



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**®  
Sacramento District

# Yuba River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study

Sierra, Placer, Yuba, and Nevada Counties, CA

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1. **LEAD AGENCIES:**

US Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District (Corps)  
Yuba County Water Agency (YCWA)

2. **BACKGROUND:** In 2014 the U.S. Congress provided appropriations for the Corps to initiate three new ecosystem restoration studies, one of which was for the Yuba River, California. One of the Corps' primary mission areas is Ecosystem Restoration to improve significant ecosystem function, structure, and dynamic processes that have been degraded. The program focuses on aquatic and related riparian habitats. A reconnaissance report completed in September 2014 determined that there are significant National Ecosystem Restoration (NER) benefits associated with restoration of structures, functions, and processes in the Yuba River and recommended proceeding with the feasibility phase of the study. The feasibility phase was formally initiated in June 2015 with the signing of a feasibility cost sharing agreement by the Corps and YCWA. Corps feasibility studies are to be completed within three years and at a cost not to exceed \$3 Million. Feasibility studies can result in a recommendation to Congress for authorization. Implementation of any recommended action is dependent upon authorization and subsequent funding.

3. **PURPOSE:** The feasibility study is evaluating opportunities for ecosystem restoration to address the following problems in the Yuba River Watershed:
- The quality and quantity of aquatic, riparian, and general floodplain habitat has been diminished. Ecosystem structure, functions, and dynamic processes are degraded.
  - Aquatic habitat, including riparian forests and wetlands, is fragmented.

4. **STUDY AREA:** The Yuba River Watershed encompasses 1,340 square miles on the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range, and is located in portions of Sierra, Placer, Yuba, and Nevada counties. The Yuba River is a tributary of the Feather River which, in turn, flows into the Sacramento River near the town of Verona, California.

The Yuba River flows through forest, foothill chaparral, and agricultural lands. Levees are absent from most of its course except for near the river's confluence with the Feather River. At that point, the Yuba River is bounded by setback levees for approximately six miles.

5. **STUDY PROCESS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** The Corps and YCWA will prepare a feasibility study that explores opportunities for ecosystem restoration in the Yuba River watershed and ultimately recommends a course of action. During this process the Corps and YCWA will work to solicit and incorporate public concerns into the study. The first chance for the public to

comment is at a Public Scoping meeting or by submitting written comment during the public scoping period. The Corps will incorporate public comments into the development and analysis of an array of alternatives. A draft environmental impact statement, describing the tentatively recommended plan will be circulated for public comment. The final environmental impact statement document will incorporate public comments.

6. **HOW TO COMMENT:**

- Oral comments can be recorded at Public Scoping meetings
- Written comments should be submitted within 30 days and addressed to:

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District**  
**Attn: Michael Fong, CESP-K-PD-RP**  
**1325 J Street**  
**Sacramento, CA, 95814-2922**

- E-mail comments should be submitted within 30 days and addressed to:

***Michael.R.Fong@usace.army.mil.***

Requests to be placed on the mailing list should also be sent to this address.

You can stay up to date on the progress of the Yuba River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study by visiting [bit.ly/YubaEcoRestoration](http://bit.ly/YubaEcoRestoration).

