parkway Reach and Parkway Areas, moving from downriver to upriver.

DISCUSSION PERIODS – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, AND SUGGESTIONS

The ARP Stakeholders Group posed the following questions, comments, and suggestions to the meeting facilitators. Facilitator comments and responses are shown in *italics*. All comments and responses are paraphrased.

Meeting #1

- Can you clarify what you mean by enhancement? Also, what do you mean by converting an unaltered area to a different habitat?
(ICF) I will give an example. Let us take an area that is a low floodplain or bar along the river channel that we have identified as unaltered and that the river has created through its dynamic processes. However, we know fish, which are important, are struggling. A project that would propose to lower the elevation of an unaltered area to make it available to fish more often would be considered an enhancement. We want to think through what we would be doing to an unaltered area by lowering its elevation and making it inundate more often. That action could turn out to be a very good proposal and we would consider it an enhancement, but such an action would require the most certainty on our part in terms of projected outcomes.
- What is the reference template for these criteria? I could imagine restoration for one focal species could be different than restoration for another species.
(ICF) We are in the process of determining how much detail we get into in the NRMP. Take Bushy Lake as an example. It is a good resource with a lot of value now, but a lot has happened in that area historically. We are not yet at a point where we can spell out a reference template for restoration. We certainly want to incorporate aspects of a template into the NRMP, but we are still working through how precise we can be. We welcome your input on that issue.
I am wondering if there could be a reference template at Effie Yeaw and Cordova Creek where my group is collecting data. We would like to be able to monitor conditions over time with citizen science in light of climate change and resiliency. Have you thought of using case studies as part of the reference template?
(ICF) Absolutely. Several examples come to mind. This is where all of the regular users of the Parkway can weigh in. For example, there is a small unaltered area in Woodlake. It has good mature canopy. That area may serve as a good template for what could be replicated nearby. Further up the river in Rossmoor Bar, much of that area has been modified by mining. However, there are some areas not modified by mining that would serve as a good template. Now, adjacent substrates in that location have been modified heavily and the effort and budget needed to manage that area would need to be considered.
- There is a lot of area shown for naturalization. I wonder if it is realistic to invest that much money given the history of fire in these areas and the impacts of homeless populations. I question the value of investing in areas under such risk.

- There is a very narrow bed on the south side of the river. That area has been identified as preservation on your maps. There is a lot going on in such a narrow band of habitat, including conversion and destruction. We were involved in one small grant in the Sutter's Landing area. I do not know if restoration is the right word for the work needed here. I think it needs restoration and enhancement.
- I watched Sutter's Landing over the summer. Sutter's Landing is moving in the direction of Tiscornia Beach at this rate if we do not take direct steps to minimize the voluntary trails. There are a lot of trails at Sutter's Landing. The trails constitute significant acreage. I would also like to comment on the early maps you showed. Some of the chunks show both sides of the river as separate areas with a different number. Sutter's Landing is a very different area than Woodlake. Sutter's Landing gets significant use in that narrow reach of the river because of its proximity to residential areas. It would be a disservice to the lower 3 to 4 miles of the river to lump the north and south banks together.
(MIG) We have made a slight change to the Area Plan boundaries. We are using the centerline of the river to clean up confusion.
- We have planted the east side of Bushy Lake. We are using fire resilient vegetation and adding culturally significant pollinator plants. We are experimenting and expanding our efforts every year. The most culturally important plant we have is carrot's barbery. We have also planted Indian hemp milkweed, native grasses, and mugwort, which is an important medicinal plant. I can identify and show where we have planted those, and I have a video showcasing our work.
(MIG) Thanks. Please provide everybody the video you shot.
- I have a question about the white areas on the map. Are those areas not going to be included in this plan? For example, what is the white area near Bushy Lake?
(ICF) The white areas are not necessarily going to be excluded from the NRMP. We are recognizing the facilities that present opportunities for natural resources management. Camp Pollock has a lot of natural resources values, and right next to it is the Riverdale Trailer Park. There are also some radio towers. The white areas signify a broad use of the concept that there are facilities that might to varying degrees impact what can be managed in the Parkway.
- Can you explain how the power lines and utility corridors will be handled under the plan?
(ICF) There are a few different ways the powerline corridors could be mapped. We fully recognize the corridors are there. What kind of vegetation can potentially be planted underneath them is a point of discussion that has been handled differently over the years. We are trying to maximize natural resources under power lines, but we also need to consider compliance with regulations and the guidelines of the utilities agencies. We do have the corridors as datasets.
- I am concerned about Discovery Park. I am studying yellow-billed magpies. Discovery Park has the largest population of nesting magpies in the County. The majority are nesting in the London plane trees. One concern is maintaining the suitability of the

habitat for magpies. There are opportunities to enhance that area to replace the non-native vegetation with valley oaks and other trees.

- I am concerned about the areas indicated in white. What is the function of the plan and what would be the future, possibly unintended, consequences of not including those areas in the plan? If this plan provides an opportunity for grant funding and these areas are not included in the plan, it eliminates our ability to seek future funding.
(MIG) *One of the purposes of the NRMP is to identify funding sources.*
Okay. Please do not leave out Camp Pollock.
- There are particular facilities, such as Camp Pollock and the American River Ranch, that should be called out through color coding as having educational value. We have goals for each of these facilities and these goals should be complementary to the plan. I would like to see these facilities treated with more value than a powerline corridor or a trailer park.
- The stretch of the river in the main channel adjacent to Sutter's Landing is very shallow and there are low flows. It is very popular for stand-up paddle boarders. Invasive vegetation in that channel segment may very much restrict paddling. Parrot's feather fills the river channel in the summer months when there are low flows and warm weather.
- What are the baseline conditions you are going to operate from with respect to homeless encampments? Will the plan be aspirational or realistic? Are you going to assume the current conditions prevail and accommodate those conditions?
(MIG) *We have spent a lot of time thinking about this issue. It is very challenging.*
- I am sympathetic to the homeless, but they should be somewhere other than the Parkway. The plan needs to be quite clear in describing the resource damage that is occurring due to the homeless population and we need to move them somewhere else in a humane and appropriate manner. I do not want the Parkway to be subject to inaction.
- We should not design a plan that accommodates homeless camps along the river, but rather that helps relocate these people to better facilities and areas that are more easily maintained. I watched habitat destruction every day at Sutter's Landing this summer. Sutter's Landing will soon look like Tiscornia with nothing but old growth trees and mud. We cannot blame the homeless camps for everything, but the destruction does correlate with the camp locations. Campfires require gathering wood and breaking wood off standing shrubs and trees. It is amazing to see how much Sutter's Landing's forest has been cleared underneath just this summer for deliberate wood gathering. Add to that the vast population walking all the social trails this summer. Bicycle traffic is significant too, despite the brand-new paved trails. Many bicyclists prefer the wooded trails. We really must pay attention to that.
- This plan should reflect our expectations of the Parkway and how we expect this management to occur. Following completion of the plan, it will be incorporated by the County. Then, we can use this plan to solve the current problems we have. We are partners in helping with implementation, so we will use the plan as a strategic tool. If we need to move the homeless out of the Parkway, then so be it.

- The off-paved trails in the Cal Expo Area have become permanent features. Are those trails taken into account in the plan in the area that is being flagged for naturalization? It is bothersome to me as a paved trail user to have off-paved trail bikers.
(ICF) *The concept is that the type of naturalization we are proposing could also accommodate the off-paved bike trails. I recognize the management challenge here. In the eastern half of Woodlake there is a proposed ecosystem restoration concept from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). It was approved by Congress, but the plan has not yet been finalized. The ecosystem restoration concept does not account for the interface of the off-paved trails and the habitat areas. We would anticipate naturalization would need to align with some level of human use.*
(Regional Parks) *I would like to add that those management areas were drawn with a broad brush. The off-road trails are also a facility, which we would color white, and we would not eliminate them from the mapping.*
(MIG) *This plan is not necessarily designed to be applicable at a square meter scale. It is intended to be implemented at the Area level and Parkway-wide.*
- I want to concur with this discussion of the homeless population. We are finding a resident population of Western pond turtles that needs to be studied throughout the whole river. We are also finding high levels of phosphorous and turbidity in the river. So, homelessness may be impacting water quality. Trash is also a water quality problem. We have three resident coyotes on the river, and they have a lot of trash in their scat. So, we need to mention animals are eating the garbage as well. We need a compassionate alternative to having the homeless live in the Parkway.
(MIG) *Do you think the phosphorus is coming from within the Parkway?*
Yes, it originates from the homeless people bathing and defecating.
- North of Camp Pollock there is an unauthorized trail used by vehicles. There is an access point where people can get to the trail from Northgate Boulevard. There is significant vehicular traffic traversing the trail to service the illegal campers in the area. Several people have pointed out the nesting Swainson's hawk at Camp Pollock. The area along the river at Camp Pollock is used by day users, such as fishers and paddlers, because it is one of the few free-access areas. The slope there is not ideal, and we have ideas as to where people try to access the river at other locations along the bank. I do not know if this can be incorporated into the plan, but it would be nice to put in some sort of dock or decks for people to use and prevent people from accessing the sensitive areas with elderberry. So, I would advocate improving access there to protect that area. The Parkway Plan considers Camp Pollock and Riverdale as non-conforming uses, but does not address what could exist in their place. It would be beneficial to identify a conforming use for the Riverdale area.
(MIG) *Okay, thank you.*
- I am struggling with the definitions of naturalized, preserved, and enhancement areas. It was noted there are areas that need to be preserved at Sutter's Landing, but there are also areas that need to be naturalized. What would be helpful is baseline naturalization resources survey information, such as hydrology, soils, and historical information about

what vegetation occurred along the Parkway. That information would better inform restoration activities.

(ICF) *That is a good comment. We are heading in the direction of developing the level of detail you discussed. We know we need to provide more clarity about what we mean by preservation. In our mind, that category does not suggest there are no improvements needed. We would keep the vegetation in Sutter's Landing in good, healthy condition. We just need to be clearer about what we are proposing here.*

- Has there been any discussion of the mining pit [Urrutia]?
(ICF) *The Parkway Plan mentioned that pit is in private ownership. There are existing concepts that, if the pit is acquired, would provide for mitigation for impacts on the primarily anadromous fish that use the river. The conversations around this are occurring. The concept would be to reconnect that pit to the river. A similar project was completed upstream of the I-5 crossing. We would be consistent with the Parkway Plan by bringing it into public ownership. There is also a fair amount of bank protection area along the river channel with shaded riverine aquatic habitat. A project of this scale would have other implications as well.*
- A lot of the mining debris has created high terrace habitat that constrains the levees and impacts the cottonwood. Is there some opportunity to grade and lower the floodplain height? I would like to see more low terrace habitat.
(SAFCA) *SAFCA is currently in discussion with the landowners for mitigation for bank protection projects. We share your view of lowering the floodplain to make the landscape accessible to fish in the spring and fall. You would see a transformation of the landform at Urrutia. We hope to know by 2021 if this project will get off the ground.*
- For the last 15 years, we have been running a monthly education program for children in the neighborhood. This summer we saw the crowd size triple at Sutter's Landing. We saw people coming from north of the river from Del Paso and Arden Arcade and from south Sacramento, in addition to people from Elk Grove and further out. It will be important to consider in the plan the higher use patterns we will likely continue to see. I think there will be much higher use than before. Sutter's Landing in particular is easy to access and valuable for parents and children.
- The development of adjacent railyard area adjacent to Sutter's Landing would also encourage more public use.
- I understand the need for bank protection in this area. I have seen the projects that are 10-15 years old that serve as a good model and they produced a lot of habitat value. Hopefully, the rock is concentrated at the toe of the levee and the designs incorporate substantial vegetation. There is a fair amount of black locust, a non-native species, in this area, though I do not have much data to prove that. The Black locust trees do have a pretty high value for migratory birds. I do not think all non-native plants are bad. Those that are the most invasive should be prioritized for management. Naturalized non-natives should be tolerated a bit more.
- There is quite a bit of Black locust across from Harrington Access. I would consider them a beneficial non-native species, and the species has not been included on our list for removal. The only trees we remove are Chinese tallow. Catalpa is also on our list. Trees

are the most difficult to be removed because they need to be cut down and the stumps need to be treated. I am curious how the tree issue will be addressed under the preservation and naturalization categories.

(Regional Parks) *I am a botanist, so I was not aware of the value of these non-native tree species to birds. We do manage areas we consider not having good value because they have non-native trees. If a tree has redeeming characteristics, we want to consider that. I have also identified a stand of Black locust in Paradise Beach to take down and replace with native trees.*

- Along Arcade Creek, we have seen secondary cavities for nesting birds in Black locust trees.
- When you remove a cavity, you remove a perching point. To some degree, maintaining some perching sites and providing nesting boxes will minimize impacts. That approach also requires some maintenance. I see so often that we plant trees and we meet our 5 year requirements, and then the mitigation area burns down the next year. We need long-term plans to protect trees from fire through mowing or grazing.
- What is the problem with Black locust trees? Do they expand their reach? What is the life cycle management for the species? Maybe we should focus on discouraging expansion.
(Regional Parks) *I consider Black locust invasive. They spread by root and by seed. Once they become established, not many plants can grow in the shade of a Black locust tree. When there is a big stand, the trees would provide the only area for birds to perch. Would it be possible to limit their expansion, tolerate them, and gradually replace them over time?*
(Regional Parks) *I believe most Black locust do not die. The area they occupy would always consist of Black locust. That is what I have noticed. However, it is not necessary to remove every Black locust tree from the entire Parkway.*
- Black locust might serve as a special topic of discussion in the NRMP.
- Why do you exclude the powerline corridors in the mapping of this [Middle] reach?
(Regional Parks) *The utility companies that maintain the rights-of-way have become increasingly aggressive with their vegetation activities and there is now less room for plantings. I have explained multiple times that an approved planting has been destroyed later on.*
I understand your concern and frustration, but I think this plan is an opportunity to change some of the policies in place, in agreement with the utility companies.
(Regional Parks) *I agree.*
- I am not sure how we address non-native trees generally. There is a lot of Catalpa at the far end of the Arden Bar Area, and the distribution is increasing. Chinese tallow, Tree of heaven, and London plane are also issues. I do not know how the plan is going to deal with the non-native species that have taken hold of a lot of the Parkway. I hope the NRMP addresses those different species that take over areas that could be populated with native trees.
- Near Bushy Lake, the utility companies have cut back the riparian vegetation that provides bird habitat. I agree with Mary that there is a problem with the utility

companies taking down everything. This issue should be addressed in the plan. Perhaps a solution would be to plant fire-resistant trees and leave some trees for perching. We can provide examples of fire-resilient species for planting. That would help with the weed problem and habitat restoration.

- The Upper Reach is broken up into small divisions on your maps. Discovery Park should also be broken up into smaller pieces because it is composed of larger areas. I wanted to have that comment on the record for future updates of the Parkway Plan. I know your mapping here relies on the Parkway Plan division of areas.
(MIG) *So, you would like the Areas to be more comparable in size.*
Yes.
- I am not familiar with all of the Upper Reach. Many of the areas I have seen here are really overgrown with weeds. I suspect there were probably cultivated lands around Soil Born Farms. We have lost a lot of diversity in the Parkway as a result of the elimination of those agricultural uses, as is the case in Del Paso Regional Park. We have lost the entire burrowing owl population on the Sacramento River and we have lost the grassland in Parkway-adjacent areas. I would like to make a pitch for purposeful management of some areas as low grassland habitat that is either mowed or grazed. It is important to bring back burrowing owl. Yellow-billed magpies would benefit too. Tall weedy fields are good for some species, but they do not provide a lot of habitat value. I do not think we should focus totally on trees and woodlands.
(ICF) *Much of the historical Upper Reach land modification was a combination of mining and agricultural uses. I echo your thought that good grassland areas are lacking in the Parkway. They are not completely absent, but what exists currently is not high-quality. We are looking for opportunities for grasslands in Woodlake, Cal Expo, and Rossmoor Bar. We should not be thinking exclusively about wooded areas, I agree. We may push for a combination of open grassland and sparse woodland in some areas.*
- I see grazing and ground-nesting birds as coexisting.
(Regional Parks) *We have a grazing program, but I have been criticized for allowed grazing in spring and disrupting the reproduction of different animal species. I am thinking about how to allow grazing without that conflict.*
(MIG) *This speaks to the need to balance various priorities.*
(Regional Parks) *I am wondering how to achieve the correct timing here.*
- I think we can work on addressing the timing of grazing. Some people think no nest can ever be destroyed, but others think it is hard to manage habitat without some impacts on some species. It is more of a political and educational issue, compared to a biological issue.
- I would like to comment on managed grazing. It is something we [Soil Born Farms] have been interested in for a long time. There is a lot of ground adjacent to our facility, including area for woodland and elderberry. There has been a lot of encroachment of yellow star thistle. The NRMP should address the issue of what managed grazing could look like. I think you have some potential willing partners in this. Grazing can be a valuable tool for fire suppression and decreasing the impact of invasive species.

- You should consider incorporating Western pond turtle as an indicator species for the Parkway. There should be no preservation, as everything requires adaptive management and monitoring. Whether you call it preservation or not, grazing is good to maintain habitat complexity and functional quality.
- (Regional Parks) *Regarding Arden Bar, the remaining pond may be dredged to a depth of 6 feet.*

Zoom Comments

The following substantive comments were posed in the Zoom chat feature during Meeting #1. Comments are verbatim.

- social trails as opposed to maintained trails
- Thx. Needed that term.
- volunteer is a term we often use
- where is the raise your hand button?
- we know Swainson's hawks have nested at Camp Pollock as an example of the need to include
- Bat habitat and feral cat issues at Discovery Park also argue for including it in resource management
- Camp Pollock
- raise hand
- The city of Sacramento has prioritized adding parcels to the west of Sutter's Landing Park via the Conservancy program grants etc. This area would like become part of the Parkway. Including in planning would help future
- There are other locations in the Parkway way illegal vehicle to camp or thru access is increasing like Camp Pollock. Both sides of the bike bridge at North Sac Bike trail is an example
- I have seen illegal vehicular use at gristmill as well. Folks drive their trucks out onto the river bank.
- Establish an improved path from the JSMT Trail to CP as a hardened and approved path to the public facility to encourage use of established trail rather than further impacting the natural area.
- There have also been suggestions from some in the birding community that it be left as pond habitat. Pond habitat is very limited in the Parkway and provides for different species of birds.
- I agree with Dan Airola on lower the flood plain to retain riparian habitat for Cottonwoods, etc.
- Jedediah Smith Memorial Trail the paved trail in the parkway.
- Trail is north of CP, not accessible or linked to CP. A bike/pedestrian has to cross Del Paso Blvd and Northgate (both are very unsafe to cross). Linking to the paved trail near the Arden Garden / Northgate Undercrossing would be idea.
- Black locust does appear to spread to create dense stands.

- Locust seem a habitat to monitor
- Gradual removal is definitely a good way to remove stands like these.
- Yes it's possible to limit their spreading. Of course that takes maintenance attention & budget.
- And replace as a consequence of a catastrophic incident, like fire.
- But we have examples utilities over reach on their veg management in parkway
- I agree, with Leo's comment, more info will help utilities manage resources better in parkway
- these upper areas are more appropriately divided, would like to see the same in the lower reach. Also, please note that Yellow Star is an issue around CP, spreads from Urrutia to CP each year.
- Perhaps we could find a desirable habitat type that Utilities could live with that provides good habitat for the Parkway.
- Yes, strongly support preparation of an Electric Transmission Line Vegetation Mgmt Plan with participation by the utilities.
- How do we maintain low grasses without disrupting spring nesting?
- Grazing and ground birds are not mutually exclusive.
- More perennials ?
- Even perennial grasslands require grazing to remove thatch and reduce fire risk.
- The more grazing management can mimic wildlife grazing lowers impacts. Existing grazing more intensive
- Too much thatch reduces the habitat of range land value for ground nesting and foraging.
- Thank you for the opportunity to participate.
- Thank you everyone, I learned a lot of valuable information
- Good discussion all

Meeting #2

- Has there been any effort to map all of the informal trails in the Parkway?
(Regional Parks) *Years ago I had an intern map the informal trails in the Parkway. He also created a trails handbook. Will that be included in the NRMP?*
(MIG) *Yes, we can include it as a technical appendix.*
(ICF) *I heard the intern mapped about half of the Parkway. Is that correct?*
(Regional Parks) *He mapped all of the Nature Study Area lands and half of the Protected Area lands. Some of the areas under the Protected Area designation that did not get mapped were the locations of homeless camps.*
- The biggest unknown we have is the monetary value of the damage done to the Parkway from the homeless camps. Just as the deer, coyote, and birds are scared off by the camps, so are the users and management personnel.
(Regional Parks) *We do have the monetary value of the cleanup. However, that is not the cost of the actual damage.*

- (Regional Parks) *True. We do not have that information.*
- Is there no enhancement area on any of the maps?
(MIG) *We only have a bit of enhancement area in Woodlake. We are currently working on redefining the management types and definitions.*
(MIG) *We are tweaking the category titles and verbiage.*
- There are all sorts of social trails in River Bend Park. There are trails that have been created by hikers, cyclists, and off-road bikers. It is a very scarred landscape, which is sad because that area could be a very productive landscape, particularly for mature trees. I would like to see these social trails emphasized. I do not know if enforcement is necessary, or if education would suffice. The area needs to be converted to natural conditions.
(ICF) *The majority of that area would fall into conservation as we refine our management categories. There is good habitat there that we want to maintain. However, we could improve upon existing damage, whether that be through enforcement or physical changes to the landscape. Our new definitions would capture what you are stating.*
- Do you have any theories as to why that area gets that kind of use? It is easy to access?
(Stakeholder) *There is a large parking lot adjacent to the bike trail, so the area is easy to access. Once you are there, there area is not isolated, but it is harder to see from the bike trail. I see ranger patrols parked either in the main paved parking area, in the two dirt parking lots in the back, or in the entry drive. I do not see rangers walking out into those areas.*
(Stakeholder) *That area has been known as a cycling spot for at least 20 years.*
(Stakeholder) *There is a lot of raptor nesting that should occur there. Great horned owl and other owl species should nest in that area because the trees are so tall. I can imagine the noise and other activities affect the wildlife in what is supposedly a quieter area of the Parkway. This area has attracted its own set of illegal activities. We need to either make these activities legal or do something else to fix the situation.*
- There is a lot of native vegetation, including live oak trees, in River Bend Park. However, the understory contains a lot of non-native and invasive plants. I want us to use broad definitions to allow for a better functioning ecosystem in that area.
(ICF) *That is an excellent point. Our updated definitions would lend themselves to that and would allow for necessary improvements.*
- The spawning gravel placed above the Arden rapids has smoothed out across the rapids. The gravel is making it harder to paddle in that area. It is going to take a pretty high flow to create a deep channel in that area.
- (Regional Parks) *USACE would like to connect the river to the pond at Arden Bar. This effort would involve bringing fill materials to the south side of the pond south of the existing islands. The area from the islands to the south would be filled and a stream or overflow would cut through the fill. This project would improve juvenile fish rearing. The remaining pond is shallow, but I am lobbying to get that remaining pond to the north deepened through dredging.*
Why is the depth of that pond important?

(Regional Parks) *The main issue is emergent vegetation. The pond is becoming shallower, and the area is being overrun by creeping water primrose. It will not serve as a good fishing pond too much longer.*

So, we want to preserve it as a place users can use for fishing. I would assume it would also be preserved as an area for birds.

(Regional Parks) *The first time I asked about that issue, I was told the north pond was outside USACE's project boundary. Liz has said she will not allow a project out there unless the north pond is deepened.*

- Ultimately, USACE has no right to do what it wants without your permission.
(Regional Parks) *I am asking USACE to do some additional work out there. The way the project would be constructed would allow fresh water to fall into the pond. Also, the pond is already a warm water fishery that does not support salmonids. The overflow channel would support salmonids and steelhead. However, if there is a large flood, that would create bad news in terms of access for predatory fish. NOAA Fisheries, however, is willing to make that trade-off. We cannot keep 100 percent of the predatory fish out, unfortunately.*
I want to go on record as saying predatory fish should be a consideration for the Arden pond project.
- What is the purpose of the USACE project at Arden pond?
(SAFCA) *It is mitigation for the loss of shaded riverine aquatic habitat.*
- Is USACE creating better habitat for salmonids or will there be adverse impacts?
(Regional Parks) *Right now, there are adverse impacts. There will be less adverse impacts and improved habitat as a result of the project.*
(SAFCA) *The pond will provide more habitat with implementation of the project. It is a huge transformation of the landscape.*
- Many in the birding community have suggested maintaining the Arden pond as a pond for the value it provides for animals that prefer deeper water. We have very little pond habitat within the Parkway.
(Regional Parks) *We need to deepen the pond by closing it at the outlet. If we keep with the status quo, the pond will continue to provide poor habitat for deep water birds. This project would take most of the pond away, but the remaining pond would be deeper. We cannot go back to how the pond was 10 years ago, as some people want, but there is no perfect solution.*
- Would the island on the northern half of Arden pond receive any sort of treatment?
(Regional Parks) *It is going to be part of the new bank USACE is building. The bank provides protection for goose nesting.*
- Is there potential pond habitat in the Gristmill area?
(Regional Parks) *That area contains levees, so an attempt to make pond habitat would be harder to pull off.*
(SAFCA) *Not only should we ask USACE to create deeper pond habitat at Arden pond, but we should also ask them to create new pond habitat elsewhere.*
- (Regional Parks) *The river islands in between Arden Bar and River Bend Park are very important. I have already logged them in the mapping system. They are important as a*

heron and egret rookery. These islands need to be identified for preservation. I used to have a helicopter go in for monitoring, but the schedule has changed.

I counted 16 nests yesterday at that location.

- (Regional Parks) *I do not have an overlay of the ponds, but the vegetation map in the NRMP will show them.*
- There is a lot of broom, including Spanish broom, from Ancil Hoffman to Sarah Court Access. Perhaps that area, including the gravel bar, is an area we need to keep an eye on. I had a group of AmeriCorps folks remove about 300 plants. In addition, the American River Parkway Foundation (ARPF) maps invasive species up and down the Parkway. I am wondering how the ARPF data might tie into the NRMP or how the Invasive Plant Management Plan (IPMP) ties in with NRMP.
(Regional Parks) *We are using the IPMP data, including the Google Earth maps, for the invasive species locations in the NRMP. The IPMP's invasive species data are part of this project.*
(MIG) *The American River Parkway Foundation has been a good source of invasive plant data.*
- At the downstream bar near the bottom of the Ancil Hoffman County Park, there was a large-scale vegetation mastication project last week.
(Regional Parks) *Part of that area is our property and part of it is not our property. I believe that project was conducted by a Homeowners Association. I took photos and showed them to Liz and Mike.*
- I understand that you are using the maps developed under the IPMP. There were only about 9 or 11 species the ARPF managed intensively under the IPMP. So, the IPMP provides a limited database in that respect. I would like to recommend the NRMP use that data as a foundation, but the NRMP should incorporate more species throughout the whole Parkway. We cannot remove all invasive species, so we need to keep prioritizing species for removal. ARPF suggested using Calflora as part of the recommended management activities for invasive species.
(Regional Parks) *As part of a grant I received from CDFA, I am supposed to upload data on red sesbania, French broom, and Scotch broom to Calflora. I think it is going to be an easy process. Calflora is a good sourcing house for this information.*
That should be a strategy incorporated into the NRMP.
- (Regional Parks) *Many of these bank areas are being considered for salmonid rearing habitat and floodplain lowering. There is not a floodplain in this area that is not being considered for those activities. Please keep that in mind.*
- There is a naturalization area identified on the south side of the river and near the large City Park [Hagan Community Park]. Is there anything that can be done in that area to project what little habitat is left? There is a sliver of area there impacted by recreation spillover from the City park.
(Regional Parks) *That area provides important connectivity and needs to be managed for that function. I have noticed fireworks are lit there every year. We need to protect and enhance that area.*
- Is the Effie Yeaw area being shown as preservation?

(Regional Parks) *That leased area is not being shown at all on the maps because it is developed. The light green area is preservation and includes all of the Nature Study Area lands at Ancil Hoffman County Park.*

- I know you have been working with the American River Natural History Association (ARNHA). ARNHA is looking at restoration, which is beyond the bounds of preservation, in the Ancil Hoffman area. I want to make sure those proposed restoration activities are captured in the plan to allow ARNHA the opportunity to conduct restoration.
(Regional Parks) *The definition of preservation is being reworked to not imply we would put up a fence around an area and not let people in.*
- What is the condition of the ponds at Sacramento Bar?
(Regional Parks) *There is a large pond at the southern end of Sacramento Bar. I am not aware of any proposed fill. The ponds are not filling up with emergent vegetation. They are left over from mining activities.*
- The ponds were excavated during past aggregate mining. The southernmost pond was partially filled during a past flood event. The other ponds are currently cut off from flood flows, but are connected to groundwater. The other two ponds could be lowered, and the excavated material should fill in the southernmost pond. That effort would yield good restoration results and there would be more reliable water in the interior ponds.
- What sort of habitat value would be created by filling the southernmost pond at Sacramento Bar? USACE is still looking for habitat enhancement opportunities, correct? This would be a good way to provide enhancement and offset losses at Arden Bar.
- The southern edge of that pond was a continuous flood shoot, which induces deposition and results in a loss of habitat. If you fill that area, you will get high elevation riparian and upland species.
(ICF) *Mary may have more recent information on USACE mitigation. I do not know the exact acreages.*
So, this is a good opportunity for Mary to tell USACE to create more upland habitat to offset impacts to Arden Bar.
- Those ponds would provide good habitat for Western pond turtle. The habitat between the river and the ponds would be excellent for nesting.
(SAFCA) *How would connecting the ponds to the north to make a bigger pond affect the Western pond turtle?*
The areas to be filled in would not provide good Western pond turtle habitat, but the ponds would provide good habitat.
(SAFCA) *Are there any Western pond turtles in that area now?*
I do not know.
(SAFCA) *I think this is an idea worth pursuing. There is an opportunity to bring this up during discussion of the elimination of pond habitat at Arden Bar.*
- You can create an island out of the existing isthmus. Those larger ponds at Sacramento Bar are not connected to the river, so you do not have the connections for the salmonids.
(SAFCA) *I think overall that is a good solution if there are no collateral impacts.*

(Regional Parks) *The Water Forum has identified this area as a flow through area. Perhaps this can be part of the plan to create side channel habitat.*

(SAFCA) *My point is that USACE has unmet mitigation needs, and we would be giving them aera for mitigation. This concept would help them.*

- The Water Forum would like to put a lot of surface material in that pond. That action would create deposition, which would make the area lose gravel. Raising the elevation is a better approach in the long-term.
(SAFCA) *Okay. I will have to talk to Chris Hammersmark. When the USACE comes through looking for potential mitigation area, we can use the NRMP to direct them to a specific area and to give them comments and guidance.*
- I would like the note the NRMP needs a chapter detailing research needs moving forward. I do not know anything of the ponds, species, and habitat, but I think this potential mitigation and enhancement should be prioritized to develop some of that information.
- (Regional Parks) *Some of the areas indicated in dark green on the Rossmoor Bar map are open fields. Those areas are being considered for tree planting. This is one area on the Parkway where we still have some open space. I want to know what folks are interested in doing with our remaining fields.*
(ICF) *Please note we are looking at what is the right mix of habitat everywhere, from River Bend Park to Woodlake to Cal Expo. We are considering if locations that are not currently supporting dense stands of trees would be logical for locating new grasslands. We want a diversity of habitat. There are some areas in Rossmoor Bar that do not contain dense woodlands and that have some grassland area. There are some invasive species there too. We want a good mixture of habitats for the wildlife species. Some of these areas in Rossmoor Bar are being looked at as mitigation sites for bank protection impacts. We want to consider where we have grasslands for certain species.*
(Regional Parks) *Do any of you feel these particular fields are important? Would you be upset if these areas were planted with trees?*
(SAFCA) *I think it would be helpful if you could explain what USACE is proposing.*
(Regional Parks) *About 1/3 of that lower strip of land in Rossmoor Bar is being considered for tree planting. One way to do it is to maximize the view of the Sierra Nevada from the bike trail and the alternative is to keep the trees close to the river and maximize the contiguous grass spaces near the levee. USACE is also thinking of expanding the existing tree-occupied area. There is a portion in the southern part of that field that has been planted with oak trees and sycamore, which have done very well. In addition, USACE wants to plant elderberry in a little field in the corner where the trails come together to make an X on our maps. There is a gap in elderberry connectivity there. In the future, USACE is going to be looking at the fields in El Manto, which are going to be targeted for open space. We constantly get requests to mitigate that area.*
- That area in Rossmoor Bar near the trail crossing is prime pump track area.
- (Regional Parks) *I am interested in the wildflowers in those fields that do not occur anywhere else.*

- What are we trying to achieve in terms of open space and grasslands? Grasslands provide habitat for a variety of insects and birds. There is not an abundance of grassland on the Parkway. Pieces of land that have the potential to be better grassland habitat should not be eliminated and converted into something else. I do not think we should just go in and plant trees.
(ICF) *I do not have precise numbers, but we do know the grasslands in the Woodlake and Cal Expo areas are heavily used by raptors, though they also contain a lot of yellow star thistle. We expect the grassland to occur on the river naturally. We want to make sure we preserve and improve some of that habitat. We are not yet at the point where we can give specific acreages. We want to think about how we determine if we should convert the areas we discussed to grassland or something different.*
My point is that just because we have open space does not mean we should use it for mitigation and planting trees. I think we should be more thoughtful here.
- I have argued the Lower American River is a stable channel, but I have been reconsidering that position after looking at these two turns at Rossmoor Bar. It occurs to me that the channel margin along the edge of lower Rossmoor Bar is going to be susceptible to bank erosion in the future. I would argue that whatever you do for mitigation is supposed to exist in perpetuity. You need enough space to relocate anything located on those banks, should they erode.
- When considering whether to leave the remaining grassland, we should take a really good look at the subsoils, as some of them may or may not support only grasslands.
(Regional Parks) *A lot of these areas in Rossmoor Bar were agricultural fields and orchards. I think that is why previous tree planting projects have done so well there. So, those are deeper soils?*
(Regional Parks) *I think that is so, but I will check. This may not have always been grassland because trees may have been cleared previously.*
- In other words, the USACE and others have had success planting trees in that area, so those results indicate that area would be good for mitigation. However, since we are dealing with demand for mitigation it is important to know of other areas that would be equally favorable to establish riparian habitat. That would enable us to not give up a habitat to valuable in its own way. There are other locations that are suitable for the mitigation the USACE wants. This location is easy pickings for their mitigation, but we do not necessarily have to give them easy pickings.
- USACE planted cottonwoods at very high elevation sites. The cottonwoods survive if they have water. The ponds at Sacramento Bar have steep banks. You could probably plant a lot of riparian habitat on those banks.
(SAFCA) *I agree, and I like that idea. We are naturalizing areas heavily altered by past mining activities. The USACE is going to object to that idea, saying it would be difficult to plant those ponds compared to planting the grassland. We need to give the USACE other locations to install their mitigation that make more sense in terms of the management of the Parkway, even if that adds more to the cost of the mitigation. I think Regional Parks has that latitude.*

- (ICF) *I want to add that it is accurate to say at some point U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) did not want USACE mitigation further north than Rossmoor Bar.*
(SAFCA) *Did that request have a biological basis?*
(ICF) *I could not immediately come up with a reason behind that request.*
(Regional Parks) *I believe USFWS wanted to keep the mitigation closer to the location of impact.*
(SAFCA) *Again, that preference was formulated in the absence of an NRMP that would allow us to get a better sense of where to go with the demand for habitat enhancement in a way that would fit the Parks Department's [Regional Parks] management repertoire. This process is giving us an opportunity to take a more holistic view of management, which will allow the Parkway managers to manage in a way they see fit.*
(ICF) *We can make the argument that it would biologically be of good value to have more grassland.*
(SAFCA) *The Parkway managers should take the lead on this decision of how much grassland to keep or improve. There is value associated with this grassland.*
- (Regional Parks) *Sailor Bar is another opportunity for ponds. It is nothing like Sacramento Bar, but Sailor Bar has a lot of mined areas in which there is space for ponds. There is a bentonite pond near Olive Access at which we were going to construct a swimming hole, but it never worked. It is a low spot in the landscape, and it does not hold water. There are other pond opportunities, though the task would not be easy. It would be easier to address the ponds at Sacramento Bar.*
- Why is that area in which the Water Forum is borrowing gravel not flagged for naturalization?
(ICF) *We have identified that area for naturalization. The next step is to determine how big of a lift would be required to naturalize the area.*
(SAFCA) *That would depend on USACE's mitigation needs.*
(ICF) *That was a rhetorical question, but we are saying the area could be naturalized to provide better habitat.*
(SAFCA) *I think that next step is where you would get a sense of what a sustained landscape could look like. Then, you would match that up with what the USACE needs.*
- What are those gray areas in Sailor Bar?
(Regional Parks) *Those are mine tailings. They are historic piles of rocks that are protected. It was the location of the first electric dredge used in California.*
Are those rocks actually protected?
(SAFCA) *The rock piles have historic value. You have to comply with state and federal requirements and install some educational features.*
(Regional Parks) *When the Water Forum got their gravel borrow permits, they had to mitigate for impacts to the historic pile of rocks.*
(SAFCA) *The mitigation requires providing historic signage.*
(Regional Parks) *Correct. You do not have to rebuild another pile of rocks.*
- The rock pile area looks like an area in which enhancement should occur. I want the NRMP to identify it as such.

(ICF) *We are identifying areas to be naturalized. We have not yet determined the best type of landscape changes to get most species to survive. It is a bit of a moonscape out there at Sailor Bar. There is a reason things are not growing there currently.*

- (MIG) *Mary, you mentioned earlier there is a preference for mitigation to be located closer to the site of impact.*
(Regional Parks) *USACE is going to run out of space. If we have a plan to identify what we want, we are more likely to get funding and get the go ahead on other potential mitigation sites. There are locations people do not know about, such as a soccer field in Upper Sunrise. I do not know if anything grows there. It has been mined twice and scraped, but that field looks like it can provide some open space. It is not actually a soccer field, but it is reminiscent of one. There are other locations on the Parkway that could use some help habitat-wise.*
(SAFCA) *That is the point of our plan, to identify the areas we could use and then prioritize them.*
- Is the Upper Sunrise location about an acre in size?
(MIG) *It is 3 acres.*
(Regional Parks) *That would be an area we could improve for potential use by raptors. We will have to look at the soils.*
(Regional Parks) *That is true. I doubt the soil is very good there.*
- There is showy milkweed growing near a PG&E site further downstream. The area I am referring to could provide pollinator habitat for monarch butterflies. There is also an existing pump next to the grove. One of the PG&E mitigation sites butts up against the location of the milkweed.
(Regional Park) *Yes, I am aware of that location. It would be good to enhance that area. It is in Lower Sunrise near the parking area. There is a nice stand of milkweed there.*
- I am imagining the NRMP is held by Regional Parks, and when regulatory agencies come to Regional Parks with a proposal, Regional Parks would guidance and show the agencies where to go, as opposed to them telling Regional Parks where to put the mitigation.
(Regional Parks) *I am in favor of that idea.*
- I think it is helpful to know where to mitigate and what to mitigate for. For instance, PG&E is looking to plant trees at its mitigation sites. We do not have enough information to know whether to plant riparian vegetation, forbs, or grassland.
(ICF) *Are you referring to knowing what kind of species a mitigation site would be able to support?*
Yes, and the mitigation function the site would provide.
(Regional Parks) *Upper Sunrise has mostly been altered and mined, but it still has a lot of desirable habitat. Trees and other species have come back post-mining. The area is in a heavily altered state, but it is a preservation site we want to maintain, which is different from a lot of other areas on the Parkway.*
- I am interested in showing maximum restoration potential in the Parkway during the hydraulic modeling process. That would allow for a buffer to allow people to do as much

restoration as possible, particularly with trees and other species that might have hydraulic impact.

(ICF) *Your input is very helpful. When we put together our administrative draft, we can think of areas that might be improved and how they would be improved. We would then plug that information into the hydraulic model. There are obvious limitations in the lower river, but less limitation in the upper river. That is the path we are on. There will be some back and forth first to define thresholds. We will also need to discuss how to scale back our proposals if we go over the thresholds.*

Okay. I just want to make sure that, for example, the Effie Yeaw folks would not have to come back and have a second-round hydraulic analysis to do their proposed work.

(SAFCA) *You are not going to be able to escape getting approval, but you want to put this work on record for the hydraulic analysis. The Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) will do the hydraulic analysis. We are going to have an NRMP that would make it harder for USACE and the CVFPB to say no to restoration. That would give Effie Yeaw more leverage for the work they want to do.*

- It is very obvious when we look at the Parkway from this scale that connectivity has to be emphasized as we move forward. I am concerned we do not have enough connectivity on the south side of the river in the lower reaches. Grassland conversions would come into play there.
- I am curious about the nature of connectivity. It seems to me most of the species that move around can bridge most of the gaps and species that do not move around have a patch configuration that might be suitable to our needs. What aspects of connectivity are most important?
- We do not have recent data, but we do know there were badgers in the Parkway in the past. There was a historical distribution of species throughout the Parkway. Is that possible now? That is a question I have in my mind. I think we can come up with a list of species that previously occupied the Parkway and may even do so now.
- I think the current user demand generated by COVID-19 will stick around, rather than decrease. We should plan for higher user demand moving forward. There are sensitive landscapes that cannot handle high foot and bike traffic. I do not have a solution to protect the vegetation aside from putting up physical barriers. We need to do something. Most of the public does not realize this is not just a big city park. It is a Wild and Scenic River (WSR), for recreation albeit, but it is also not a city park. This is a rare and small remaining area of native riparian wildland. How do we protect this wildland in that environment?
- The land we have in the Parkway is limited. We should be aware of the potential for land acquisition and incorporate land acquisition as a management policy in the NRMP.
(Regional Parks) *A lot of people have their eyes on properties. A lot of the properties are in the lower Parkway. I also know the Lower American River Conservancy (LARC) is interested in purchasing property.*
(SAFCA) *I do not see a problem with including in the NRMP a policy to acquire land where possible. The policy does not need to call out specific areas.*

- I think connectivity is really important and the Parkway is an important riparian east-west connector in the region. I think it is important to remember our native insects, which cannot move freely if they do not have habitat. Native bees might go as far as 100 yards from their nesting area. I think it is important to have as much habitat connectivity as possible.

Zoom Comments

The following substantive comments were posed in the Zoom chat feature during Meeting #2. Comments are verbatim.

- In many cases these types of impacts are increasing
- Deeper pond more likely to support warm water predator fish
- pond depth should be tied to salmonid needs over fishing opportunities
- In many cases these types of impacts are increasing
- Deeper pond more likely to support warm water predator fish
- pond depth should be tied to salmonid needs over fishing opportunities
- What about adding pond habitat as a priority where best suited for fish and wildlife needs?
- Replacement of that area of pond habitat to be lost should be replaced elsewhere
- n the reaction button
- island habitat within ponds would be good for birds
- create an island out of the isthmus between the two larger upper ponds
- edge habitat and soil for burrows good for pond turtles
- also these larger pond are not connected to the river so much less interaction between predator warm water fish and trout/salmonids
- Perhaps the goal should be not to lose more grassland habitat and it will be mitigated when replaced
- And it is important to consider whether the subsoil could support trees, or can only support grasslands
- A variety of pond depths at Sac Bar may also be beneficial to turtles
- The grassland & open areas are of value but restoration of these areas could be important to provide full value by adding for a, grasses and removal of invasive.
- In the mean time, Man proposes, God disposes
- They have to do a documentation process
- historic preservation
- Absolutely that would be helpful.
- Dan is spot on.
- I believe that the increased visitor-days to the Parkway due to COVID will not drop off after the COVID threat subsides

- Connectivity for remaining and prioritized habitats is important and could be limiting in some sections of the Parkway. Our grassland discussion today could be a good example of that need.
- If that is the case, we will need to harden the high use areas, and add physical barriers to protect the natural landscape areas. There will likely never be enough money for enforcement to protect sensitive areas.
- My connectivity comment is tied to questions about the status of sensitive species with limited mobility. Connectivity and presence of adequate acreage and habitat quality may be limiting for some sensitive species formerly known from the Parkway. How do we treat this as a baseline condition?
- Every square foot counts. The pressure to reduce the useable acreage of the parkway is enormous for all sectors.
- and from all directions: Caltrans , Developers, utilities, , etc.
- Illegal trails - identifying the hardened areas. Education and signage. Additional enforcement isn't practical when current enforcement is unmanageable.
- I truly appreciated the opportunity and the time you have taken with this effort.
- everything is unstable right now

**AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY (ARP)
 NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN (NRMP)
 ARP STAKEHOLDERS GROUP MEETINGS #1 & #2**

Friday, December 4, 2020 ♦ 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
 (Meeting #1)

Friday, January 8, 2021 ♦ 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
 (Meeting #2)

Online by Zoom

**APPENDIX TO
 SUMMARY REPORT**

ATTACHMENT A: ARP STAKEHOLDERS GROUP MEMBERS & MEETING FACILITATORS

Participant	Organization/Agency	Contact Information
<i>ARP Stakeholders Group</i>		
Kelly Hopkins	Sacramento Valley Conservancy, Executive Director	Khopkins@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org
Chris Lewis	Elderberry Farms Native Plant Nursery, Founder/Director	Cnpschris@gmail.com ;
Dale Steele	Friends of Sutter's' Landing (FOSL)	Daletsteele@yahoo.com
Tom Biglione	Friends of the River	Ftbiglione@gmail.com
Michelle Stevens	Sacramento State University (Bushy Lake)	Stevensm@csus.edu
Guy Galante	N/A; Educator, Geographer, Naturalist	Guy.galante@gmail.com
Shawn Harrison	Soil Born Farms, Director	Sharrison@soilborn.org
Dianna Poggetto	American River Parkway Foundation, Executive Director	Dpoggetto@arpf.org
Dan Airola	Knowledgeable user	d.airola@sbcglobal.net
Dan Meier	Elderberry Farms	14danmeier@gmail.com
Zarah Wylly	Sacramento Tree Foundation	zarah@sactree.com
<i>Meeting Facilitators</i>		
Mary Maret	Sacramento County Regional Parks	maretm@saccounty.net
Gregg Ellis	ICF	gregg.ellis@icf.com
Leo Winternitz	American River Parkway Stakeholders	lwintern@comcast.net
Tim Washburn	Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA)	washburnt@saccounty.net
Chuck Watson	WRC Environmental	wrcwatson@yahoo.com
Jon Campbell	MIG	jcampbell@migcom.com

ATTACHMENT B: POWERPOINT SLIDES

American River Parkway Natural Resources Management Plan

Stakeholder Outreach – December 4

1

Meeting Overview

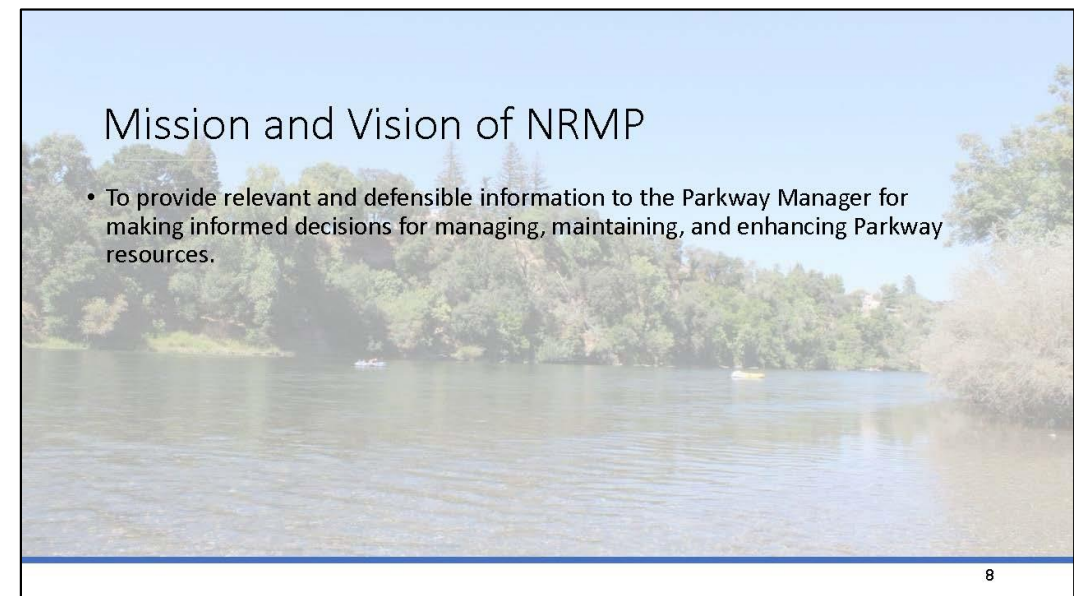
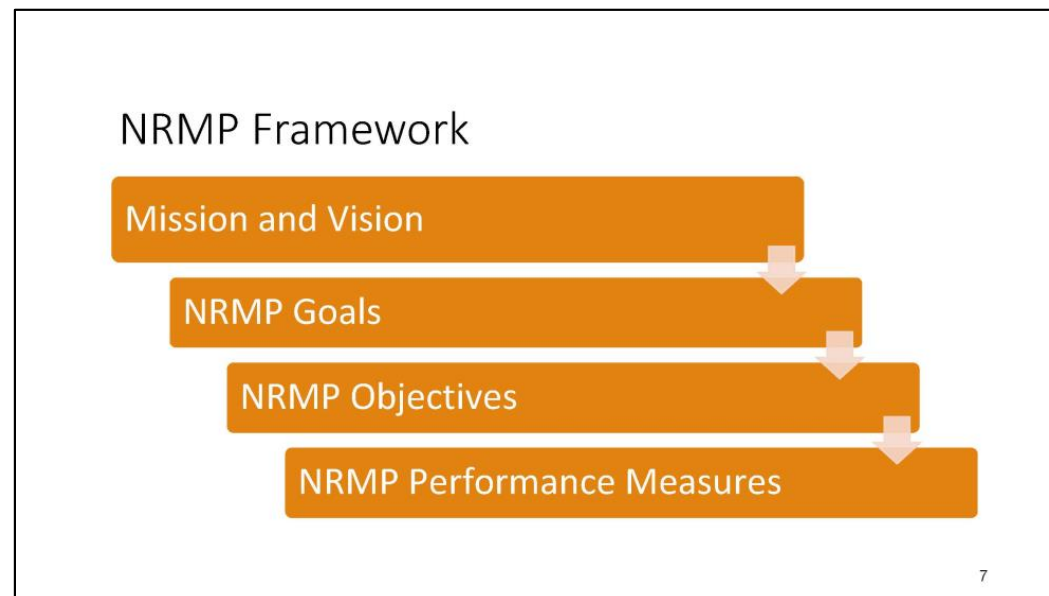
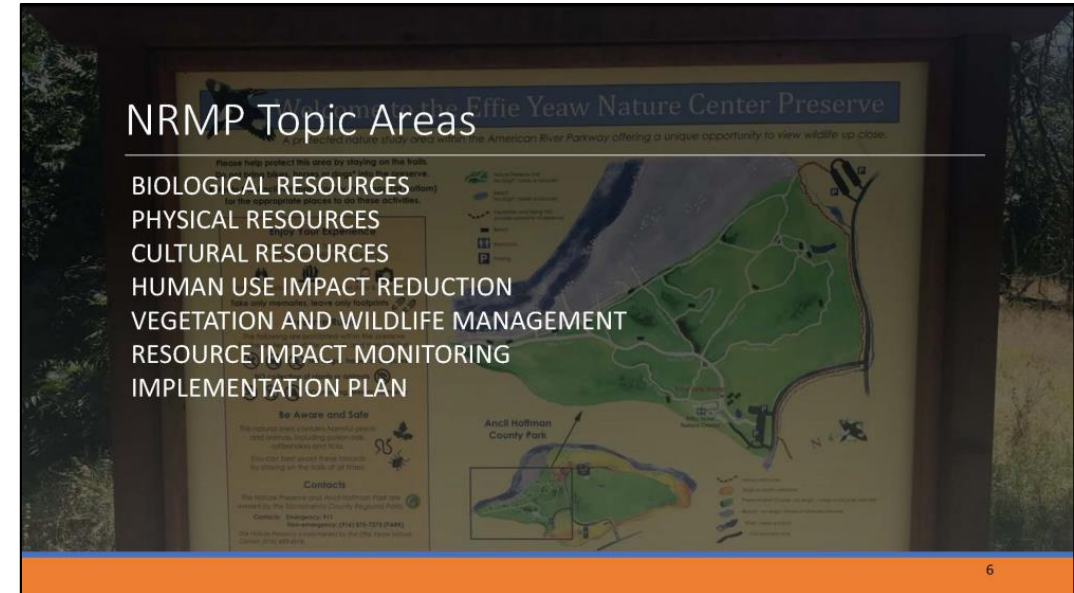
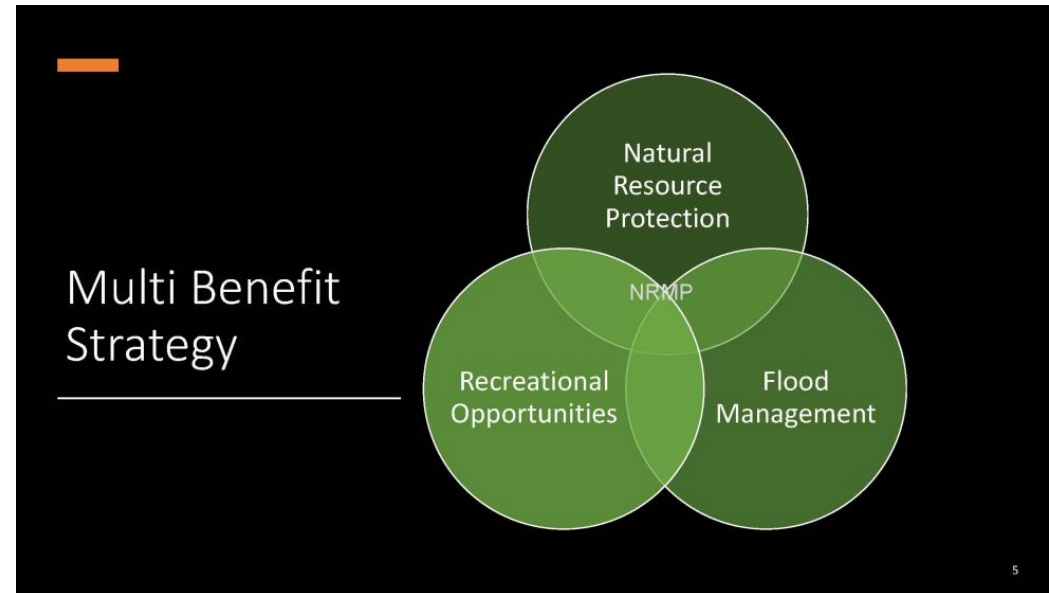
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2. NRMP Overview
3. NRMP Mapping
4. Discussion by Reach (and sub-reach)
5. Next Steps

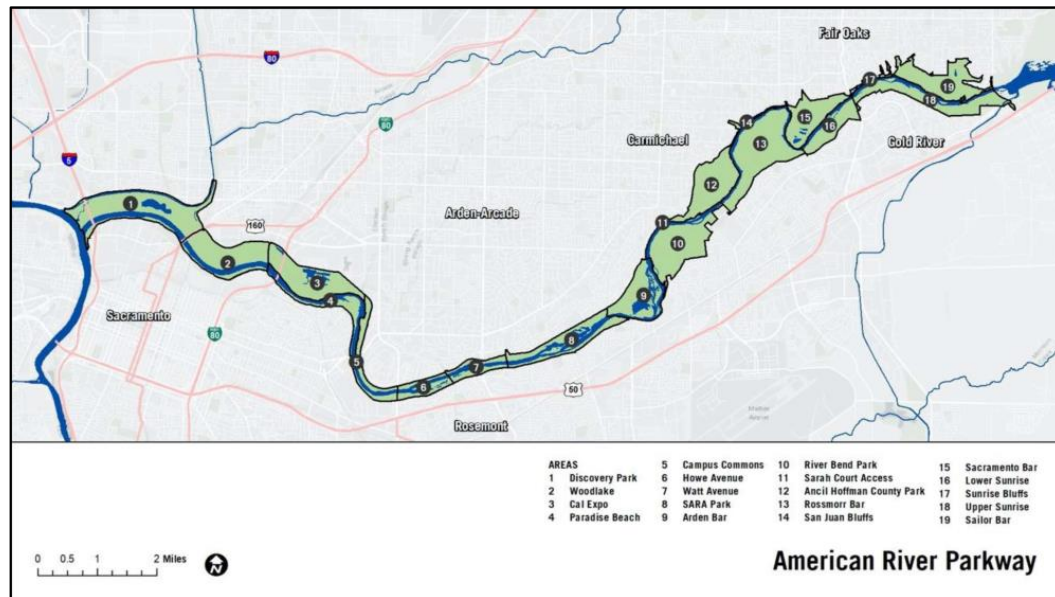
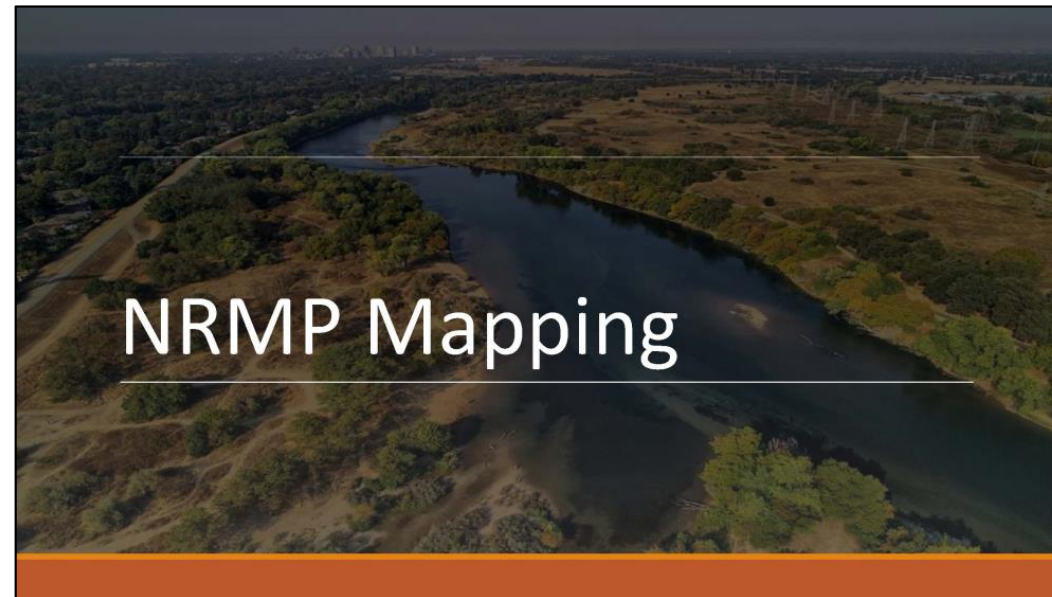
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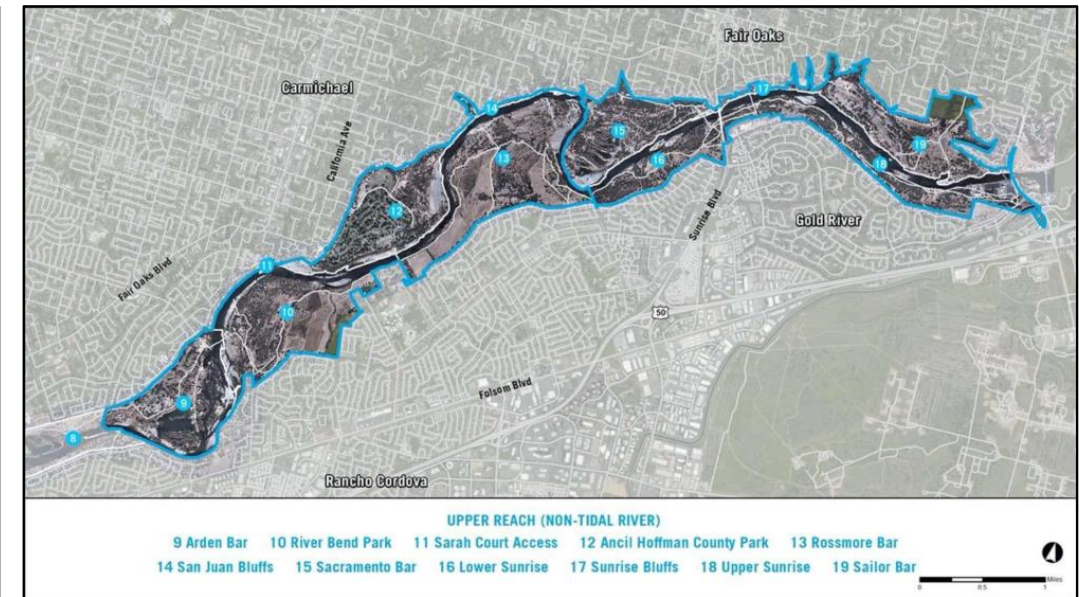
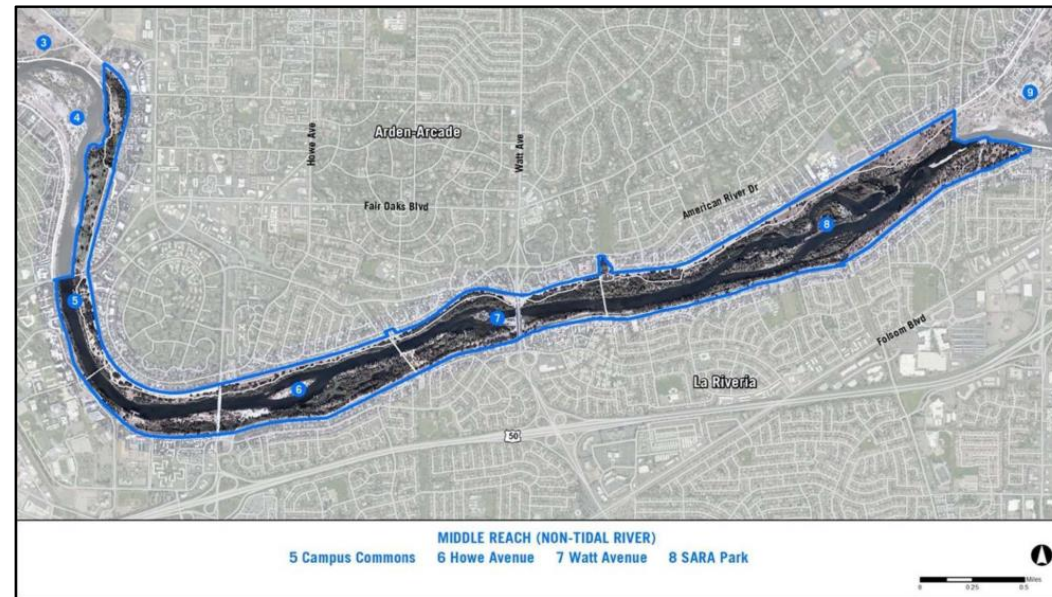
Introductions

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NRMP Overview

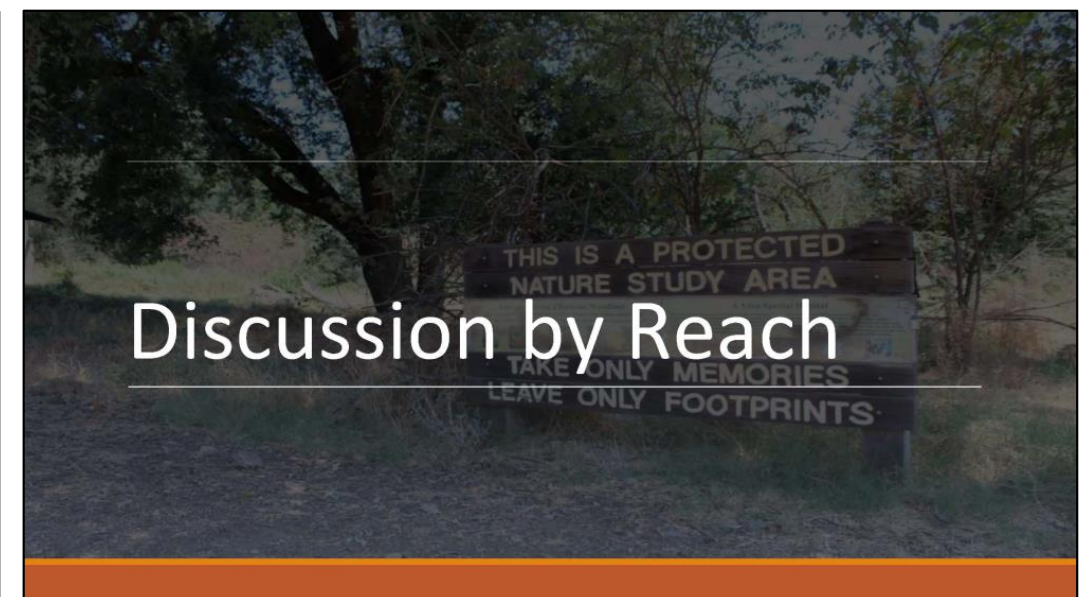






Proposed Management Categories

- Rehabilitation:** fixing a resource that has been recently degraded
- Preservation:** keeping a resource in a good or improved condition
- Enhancement:** converting an unaltered area to a different habitat type
- Naturalization:** converting a formerly altered area to a more natural condition



Questions by Goals / Goal Area

- (1) Vegetation, Habitat, and Wildlife
- (2) Water quality / Aquatic
- (3) Other Comments

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American River Parkway Natural Resources Management Plan

Stakeholder Outreach – December 4

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APPENDIX A

ARP FISHERIES STAKEHOLDERS MEETING SUMMARY REPORT

American River Parkway Natural Resources Management Plan
Summary Report | ARP Fisheries Stakeholder Group Meeting, 3/1/21

AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY (ARP) NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN (NRMP) ARP FISHERIES STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING

Friday, February 5, 2021 ♦ 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Online by Zoom

S U M M A R Y R E P O R T

INTRODUCTION

On February 5, 2021, Sacramento County Regional Parks, MIG, Inc. and ICF, Inc. co-hosted the American River Parkway (ARP) Fisheries Stakeholder Group meeting for the ARP Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP). The purpose of the meeting was to: 1) introduce the NRMP and proposed bank protection and mitigation projects to Lower American River fisheries stakeholders and 2) receive feedback from stakeholders on Parkway fisheries issues and project proposals.

Meeting Format

The ARP Fisheries Stakeholder Group meeting occurred on February 5, 2021, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. online by Zoom. Five ARP Fisheries Stakeholders and seven facilitating staff participated in the meeting (Attachment A). The meeting included presentation slides (Attachment B).

MEETING PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Bill Spain of MIG began the meeting with an overview of the meeting agenda, noting the goal of the meeting was to obtain the stakeholders' feedback on fisheries issues and fisheries-related proposals in the Parkway. He explained the meeting facilitators would first give an overview of the NRMP and then the meeting would be opened to the group for open discussion. Mr. Spain then asked for the group's permission to record the meeting. No objections were given.

All meeting participants first gave self-introductions. Mr. Spain also gave the fisheries stakeholders an introduction to MIG and its work. Mr. Spain then gave an overview of the NRMP, noting the NRMP intends to balance the complex issues of natural resources protection, recreation provision, and flood protection as a support document to the Parkway Plan. Mr. Spain ran through the key topics and chapters of the NRMP and noted the meeting would center on the topics of biological resources and physical resources. Lastly, he presented the NRMP's draft goal areas, noting MIG, ICF and Regional Parks were in the process of updating the goals and NRMP objectives. He then handed the meeting over to Gregg Ellis of ICF.

Mr. Ellis presented a series of levee bank protection projects completed under the American River Common Features Project (ARCF). He explained the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the Department of Water Resources (DWR), the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB), and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) were all collaborators on the ARCF and reviewed the additional ARCF bank protection projects that are in the works. He noted some proposed projects involve a standard design of a rock toe placed in river with a planting bench and riparian vegetation atop it, while others incorporate more innovative features, such as a rock trench that provides levee protection by releasing material under continued erosion. Mr. Ellis also noted the bank projects are intended to protect the levees in a way that also protects the resources of the Parkway, such as fisheries resources.

Mr. Ellis then asked for questions and comments. Stakeholder feedback is listed below, with facilitator responses shown in *italics*.

- What is the timeframe for construction of the future bank protection projects?
(ICF) *The construction schedule is a monster. It is challenging to get anything aligned. The first project to reach construction would be the site between H Street Bridge and Paradise Beach. Construction would begin in 2022 and there would be a 2-year construction window from 2022 to 2023. Subsequent sites would follow. We are looking at 4 or 5 years of construction needed to work through these individual sites.*
- Do you know what the timelines for mitigation would look like?
(ICF) *The ARCF group is trying to mitigate on-site as much as possible. To some degree, these projects involve the removal of trees and riparian vegetation, and impacts to the channel and its substrates. Substrate impacts include replacing or altering existing substrates, such as cobble, with angular rock. The first year of construction involves installing the structure and trench. The sites are often planted the following year, though sometimes the window extends to 2 years. Off-site mitigation is also part of the package. Some mitigation sites have been identified for the first set of future bank protection projects. We have not yet received approval for our mitigation proposals. We are proposing improvements involving riparian plantings, and planting on the bank near Rio Americano, in particular. We are also looking at some plantings in the downstream end of the Rossmoor Bar Area. One mitigation proposal may be of interest to this group. We are looking at a partial reconfiguration of the Arden Pond in which we would create a low flow channel through the southern portion of the pond to provide good shaded riverine aquatic habitat and habitat for salmonids and anadromous fish. So, those are the specific mitigation projects identified at this point. Mitigation in general would be identified in parallel with site construction. The NRMP will also identify mitigation sites. Thank you. We probably do not need to get into those additional mitigation sites at this point.*
- What is the status of the environmental review documents for this work?
(ICF) *A programmatic document was approved several years ago. Subsequent review documents are tiering off that previous document. A supplemental environmental review document was issued for the site between H Street and Paradise Beach. The public draft*

of the document was released over the summer of 2020 and the comment period occurred thereafter. The project group is awaiting a Biological Opinion. Following the issuance of the Biological Opinion, a final NEPA/CEQA document would be issued. Subsequent environmental documents are in the process of being issued for the other sites. The next document would be released in the spring or summer of 2021 for the site on the right bank between Howe Avenue and the golf course.

Mr. Ellis then handed the meeting over to Chris Hammersmark of cbec, who gave a self-introduction and explained he had worked with the Water Forum for the past 11 years on spawning habitat enhancements in the Parkway. Mr. Hammersmark explained he is currently working with the Water Forum on rearing habitat enhancements, some of which are fully designed and ready to be built, some of which are in the process of receiving permits, and some that are conceptual designs vetted through a stakeholder review process. He then described the features of the past and proposed spawning enhancements and the proposed rearing enhancement projects.

Mr. Hammersmark opened the meeting to questions and comments. Stakeholder comments and questions are listed below, with facilitator responses shown in *italics*.

- At what flow levels are these projects designed to be functional?
(cbec) *They are designed to be functional across a wide range of flows. The spawning sites are design to be functional at 1,500 to 2,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). We also make sure the habitat functions at lower flows and higher flows. They are designed to not unravel during summer operations. The gravel involved is of the appropriate size, pea gravel to 4-inch cobble. We expect the material to be mobile, and we do not expect sites to remain exactly as they are when we constructed them. They will erode and degrade over time. A series of ripples are constructed in sequences and replenish downstream areas as erosion occurs upstream. However, we do need to revisit the sites. The material is mobile at 5,000 to 6,000 cfs, and at 10,000 cfs we expect more movement. The side channels have been challenging in terms of seasonal and perennial inundation. Many fish biologists urge us to work toward a seasonal regime, but there are challenges associated with the Bureau of Reclamation's [Reclamation] water releases at the dams. This is an evolving river, and current conditions will change. Deposition and erosion will occur. We are targeting results that dry out at some points. Seasonal floodplain areas inundate as flows go above 2,000 to 5,000 cfs. Significant habitat impacts occur at 3,000 cfs, but we do not always get 3,000 cfs in the fall. We want these side channels to be seasonally beneficial. If we make them much lower, there is the risk they perennially inundate and would not provide habitat.*
- Is there the risk of redd and juvenile stranding? You are considering that possibility, correct?
(cbec) *We do not tend to have many issues with redd stranding. We work actively with Reclamation to examine those potential effects. We implement rearing design for positive drainage, and we are not trying to create stranding areas. I cannot promise a*

seasonally inundated floodplain will not have stranding, particularly when a large flow reworks things.

- What is the long-term funding source for maintenance?
(cbec) *The CVPIA provides all the funding for the Reclamation sites. The LAR continually ranks high as far as Reclamation priorities go. One of Reclamation's priorities is to maintain spawning habitat in the CVPIA streams. As long as CVPIA is there, there will be funding to support the gravel augmentation sites, either for rebuilding or maintenance. We met with Mary Maret of Regional Parks and the Parkway rangers and discussed potentially revisiting sites and providing better boat access at the same time. A big flow event may move some gravel around and make it hard for jet boats to move through the channel. We have discussed a plan to go back and tune up our ripples. Other rearing sites are funded through Proposition 68 grants. I do not know if maintenance funding is available for those sites. The Proposition 68 grant was for planning and implementation. That does not mean we would not be able to seek maintenance funding.*
- Are there any measures that are planned or designed for fish that are not salmonids?
(cbec) *No, there are no such projects that I am aware of. I try to target the full ecosystem with these restoration and habitat enhancement projects. However, in this instance, salmonid habitat enhancements have garnered funding because they are charismatic macrofauna.*
- A lot of the individuals in our club enjoy shad and striper fishing. I am curious if you would be able to target those species.
(cbec) *Growing baby salmonids also provide striper habitat, as the rocks provide structures on which the shad can spawn.*
- I am not aware of any seasonally inundated floodplain on the Parkway because of the LAR's incised channel. When you speak of creating inundated floodplains, what size are we talking about?
(cbec) *The majority of the water in the watershed flows in the LAR channel itself. One of the biggest changes in the watershed that occurred after the dams were constructed is the change in the spring snowmelt, which many native species are keyed into. We do not see a large spring snowmelt as we naturally would see. So, we are focusing on reconciliation ecology here. We are changing the land surface to work with the hydrology we have now rather than the naturally occurring and expected hydrology. We are talking about lowering gravel bars and adjacent areas by 2 to 8 feet, so they get wet more frequently. The Arden Bar project is approximately 6 acres in size, which is bigger than what we have constructed before, but it is still small compared to other sites, which can reach 20 to 25 acres in size.*
(SAFCA) *The RM 0.5 project is much smaller. We have some ideas for other sites in the lower portion of the river, but those sites are a challenge due to the cost of moving materials.*

Mr. Spain then paused the meeting to remind the stakeholders that the discussion was not intended to focus only on bank protection and Water Forum projects, and that the stakeholders could bring any fisheries-related issues to the table. Mr. Ellis also added that he would like to

know from the stakeholders of specific areas they think are good or great examples of intact, high-value fisheries habitat and areas of poor habitat.

Mr. Hammersmark continued his presentation, explaining the color-coding of the polygons displayed by Mr. Campbell in Google Earth. He noted the light blue sites signify the 10 habitat enhancement sites that have undergone programmatic permitting, and the green sites are potential rearing habitat enhancement sites. He also focused on the location of the 2015 Nimbus Basin project and the 2008-2009 Sailor Bar project that was enhanced in 2019 to add ripples and a side channel.

Mr. Hammersmark paused the meeting to ask for questions and comments. Stakeholder feedback is listed below, with facilitator comments and responses shown in *italics*.

- I have observed spawning steelhead in the side channel at upper Sailor Bar. The velocities are a bit high in the new side channel, so the new vegetation in the side channel may not hold. Also, the side channel above the footbridge has provided good spawning habitat after your group completed construction. Though, I do think you need to go in for operations and maintenance because, when the flows dropped down in velocity, there were some strandings.
(cbec) *One way to construct the side channels is the cut the channel down to make a stream. For the footbridge site, we built the channel up. It has provided excellent spawning and rearing habitat. However, with both erosion in the main channel and deposition of gravel in the side channel, it has not functioned as we want it to at low flows.*
It was wonderful habitat, but it seems to have degraded in the last year or so. Some of that has to do with people building "hot tubs" in the side channel. Also, some of the hydraulics have changed.
- I am curious what sort of monitoring system you have going and what the data is showing in terms of the effects of these projects? Do you have data on number of redds and population counts?
(cbec) *We have not been able to track a population level response, not surprisingly given the number of stressors on the population. We monitor the sites for utilization for spawning and rearing. More than 50% of the redds are being utilized each year. Some years it has been over 50%. So, we are working on determining the viability of the redds we created in comparison to natural habitat to see whether we are contributing to better egg embryo success. We conduct physical monitoring at the sites to understand how the sites evolve over time. We have not been able to document a population-level response, unfortunately.*
That sounds perfect. I am not at all surprised you have not been able to track a population level response, which is challenging.
- A graduate student at Sacramento State did some comparative work with respect to juvenile habitats on the LAR. I am not sure if the thesis has been finalized. There was some monitoring conducted indicating limited steelhead use of the side channel areas.

Thermal conditions in the river are challenging for steelhead in general. A lot of this influences the Chinook salmon population. The issue really comes down to flow and temperature conditions. Those conditions are the overall constraints on the productivity of the river system. We are seeing these effects in sports fishery. There has been a late arrival of fall run Chinook, which then has a variety of impacts on the system. It is difficult to track populations, unfortunately. Juvenile Chinook salmon are so dynamic, as some leave early and some stay longer. Hopefully, what you would see is an increase in population, but we have not seen that just yet.

(cbec) *Are you referring to Whitney's work? If so, I have it.*

Yes, I am referring to Whitney's work. Do you know if it was finalized?

(cbec) *Whitney sent me a version she called finalized.*

- There have been some recreational impacts on fisheries in the upper river. There seems to be a fair amount of stomping on redds. I sometimes see 5 or 6 people lined up in the channels fishing. The impacts are hard to calculate and quantify, but I do believe this is a real impact. Whether education or information would solve the issue, I am not sure, but we do need to consider this issue.

(MIG) *This impact is not intentional, correct?*

Correct. Sport anglers line up on every ripple from Sailor Bar down to the Sunrise foot bridges on New Year's Day. I do not want to imply this is a regulatory issue. We open the fishery every year when steelhead start spawning. The new redds get these lines glossed across them. Again, this is an impact I have only observed, and I do not have any data at this time.

(ARPF) *This issue should be addressed in the NRMP through education. We need to acknowledge these problems before we solve them. Education is a significant management tool. Perhaps we can also employ signage.*

- Are we managing for steelhead and Chinook, especially in the side channel we were discussing? It is a direct statement to what resources we are managing at the moment.

(MIG) *One of our tasks is to develop a more in-depth interpretation plan for the Parkway.*

(MIG) *We also have a human use impact reduction goal in the NRMP. Does your comment pertain to the entire river or only to the upper river?*

My comment is specific to the upper river. There are types of impacts that are also seasonally dependent. The primary impacts are in the upper river, though you do see Chinook salmon spawning down to Paradise Beach.

(cbec) *I agree. We have more fish spawning in the upper river. Recreational impacts to spawning at Nimbus Basin are awful. We see more impacts to spawning areas that are more easily accessible to fishermen.*

- Have you noticed any impacts of the gravel augmentation projects on drift boating?
(cbec) *Not necessarily. I have not seen any significant impacts. You might see a riffle get deeper or shallower, but nothing big.*
- I would like to circle back to the wading issue. This issue has come up repeatedly over time. At one point, our regional office put up some signage. It was modest and not something that would persist over time. We should employ education tactics to get anglers to be more aware of the situation. Additionally, it is tough to get data on the

pervasiveness of the impacts of wading on redds. We would need to determine the frequency of impacts and the timing of impacts relative to spawning. When fry get closer to the surface of the water, they are more vulnerable to the effects of wading. It could be useful to gather more specific information.

(Stakeholder) I do not think there is any information other than observational information at this point.

There is a bit of literature, but nothing definitive. It is a tough issue to study, but we need to get people to appreciate this issue could be a problem for juvenile fish survival.

Mr. Spain then asked Mary Maret of Sacramento County Regional Parks to speak to potential solutions to the issue of solid waste left in the river by boaters. Ms. Maret described a program to require concessionaries to provide sealable mesh bags to boaters and rafters on river systems and suggested implementing such a program on the LAR. Mr. Spain asked for feedback on a potential mesh bag requirement for trash. No feedback was given.

Mr. Ellis continued the presentation, moving on to the middle Reach of the river and describing the potential projects and mitigation planned for the reach. He asked the stakeholders for their thoughts on what habitat could be improved in the middle Reach of the river considering the reach contains elevations that inundate under higher flows (15,000 to 50,000 cfs). Mr. Hammersmark stepped in to note that Arden pond is a potential project location and the USACE is proposing to fill 2/3 of the existing pond and leave 1/3 of the pond for recreational use. Ms. Maret added more detail to Mr. Hammersmark's introduction, noting the pond would be dredged in its southern half and filled in the northern half, which would create more bass habitat in the northern portion of the pond. A channel would then be constructed to run through the former southern half of the pond to provide an inlet and outlet from juvenile fish rearing. In addition, she noted the project proposes to create two small side channels on the bank of the river downstream of the existing pond and use the material to fill part of the pond.

Several stakeholders then posed questions. Stakeholder questions and comments are listed below, with facilitator comments and questions shown in *italics*.

- Will the dry land we see now downstream of the pond be degraded and turned into a seasonal floodplain?
(Regional Parks) *There is a trail that runs through that area. The trail would be rerouted. Lowering the floodplain would create seasonally flooded habitat.*
- Do you have any conceptual designs or LiDar designs for this project?
(Regional Parks) *A presentation given recently incorporated the project design. The presentation recording is up on the Regional Parks website.*
- I heard the waterside of the pond is the portion that is going to be filled and the northern portion is going to be dredged, which is the opposite of what you presented.
(Regional Parks) *That is correct. The northern portion of the pond is quite shallow, so we will dredge it down to 6 feet and keep that deeper part of the pond for fishing. There is*

currently about 50 feet of emergent vegetation, water primrose, making it hard to throw a fishing line into the pond.

I would like to point out the bird folks would like the pond to be fully isolated. The pond attracts its own unique set of diving bird species.

Mr. Spain then directed the conversation to the lower reach of the river. Mr. Ellis indicated many of the bank protection sites he referenced early in the meeting are located in the lower reach of the river. Specifically, he pointed out an island remnant of historical mining in the Howe Avenue Area and explained his team's thoughts on how to improve habitat in that segment of the river by dredging the island, replanting vegetation, and lowering overbank area on the left bank of the river. He then asked the group for comments and questions, which are listed below. Facilitator comments and responses are shown in *italics*.

- How far down are you going to dredge the island below the surface of the water?
(ICF) The target is 1.5 to 2 feet below the water surface at 800 cfs. It would be inundated at all times, but not to a substantial depth. It would be a bit lower than the ripple shown between the island and the north bank.
- I am curious about all the areas colored green in the secondary channel areas.
(cbec) Those are areas for potential modification, but modifications will not be implemented in the exact locations depicted. The bank protection group would employ a slightly different design.
So, the secondary channels would remain more or less as they are currently? They are major stranding areas.
(cbec) Our vision was to fill them so there would still be a small side channel, but we would create a seasonally inundated floodplain.
(ICF) We want to lower that same area but along the river's edge. Our work would extend back into those channels. I think the trend is these areas are slowly aggrading and filling with materials. We are open to exploring proposals beyond what the bank protection efforts have developed if the proposals make sense.
(SAFCA) The USACE does not preclude doing that labor, but the design does not currently incorporate it. That area remains a potential opportunity.
(ICF) If anything else is done in this reach, a lot of thought needs to be given to roughness components. We need to think about the hydraulics we would have at the water surface elevation.
- I think this area provides a good opportunity. That island is very perched and unfunctional. What we can do with that material is up for debate. It is a low hanging fruit in the Parkway and would be good to move.

Mr. Ellis continued the meeting, describing an additional bank protection project planned for the left bank of the river across from the Campus Commons Golf Course. The project would lay back the existing steep left bank and install buried rock, and construct a gentle slope with plantings on the right bank. Lower elevations would be available for fish at flows of 2,000 cfs and above.

Ms. Maret then noted a potential project depicted at Paradise Beach that was unlikely to move forward as the Parks Department is hesitant to impact recreational use of the area.

A stakeholder posed the following question. Facilitator comments and responses are shown in *italics*.

- Is this area entirely backflow channel?
(cbec) Some of the area is intended as lower alcove and backflow channel. Some portions of it were called out for revegetation. However, this is a sensitive location for recreation and flood control, so any project there would be a challenge to implement.

Tim Washburn of SAFCA then described the USACE Ecosystem Restoration concept for Woodlake and Cal Expo authorized in 2003. Mr. Ellis gave a brief overview of the current fisheries conditions at the Woodlake Area and described proposed terrestrial and aquatic habitat restoration and enhancement projects for the Area. Mr. Washburn commented on the Urrutia site in the Discovery Park Area, noting SAFCA is currently in discussion with the site owner to transition the property to public ownership. The Urrutia project, if realized, would become part of the USACE mitigation program and would consist of a major landscape transformation through lowering the bank to create a floodplain. He noted the pond would be filled in, but also pointed to a pond equal in size further upstream that could be improved to provide habitat for deep water birds.

Mr. Spain then described the upcoming schedule for NRMP development, noting a public draft would be released in mid-March and a Supplemental EIR would be produced later in 2021. Additionally, he noted MIG and Regional Parks plan to host 4 public outreach meetings, including an American River Parkway Advisory Committee meeting planned for the next day. He asked the fisheries stakeholders to contribute their comments in the future, including during the public draft NRMP and Supplemental EIR public review phases. Mr. Spain thanked the stakeholders for their participation and ended the meeting.

**AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY
 NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN (NRMP)
 NRMP FISHERIES STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING**

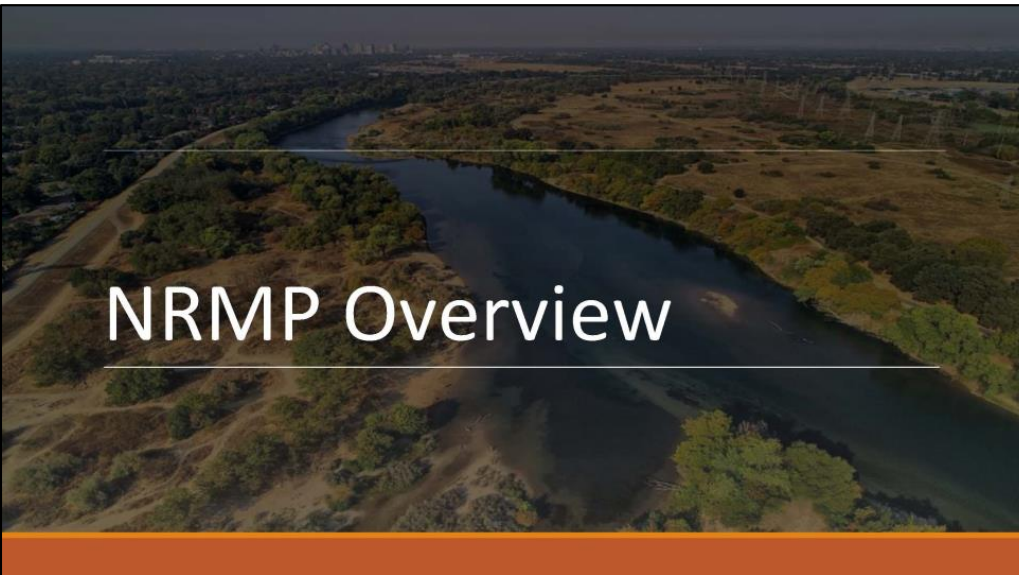
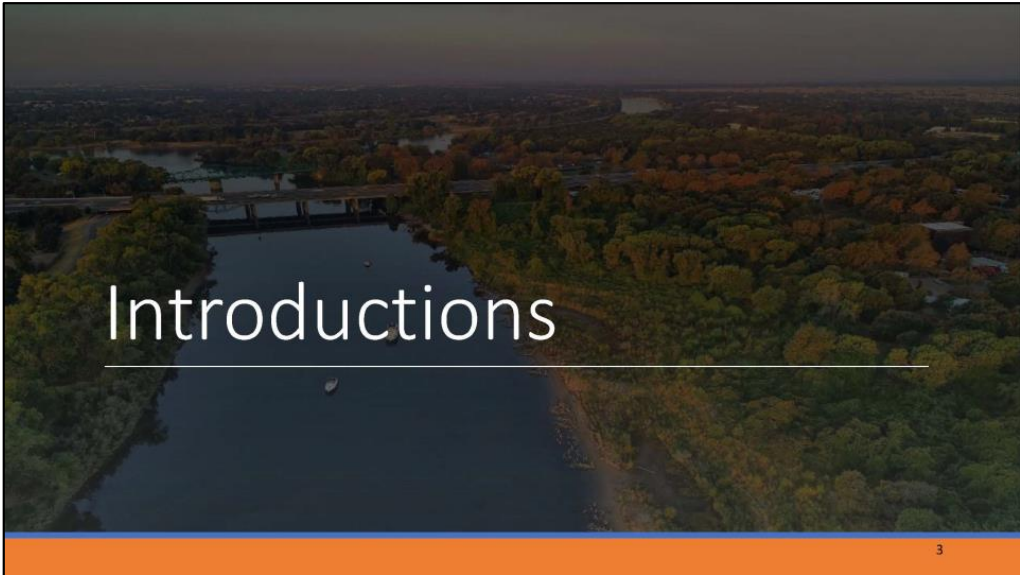
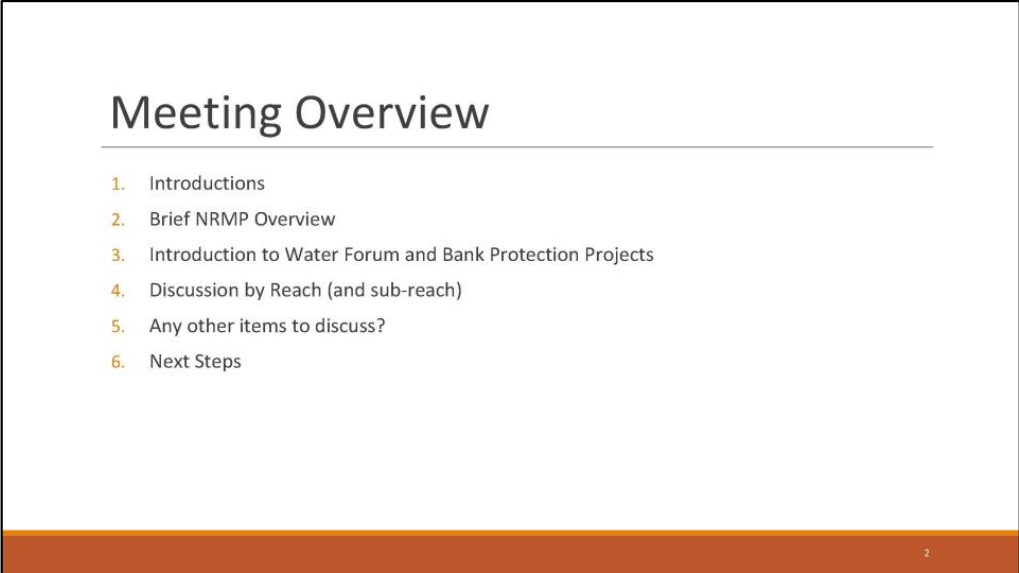
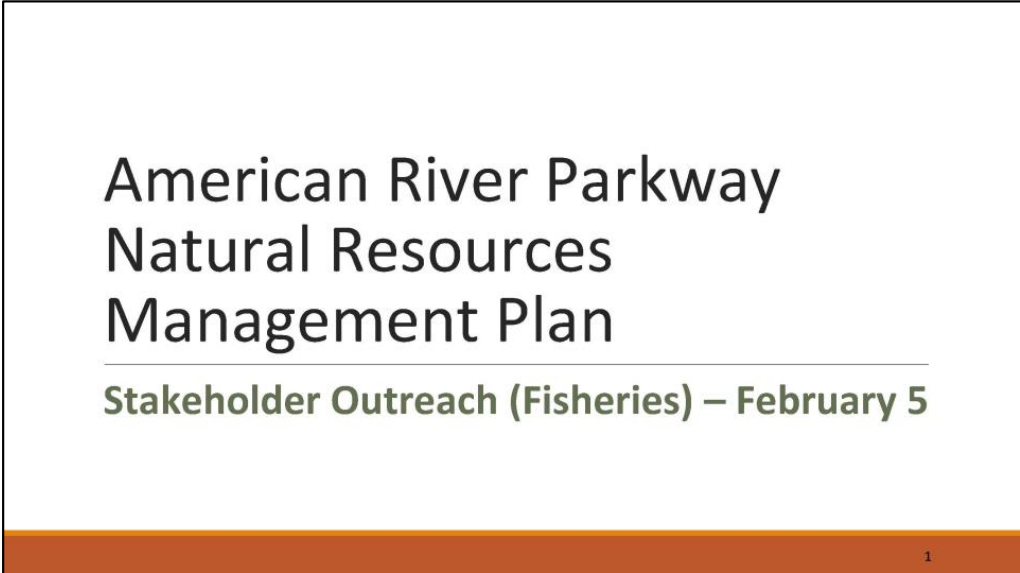
Friday, February 5, 2021 ♦ 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
 Online by Zoom

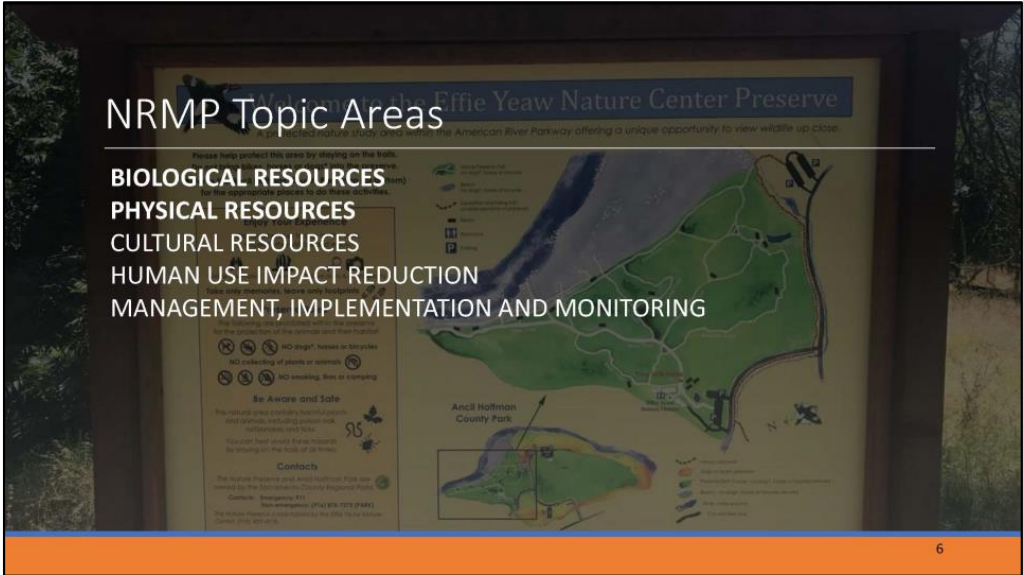
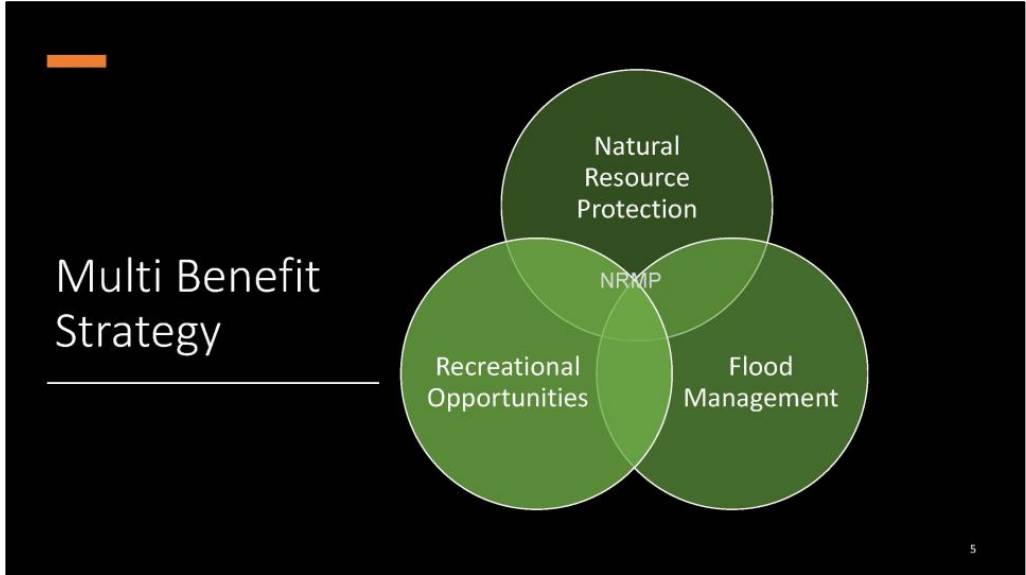
**APPENDIX TO
 SUMMARY REPORT**

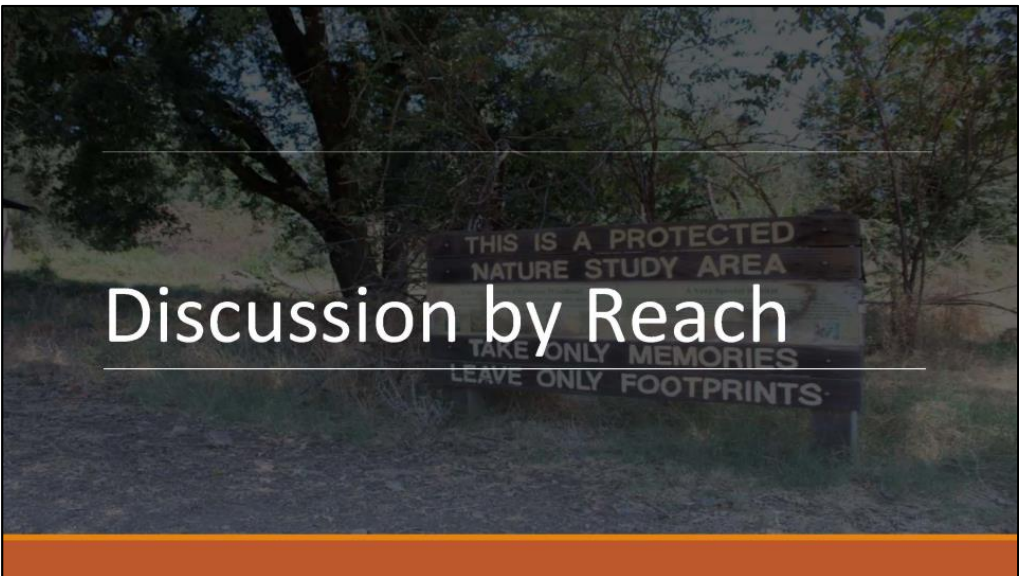
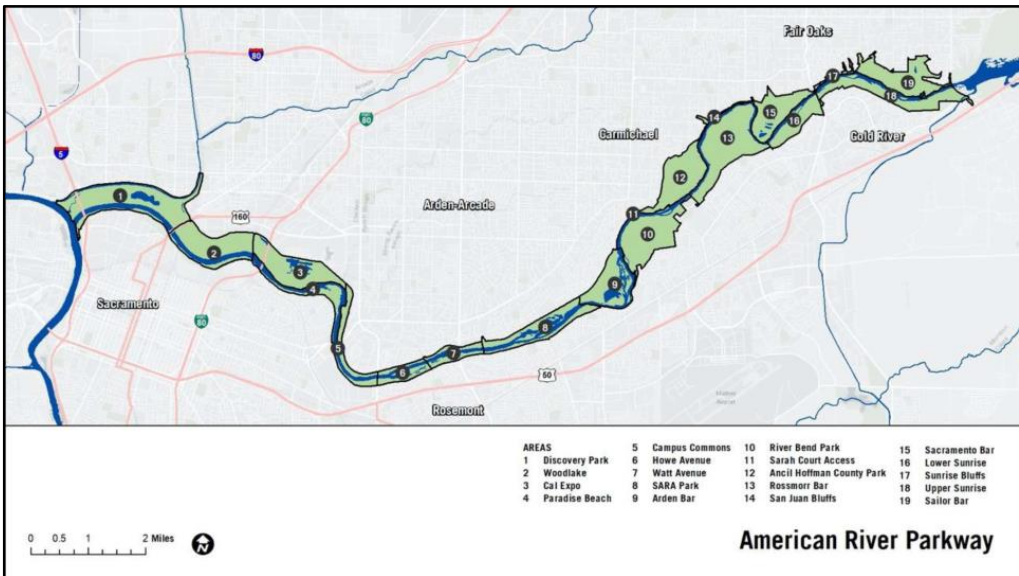
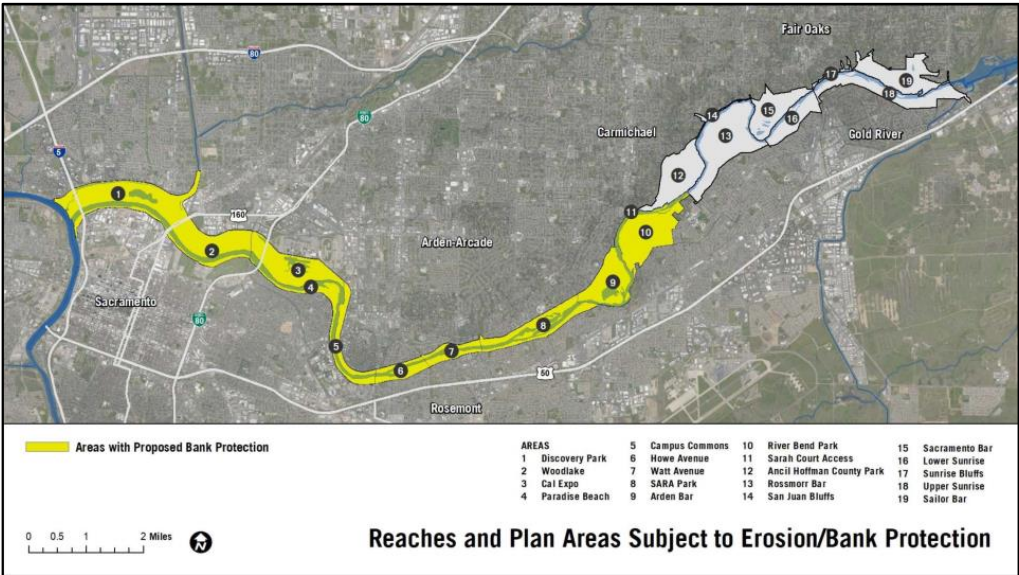
ATTACHMENT A: MEETING PARTICIPANTS

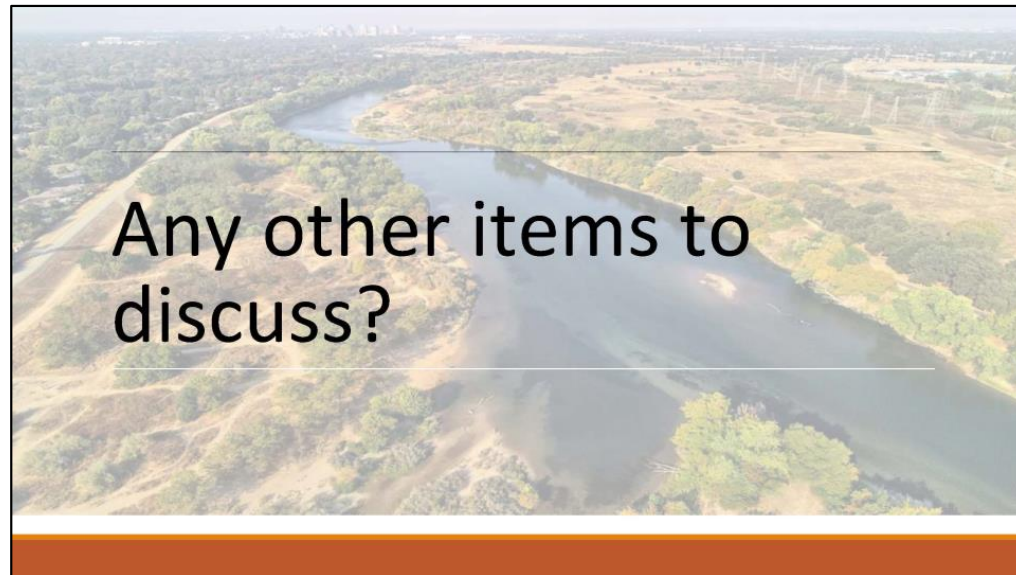
Participant	Organization	Email Address
<i>ARP Fisheries Stakeholders</i>		
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Chris Hammersmark	The Water Forum (cbec)	c.hammersmark@cbecoeng.com
Tim Washburn	Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA)	washburnt@saccounty.net
Leo Winternitz	American River Parkway Stakeholders	lwintern@comcast.net

ATTACHMENT B: POWERPOINT SLIDES





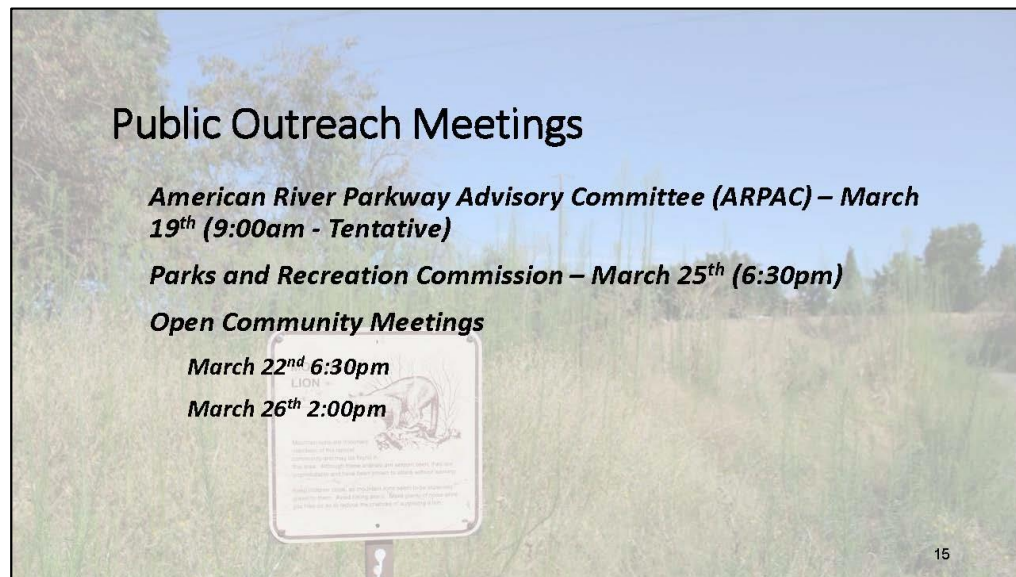




Next Steps

- Public Review Draft Released in Mid-March
- 60-day review
- CEQA Review through the Fall

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American River Parkway Natural Resources Management Plan

Stakeholder Outreach (Fisheries) – February 5

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