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May 15, 2025

Mary Jimenez

California Department of Water Resources

715 P Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Solano County Comments / Yolo Bypass Cache Slough Master Plan Public Review Draft**

Dear Ms. Jimenez:

On behalf of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, I am submitting this letter to provide formal comments on the Public Review Draft of the Yolo Bypass Cache Slough (YBCS) Master Plan, released March 31, 2025.

Solano County appreciates the significant effort made by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) to address prior comments submitted on the Administrative and Backcheck Drafts. We support the final Master Plan purpose statements that recognize the State's leadership role while advancing the goals of the YBCS Partnership consistent with the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP), the Comprehensive Study, and California Water Code Sections 8510-8512.

While improvements have been made, Solano County maintains several critical concerns about the Public Review Draft. We respectfully request additional revisions to better align the Master Plan with regional priorities for flood protection, agricultural sustainability, water supply reliability, and local economic resilience.

To support this letter, we have attached a detailed memorandum summarizing Solano County's requested revisions to the Master Plan to address key concerns raised in our August 2024 comment letter. The memorandum outlines comments that have only been partially addressed and identifies critical areas where further updates are necessary.

**In summary, Solano County requests that the following high-priority revisions be incorporated into the final Master Plan:**

- Add clear commitments to fund and complete a Partnership Implementation Plan within 1-3 years.
- Incorporate stronger support for "single-purpose" flood risk reduction projects alongside multi-benefit projects.
- Expand trade-off analyses to fully address agricultural, social, and economic impacts.
- Clarify project advancement pathways for both hydraulic analysis projects and other listed projects.
- Strengthen frameworks for long-term flood system operations, maintenance, and funding sustainability.
- Expand recognition of agriculture's vital role in regional resilience and system maintenance.

Solano County Board of Supervisors  
Yolo Bypass Cache Slough Master Plan  
May 15, 2025

We appreciate the State's ongoing collaboration and reiterate our commitment to working in partnership to ensure the YBCS Master Plan leads to equitable, sustainable outcomes for all stakeholders.

Thank you for your continued attention to these important matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mitch N. Mashburn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mitch" and last name "Mashburn" clearly legible.

Mitch Mashburn  
Chair, Solano County Board of Supervisors

**Attachments:**

- Memorandum – Technical Comments, May 15, 2025
- Memorandum – Recommended Language RE: Ag Resilience, Dec. 13, 2024

**CC:**

The Honorable Adam Schiff, United States Senator  
The Honorable Alex Padilla, United States Senator  
The Honorable John Garamendi, United States Representative  
The Honorable Mike Thompson, United State Representative  
The Honorable Christopher Cabaldon, California State Senator  
The Honorable Lori D. Wilson, California State Assemblymember  
The Honorable Solano County Board of Supervisors  
Misty Kaltreider, Water & Natural Resources Program Manager, Solano County  
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## DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



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### Water & Natural Resources Division

## Memorandum

**Date:** May 15, 2025

**To:** Mary Jimenez, California Department of Water Resources

**From:** Solano County

### **RE: Technical Summary and Comments on the Yolo Bypass Cache Slough Master Plan Public Review Draft / Solano County Department of Resource Management**

#### **Background:**

Per the State's request with the distribution of the Public Review Draft of the Yolo Bypass Cache Slough (YBCS) Master Plan on March 31, 2025, Solano County submits the following comments for the State's consideration. Solano County appreciates the State's efforts to address Solano County's previous comments. However, as one of the local member agencies of the Yolo Bypass Cache Slough Partnership (Partnership), Solano County remains concerned that the Public Review Draft Master Plan does not appropriately reflect the Partnership vision. The comments and requests that follow highlight changes that should be made to better reflect the mutual interests of the Partnership member agencies and advance the Partnership consistent with Water Code section 8510-8512 and the principals of the 2016 Partnership MOU.

Solano County supports the final goals of the Master Plan, which is appropriately described as a State document developed by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB), as follows:

- Guide continued project planning and implementation consistent with the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan and its Conservation Strategy while recognizing regional planning efforts that have been conducted to date.
- Inform the Federal Army Corps of Engineers Comprehensive Study.
- Advance the goals of the Partnership in accordance with California Water Code, Sections 8510-8512.
- Provide actionable recommendations that can be pursued beyond this YBCS Master Plan.

Solano County also supports the new language on page iv of the Public Review Draft of the Master Plan which states, "As members of the Partnership, DWR and the CVFPB are committed to continued engagement with other agencies to seek the necessary funding to advance these priority efforts over the coming years." Solano County strongly believes DWR and CVFPB assistance is necessary to secure funding for all projects included in the Master Plan which advance Partnership goals, whether single-purpose projects or projects achieving multiple benefits.

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Water & Natural  
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## Requested Technical Revisions:

### Flood Control

1. **Add a bullet to Recommendation #2 in Chapter 4 related to funding single purpose levee improvements in the short term.** Solano County requests the addition of the following be added to Recommendation #2 in Chapter 4:

- *“Prioritize efforts to fund final design and construction of single purpose levee improvement projects which have received design funding in the last five years in the YBCS region, including projects prioritized by Solano County and Yolo County such as systemwide levees” (Mellin Levee, RD 2068, RD 2060, RD 501, RD 2098, and RD 536 among other critical levees).*

DWR provided \$5.1 million to Solano County as part of the Lookout Slough settlement, which helped move design forward for some of these levee projects. Solano County now needs approximately \$15,500,000 in additional design and construction funding in the next five years to complete these levee improvements. These actionable, in progress opportunities, which are supported by the local agencies should be emphasized as a priority.

2. **Add language in Chapter 3 regarding the need to develop an Operations & Maintenance (O&M) funding strategy:** On Page 3-37, add a new bullet emphasizing development of a comprehensive funding strategy for the long-term O&M Workgroup as follows:

- *“All agencies involved in long-term management activities should work together to develop a funding strategy and approach for long-term management of existing land uses and changes to land use before State and federal projects to deliver multiple-benefit outcomes move forward.”*

3. **Add a bullet to Recommendation #6 in Chapter 4 related to funding for the Partnership to develop a long-term management framework.** Solano County requests the State add the following bullet to Recommendation #6 related to sustainable, long-term O&M in Chapter 4:

- *“Request funding in the 2026-27 State budget for the California Department of Water Resources to work with the Partnership to develop a long-term management framework in the next 1-3 years to support a more comprehensive O&M approach in the region before major multi-benefit State or federal projects move forward.”*

Given the long-time need to address serious O&M issues, this recommendation is essential to secure Solano County’s support for Partnership renewal.

4. **Expand language to Chapter 3 discussing agriculture’s contribution to vegetation management and the impacts of land use changes on local levee maintenance funding.** While Solano County appreciates the language in Chapter 3 related to

additional collaboration on long-term O&M of the flood control system, Chapter 3 should also describe agriculture's contribution to vegetation management in the flood control system and the potential impacts of conversion of agricultural land to habitat on local landowner assessments for levee maintenance. Solano County requests the State add clarifying language to the second to last paragraph in Section 3.3.1 "Flood Management and Operations and Maintenance" on page 3-38 as follows:

- *"O&M requirements can also pose challenges for local agencies. Without sufficient funding for long-term O&M, system improvements can ultimately place disproportionate financial burdens on local agencies as they are tasked to maintain new elements of an evolving and expanding flood system. At the same time, the conversion of agricultural land to habitat can reduce assessments on local landowners and decrease the tax base, leaving less local funding available for flood system O&M. Partnership member agencies recognize ~~It is recognized~~ that a wider variety of long-term management activities are needed within the YBCS region beyond those provided by flood system maintainers with their authorities and resources, especially considering the new and expanded habitat areas."*

The State should also add language on both the benefits of vegetation management and the potential impacts of reduced assessments to 3.3.3. "Agriculture Management," 3.2.3 "Agricultural Considerations," and the findings on page 4-6.

- 5. Add language in Chapter 3 acknowledging the flood protection role of the Cache Slough complex.** In Section 3.3.1 on page 3-37, the Master Plan describes the Yolo Bypass but not the flood control system in the Cache Slough complex. Cache Slough complex levees are an important part of overall Sacramento River Flood Control Project. Solano County requests this introduction focus on all Sacramento River Flood Control Project levees in the Yolo Bypass Cache Slough region by adding the following language:

- *"The Cache Slough complex includes Sacramento River Flood Control Project levees which lie within the southern portion of the Yolo Bypass and which provide important flood protection for urban water supply, small communities, and agricultural land."*

## **Recreation**

- 6. Update the project description for the Little Egbert Multi-Benefit Project in Appendix B.** Solano County requests the State add the following sentence to the "Project or Study Summary" section for the Little Egbert Multi-Benefit Project on page B-12 of Appendix B:

- *"Constructing a boat launch at the old ferry location on or near the northern end of Little Egbert Tract to launch into the Lindsey Slough/Cache Slough channel and developing an educational outreach program would have strong regional recreation benefits."*

Solano also requests the State update the bullet points under “structural components” to include “*construct boat launch*” and “*provide education opportunities*.”

**7. Add a recommendation to Chapter 4 related to recreation, the Cache Slough Public Access Recreation Plan, and the Little Egbert Multi-Benefit Project.** Solano County requests the State add the following recommendation to the list of recommendations in Chapter 4, as well as a bullet point about Little Egbert:

- “*Identify and encourage locally supported recreation improvements, both single purpose projects and improvements which are part of projects which achieve multiple benefits.*” Add a bullet to this recommendation:
- “*Pursue implementation of recreation projects in the 2023 Cache Slough Public Access Recreation Plan, including a new public boat launch in the vicinity of the former “old ferry” area and an educational outreach program featuring guided tours and site visits in the Little Egbert Multi-Benefit Project.*”

CDFW, DWR and Solano County collaboratively developed the Cache Slough Public Access Recreation Plan to improve public access and recreation throughout the Cache Slough Complex, so the Little Egbert Multi-Benefit Project should not move forward until the State and Solano County add these recreation features to the project and secure funding to implement them. This is consistent with the objectives in Water Code section 8512 to foster recreational opportunities in the Yolo Bypass and Cache Slough Region.

## **Water Supply**

**8. Add a recommendation to Chapter 4 to advance the Cache Slough Complex Habitat Conservation Plan and the Solano Multispecies Habitat Conservation Plan.** Solano County appreciates the State’s description of the Cache Slough Complex HCP and the Solano Multispecies HCP in Appendix A. Solano requests the State add “*Complete and Implement the Cache Slough Complex Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and the Solano County Water Agency Multispecies HCP*” to the recommendations in Chapter 4, along with a timeframe of 1-5 years. These two plans are necessary to improve the reliability of water diversions in Solano County. Also, Solano County requests that the State update the map on page 2-15 to differentiate between the planning areas for the Solano County Multi-Species HCP and the Cache Slough Complex HCP. The figure currently shows the “Solano County Habitat Conservation Plan,” which is unclear to the reader given there are two Solano plans.

## **Agriculture**

**9. Add a new recommendation to implement agricultural sustainability strategies identified in State plans.** Solano County appreciates the modifications to Recommendation #8 to include “ecosystem services data and economic models, as well as other related analyses, to develop and determine open-space values and benefits for the region” and “Agricultural productivity data, including changes in crop types, acres in production, and total economic output over time.” This analysis will help the Partnership agencies understand the impact of Master Plan project implementation on agriculture

but does not help to address those impacts. Solano therefore requests the State add the following new recommendation in Chapter 4:

- *“Prioritize and implement the ‘Strategies to Help Maintain Farming’ and ‘Strategies that Support and Agricultural Economy’ sections in DWR’s 2018 Agriculture and Land Stewardship Framework and Strategies referenced on page 3-35, as well as explore other opportunities to increase agricultural resiliency in the Yolo Bypass Cache Slough region.”*

Such strategies include to, “Work with others to find funding to mitigate for social and economic impacts through CEQA/NEPA. Possible sources include establishing a greenhouse has offset market using credits created through the development and restoration of wetlands; using cap and trade program funds, reinstating State funding for California Land Conservation Act subventions, recommending funds to be included in any bond measure, and others...” (DWR’s 2018 Agriculture and Land Stewardship Framework and Strategies, pg 10). This is critical to jointly advancing the six pillars across the shared landscape.

**10. Add additional language throughout the document about agricultural resiliency based on language in other State plans.**

In response to an October 2024 request from the Master Plan team, Solano County shared a document titled, “Agricultural Resiliency Language Suggestions for the YBCS Master Plan,” on December 23, 2024, which offered example language for the Master Plan team to add to Chapters 3 and/or 4. Solano County did not see any of this language in the Public Review Draft and requests that it be added.

**11. Refine the Local Advancement and Agricultural Resilience Project language in Appendix B and add language about the project to Chapter 3.**

Solano County previously recommended the State expand the discussion in Chapter 3: Multi-Benefit Outcomes, or within Chapter 4: The Path Forward, to include the “Local Advancement and Agricultural Resiliency” project (mentioned in Appendix B on page B-24) to Chapters 3 and/or Chapter 4. While the Local Advancement and Agricultural Resilience initiative is included on the map on page 3-4, it is unclear how this initiative will move forward. It is also unclear whether the State incorporated any of the example language provided in prior comment letters submitted by Solano County.

**12. Add a bullet to Recommendation #1 in Chapter 4 to support inclusion of an agricultural resiliency objective in the Comprehensive Study.**

At the February 2025 Partnership Organizing Committee, the Partnership discussed the Comprehensive Study’s objectives with representatives of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Yolo County and Solano County suggested adding an agricultural resiliency objective to the Comprehensive Study, which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representatives indicated they would consider. The Master Plan should include a bullet to Recommendation #1 in Chapter 4 as follows:

- *“Support the addition of an agricultural resiliency objective in the Comprehensive Study.”*

Including the agricultural resiliency objective will advance the ability to receive federal funding consistent with the remaining pillars.

### **Language Clarification**

**13. Further describe how projects included in the hydrologic and hydraulic analysis will move forward versus other projects listed in Appendix C.** The Master Plan should expand on the description throughout the document related to how projects included in the hydraulic analysis will move forward versus other projects listed in Appendix C, including single-purpose projects. Starting on page 1-9, add a sentence under the hydraulic analysis bullet as follows:

- *“These projects are not the only projects proposed for design and construction in the Yolo Bypass Cache Slough region or for inclusion in the Comprehensive Study but provide an important technical foundation for future work. The State will work with other Partnership agencies to prioritize and secure funding for projects in this Master Plan through development of the implementation planning document.”*

**14. Expand language about single purpose projects throughout the Master Plan.** In August 2024, Solano requested the State define “single-purpose” as, “A single purpose is one primary objective or outcome, such as flood risk reduction. A project developed to achieve a single purpose may have other incidental benefits.” Solano County supports the State’s new definition as follows, “single-purpose project: A project that is implemented to achieve one primary objective or outcome, such as flood risk reduction. Single-purpose projects may have other incidental benefits but are not formulated to maximize or optimize the attainment of other benefits. Single-purpose projects may generally support larger multiple benefit programs (California Department of Water Resources 2022a).” Solano County requests that the State adds the term single purpose projects when mentioning multi-benefit projects unless the State specifically means projects which implement the CVFPP. (DWR defined multi-benefit project in “key terms” to refer only to those projects which implement the CVFPP.) Solano County also suggests ensuring the consistent use of the phrase “single-purpose projects and projects which achieve multiple-benefit outcomes” throughout the Master Plan when DWR means all projects in the Master Plan. Solano County can provide specific language changes upon request.

### **Partnership Implementation**

- 1. Organize the recommendations in Chapter 4 by Partnership pillar.** Similar to how Solano County has organized its comments in this letter, Solano County recommends the Master Plan team organize Chapter 4 recommendations by pillars to identify how each will move forward.
- 2. Add a new bullet point to Recommendation #7 in Chapter 4 to request funding from the 2026-27 State budget for an implementation planning document for the Partnership within the next 1-3 years.** Solano County appreciates the addition of “objectives and actions” to Recommendation #7 on page 4-10, “Formulate and regularly update an implementation planning document that defines implementation



approaches...for achieving the Partnership goals, *objectives, and actions*,” in response to Solano County’s comments on Backcheck Draft. Solano requests the State add the following language to the first bullet of Recommendation #7 on page 4-10:

- *“Request funding in the 2026-27 State budget for the California Department of Water Resources to complete an implementation planning document in years 1-3 to formulate and regularly update an implementation planning document that defines implementation approaches and highlights progress for achieving the Partnership goals, objectives, and actions, which the Partnership Executive Committee and other relevant committees will review and approve consistent with the adopted Partnership Governance Framework. Once complete, update the implementation planning document every 3-5 years.”*

Given the need to develop Partnership projects beyond the conceptual phase, this recommendation is essential to secure Solano County’s support for Partnership renewal.

# MEMORANDUM

**To:** Steve Rothert  
Division of Multibenefit Initiatives, Department of Water Resources (DWR)  
Mary Jimenez, Division of Multibenefit Initiatives, DWR  
Kristyne Van Skike, Central Valley Flood Protection Board  
Christi Black–Davis, Communications Consultant to DWR and CVFPB, Edelman

**From:** Misty Kaltreider  
Water and Natural Resources Program Manager, Solano County

**RE:** Agricultural Resiliency Language Suggestions for the YBCS Master Plan

**Date:** December 23, 2024

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Solano County recommends inclusion of language focusing on agricultural advancement and resilience in the Yolo Bypass Cache Slough Master Plan (Master Plan). As discussed at the October 31, 2024 briefing by the California Department of Water Resources and the Central Valley Flood Protection Board to Solano County on the Master Plan, Solano County offered to provide example language for consideration.

## **2024 Yolo County Position Statement on Regional Water Supply, Flood Protection, and Habitat Restoration Projects**

On December 3, 2024, Yolo County adopted a position statement on regional water supply, flood protection, and habitat restoration projects. Solano County Supervisors John Vasquez and Mitch Mashburn wrote a letter in December 2024 supporting Yolo County’s position statement. The letter emphasized “the importance of promoting restoration projects that benefit the environment while maintaining agricultural viability,” including “minimizing the loss of productive farmland and integrating practices that enhance both ecological and economic sustainability.” Yolo County’s position statement included principles which proponents of covered projects should—with some variation by project to account for unique situations—adhere to for design, construction, and operation. The following two principles from the position statement relate to agriculture. Solano recommends including them in the Master Plan:

- Preserve agriculture by committing to rigorously evaluate and implement, to the greatest extent feasible, design and operational criteria that avoid farmland conversions and minimize the disruption of existing agricultural practices
- Mitigate project-related impacts, including farmland losses and any adverse impacts on nearby lands

## **Suggested Solano County Ag Background Language**

Solano County suggests adding the following language developed by Misty Kaltreider to include as background in the Master Plan:

“Agricultural lands in Solano County and Yolo County provide food and fiber to the world because of concerted local government efforts to direct growth to cities and protect agricultural land and open space, which has resulted in less funding available to local governments to help promote rural communities, provide critical infrastructure in rural areas, and support and improve the agricultural economy. These lands also provide important habitat for endangered species, as recognized by the adoption of the Yolo County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan, which focuses on conserving wildlife-friendly agricultural lands, approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in 2019, as well as the draft Cache Slough Complex Habitat Conservation Plan in Solano County. Proposed state multibenefit projects may impact agricultural efforts in the region, so this proposal will ensure state and local agencies are working together to achieve a higher level of agricultural viability than was possible prior to the creation of the Yolo Bypass Cache Slough Partnership Multibenefit Program.”

### **Suggested Ag Language, Priorities, and Actions from State and Regional Plans**

Solano County suggests integrating the following priorities from other State and regional plans into the Master Plan:

#### **2022 State Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy**

Pages 32-35 of the California Natural Resources Agency Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy describe the climate benefit potential of California’s croplands, including how integral agricultural lands are to climate resilience. This language also could be cited in the Master Plan:

“Climate smart cropland management can also contribute to climate resilience through:

- Supporting resilient communities and natural systems – Agricultural lands provide food security to California, the nation, and the world, and can support climate resilience through provision of habitat and resources for pollinators and wildlife, flood management, buffering against fires, and groundwater recharge. With the complex intermixing of croplands and communities across California, agricultural practices have important implications for equity and public health. These outcomes benefit all Californians, and are particularly important for rural, vulnerable communities.
- Supporting resilient economies – Agriculture is a critical sector of California’s economy. Climate smart cropland management promotes economic resilience, can buffer communities from extreme heat, improve air and water quality, and provide local food sources. Local and regional food systems help to reduce the carbon footprint of food production and help maintain both climate and supply

chain resilience. Local food systems support diversified crop production, provide a source of local food, create local jobs, and offer habitat for beneficial insects, animals and other plant species. Additionally, these lands can contribute to regional tourism sectors” (p. 33)

#### **2014 Lower Sacramento River Delta North Regional Flood Management Plan (RFMP)**

The plan mentions agricultural sustainability 44 times, including identifying agricultural sustainability as one of eight categories of flood management problems in the region (p. ES-8) and agricultural sustainability as one of five goals of Yolo Bypass/Cache Slough Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP), a multi-objective plan in the heart of the Sacramento River Flood Control Project (p. ES-10). FloodProtect, a coalition of local agencies responsible for development of the RFMP, also developed the Resources and Agricultural Sustainability Plan (RASP) to: 1) identify potential conservation opportunities within or adjacent to the region that could offset adverse ecological impacts associated with single-purpose flood projects; 2) create ecological enhancement to result in a net overall increase in the region’s ecological values; and 3) benefits provided by agricultural land uses are integrated into flood planning and regional conservation efforts (p. ES-9). The Regional Flood Management Plan also proposes an Agricultural Sustainability Fund (p. 221) to compensate for the anticipated loss in agricultural production associated with flood risk reduction by providing funds to leverage existing and future agricultural sustainability efforts.

#### **2017 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan and Conservation Framework**

Both Yolo County and Solano County submitted significant comments to improve the agricultural sustainability elements of the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan as part of the 2022 update. The April 2022 public draft of the document includes the following high-priority policy issue recommendation: “develop landscape-scale agricultural sustainability strategies alongside environmental conservation strategies to promote sustainable floodplain land uses that are compatible with periodic flooding and adaptive to climate change.” The Central Valley Flood Protection Act also identifies three key objectives; Objective 2 is to “increase and improve the quantity, diversity, and connectivity of riparian, wetland, floodplain, and shaded riverine habitats, including the agricultural and ecological values of these lands.” The Central Valley Flood Protection Plan Conservation Framework states the successful achievement of ecological goals would result in a more sustainable and resilient flood management system that provides greater long-term viability for ecosystems and agriculture. The 2017 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan process further resulted in the creation of the Agricultural Stewardship Scope Definition Joint Subcommittee to describe major agricultural contributions, challenges and opportunities and receive input from the agricultural community.

#### **April 2022 Pathways to 30 x 30 California**

Pathways to 30 x 30 California includes the following pathway “Increase voluntary conservation easements,” and further says “Conservation easements provide financial incentives to provide landowners aiming to provide wetlands, agricultural lands,

grasslands, forests, and other critical ecosystems throughout California. (p. 41)” The draft plan includes the following principle for safeguarding economic prosperity and food supply, “Support programs that enhance the sustainability of our food systems, including improvements to soil health and protections for pollinators” (p. 21). The plan also includes a reference to working landscapes, defining these landscapes as “land areas managed for biodiversity conservation and climate resilience where humans work as responsible members of the natural ecosystem. Management of these lands for conservation typically includes providing habitat for wildlife (including pollinators and other invertebrates as critical food sources for birds and other species), practicing wise water use, avoiding use of pesticides and toxic chemicals, encouraging native plant diversity, enabling carbon sequestration, building resilience to climate-driven extreme weather, and/or incorporating adaptive management practices to build soil health while supporting ecosystem function” (p. 27).

### **2020 California Resilience Portfolio**

On page 74 of the California Resilience Portfolio, the State indicates “threats to agricultural sustainability” in the Sacramento River region rank as a 3 out of 4 in terms of increasing vulnerability and ranks “aging infrastructure of statewide significance” (on which some farms in the region depend) as a 4 out of 4. According to the methodology on page 109, threats to agricultural sustainability “considers the relationship between agriculture and groundwater by calculating the proportion of irrigated acreage in each hydrologic region that is either in a critically overdrafted groundwater basin or a basin with declining groundwater levels.” The Portfolio contains a proposal to “help regions secure groundwater supplies by supporting the transition to sustainable uses” (p. 18), “fund the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program and prioritize grants for water-saving irrigation system improvements to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in basins considered high priority under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (p. 18),” “fund the Healthy Soils Program, which supports on-farm practices that enhance water retention and provide other environmental benefits, through incentives, demonstrations, and technical assistance” (p. 23), “enhance agricultural lands for biodiversity, resilience, and habitat benefits through incentives for on-farm conservation practices and innovative partnerships...” (p. 23), and “support research and technical assistance, such as through the UC Cooperative Extension Climate Smart Agriculture Advisors Program, to support farmers and ranchers with education about healthy soils...” (p. 23), and “promote broadband deployment in unserved and underserved areas of the state to enable farmers and irrigation districts to use the latest water management technologies, including irrigation control” (p. 25). Also, according to the Portfolio (p. 11-12), “While irrigated acreage and the overall amount of water used by farmers has changed little over the last 50 years, the value of California farm output has doubled, thanks to increased productivity and higher-value crops. A shift in recent years towards permanent orchards and vineyards has hardened demand for reliable water supplies because growers cannot forgo irrigating these crops during drought.”