

CHARTER

The Floodplains Reimagined is a regional program which convenes stakeholders to voluntarily and collaboratively develop actions that reactivate floodplains on the East and West sides of the Sacramento River in the Sutter, Butte, and Colusa basins. This program will work in concert with a constellation of efforts underway in the Colusa, Butte, and Sutter Basins in the Mid-Sacramento River Valley region to reactivate the floodplains to support salmon, birds, and agriculture.

This Charter outlines the vision, objectives, preservation of authority, program structure, and protocols for the Floodplains Reimagined Program (Program). Commitment to this Charter constitutes a commitment on behalf of the Program's participants to contribute to the overall Floodplains Reimagined Program vision.

Vision for Floodplains Reimagined Program

Improve floodplain function for multiple purposes through voluntary collaborative partnerships with private landowners, sovereign tribal entities, government and non-government representatives.

Priorities

Floodplain functional connectivity complements the multiple priorities of • floodplain connectivity • ecosystem health • floodplain wildlife • water supply • water quality • flood control • indigenous cultural values • agriculture • recreation • economic prosperity • carbon as a greenhouse gas • community way of life • collaboration • urgency • resiliency and flexibility.

Program Objectives

1. Enhance floodplain functional connectivity.
2. Increase abundance of fish and birds.
3. Improve water reliability and quality.
4. Seek opportunities to enhance floodplain function for multiple benefits.

Process Objectives

1. A voluntary, locally-driven program that serves as a hub for all floodplain related efforts in the region to ensure efficiency and promote coordinated actions.
2. Shared understanding of each other's interests, joint investigation, and collaborative generation of options and evaluation.
3. Mutual respect and appreciation cultivated between sovereign tribal entities, private landowners, government and non-government representatives.

4. Respect and work within existing land ownership and uses; indigenous land stewardship and cultural resources; and flood management functions, including operations and maintenance.

Preservation of Authority

Participants do not delegate their legal and regulatory authorities to the Program, and the Program lacks authority to bind participating parties.

This Program does not supplant or limit existing federal, state, or tribal decision-making processes, management, or regulatory authorities.

Program Structure



Program Management Team

1. Role

Grant administration and deliverables, for example:

- a. CNRA Grant deliverables include: Monthly progress reports, Technical memorandum, tools for decision support and evaluation, reports.
- b. Support a legitimate process characterized by open and transparent exchange of information, mutual respect, inclusivity, and equity.



Steering Committee

1. Membership

- a. The Steering Committee will be made up of a subset of no more than eleven (11) members of the Advisory Committee.
- b. The Program manager with the funding agreement must serve on the Steering Committee and represent one of the following three categories
- c. Steering Committee members will represent the following categories of Program participants:
 - i. Local representatives (3)
 1. water districts
 2. private lands or their representatives
 - ii. Conservation and Science representatives (3)
 1. NGOs
 2. Research institutions
 - iii. Federal and state agencies (4)
 1. State: DWR and CDFW
 2. Federal: NMFS and USFWS
 - iv. Tribes (1)
- d. Steering Committee members will work with the facilitation team to identify new Steering Committee members as positions become vacant.

- e. Membership of less than the 10 members as long as there is a proportional balance within one member between the three above categories. For example, there may be representation as follows:
 - i. Water district, private lands or their representatives (2)
 - ii. Conservation NGOs and research institutions (2)
 - iii. Federal and state agencies – (3)

2. Eligibility

- a. Experience and skill in participating in collaborative processes.
- b. Subject matter expertise.
- c. Key people connectors between related efforts in the geographic scope and the floodplain community.
- d. Decision making authority must be appropriate for steering the Program.
- e. Must be able to participate in 75% of the monthly Steering Committee meetings each year. Assume 11 meetings per year to accommodate a cancelled meeting or holiday.
 - i. Can identify an alternate if they cannot attend some meetings. The alternate is limited to 25% or less of the meetings.
 - ii. The primary Steering Committee member must review the selection of the alternate with the rest of the Steering Committee and facilitation team and brief the alternate to maintain continuity.

3. Role

- a. Steer the program by working with the program manager to design and provide feedback on the process, approach and materials.
- b. Adopt key deliverables; review recommendations from Advisory Committee including alternatives and divergence and convergence of viewpoints.
- c. Learn about each other's interests to support development of multi-benefit actions.
- d. Coordinate with other Advisory Committee members to represent your sector's interests in an open and transparent exchange of information and interests.

4. Decision-making

- a. Strive for foundational consensus, understanding alternatives will be tracked and reported. Test for support and identify areas of convergence and divergence. Alternatives may be presented as a toolkit of options for the next phase of implementation. Where there is divergence, products will reflect the outstanding divergence and the Program Management Team will decide on the path forward to meet the grant agreement deliverables. In the case of divergence that is impeding progress, the facilitator may mediate between parties outside the Steering Committee.
- b. Key input and decisions include: adoption of decision support tools, evaluation criteria, suite of potential actions, assessment of expected benefits, and implementation strategy.



Advisory Committee

1. Membership

- a. Open membership representing broad scope of interests including but not limited to: private landowners; hunting clubs; wetland preserves; local, state, and federal agencies; tribes; flood managers and maintainers; water suppliers; non-governmental organizations; research institutions; groundwater sustainability agencies; and resource conservation districts.
- b. Organizations will select one primary member and, if necessary, one alternate to encourage consistency of participation.
- c. The Steering Committee member is not required to be the primary member on the Advisory Committee but must coordinate closely with the primary member.

2. Role

- a. Advise Steering Committee on adoption of key work products and Ad Hoc Group input on decision support tools, evaluation criteria, potential actions, expected benefits, and implementation strategy.
- b. Learn about each other's interests, related efforts, and science to support recommendations that meet multiple interests.
- c. Offer a broad range of interests, perspectives, and information to inform the Ad Hoc Group development of multi-benefit options.
- d. Coordinate with the Ad Hoc Group to understand technical input and articulate interests to guide technical analysis.
- e. Participate in an open and transparent exchange of information and interests.

3. Recommendations

- a. The Advisory Committee makes recommendations. The Committee members seek to understand and learn about each other's interests. The Committee is not required to come to a consensus agreement to make its recommendations.
- b. The facilitator will test for support and identify areas of convergence and divergence. Where there is divergence, the Committee's recommendations will reflect different viewpoints.



Ad Hoc Group

1. Membership

- c. Representatives of the broad interests of the Advisory Committee who can contribute to the topical, regional, and/or technical interests. It is encouraged but not required for Advisory Committee members or their technical staff to serve on the Ad Hoc Group.
- d. Consultants and research institutions are welcome to join the Ad Hoc Group to inform the exploration and development of options to meet multiple benefits.
- e. Members may differ from those serving on the Advisory Committee but must be closely coordinated.

2. Role

- a. Share topical, regional, scientific, and technical information to generate and evaluate options that meet multiple benefits.
- b. Learn about other member's interests and scientific and technical input.
- c. Review and inform development of decision support tools and quantification of benefits.
- d. Brief Advisory Committee members in and outside the Advisory Committee meetings.
- e. Inform landowner assistance program development, permitting, implementation, and plans for operations and maintenance, as appropriate to the work of the Program.
- f. Participate in an open and transparent exchange of scientific and technical information.

3. Recommendations

- a. The Ad Hoc Group makes topical, regional, and technical recommendations. The members seek to understand and learn about each other's interests. The members are not required to come to a consensus agreement to make its recommendations.
- b. The facilitator will test for support and identify areas of convergence and divergence. Where there is divergence, the Ad Hoc Group's recommendations will reflect different viewpoints.

Tribal Engagement

The Program will design and adapt its tribal engagement to the preferences of federal and non-federal tribes with significant stake in the Program. The Program will strive to establish meaningful dialogue between the Program and the tribes.

Interested Stakeholders

Interested stakeholders who are not participating in any of the program's groups may participate in Floodplains Reimagined events, programs, technical assistance, and other stakeholder engagement, as appropriate.

Communications and Media

Program participants agree to honor and sustain the constructive, collaborative process through their communications outside their organizations.

Program participants are free to speak with the media from their perspectives as individuals or representatives of their respective organizations. However, participants will not serve as a spokesperson on behalf of the Program and will not attribute statements, views, or motives to other participants.

Program participants are advised that documents provided by or related to the Program's efforts may be subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act (Cal. Govt. Code Section 6250 et seq.) Discussions are meant to be informal and promote mutual education, understanding, and creativity in support of informed decision making.

Participation and Collaboration Protocols

Participants commit to the following principles:

- Participate in an active and focused manner.
- Interact respectfully with all other participants, regardless of differences in perspectives.
- Bring curiosity to learn from other members about their interests.
- Be hard on the problems, not the people.
- Seek solutions that integrate diverse interests and views.
- Be prepared to share your interests, knowledge, and relevant information.

Participation will not limit an individual's right to comment during any environmental review process.

Facilitation Team

The facilitation team will:

- Design, advocate for, and maintain a legitimate and inclusive process based on interest-based negotiations and other structured decision-making processes as appropriate.
- Maintain a neutral, non-partisan stance about the program content choices, solutions, and substantive outcomes.
- Support equity, inclusivity, and integrity of process.
- Prioritize shared understanding of interests, science, and options among Program participants.
- Support an open and transparent exchange of information.