

Text for the Resource Chapter: add following the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta policies on page RS-28 of the Resource Chapter.

The Cache Slough Region (Region) is located in the southeastern portion of Solano County and lies within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta boundary. The Region is within and adjacent to the Yolo Bypass Flood System, which provides flood relief to the Cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento and locally. The Sacramento Deepwater Ship Channel runs along the Region's eastern flank. The Region is approximately 65,586 acres or 102.5 square miles, in size, and has been in agricultural production since the late 1800s. The Region is of interest to public agencies, specifically for tidal habitat and other restoration due to its north Delta location, open space, appropriate elevations and other characteristics important for recovery of aquatic native species populations. However, restoration in the Region requires wholesale conversion of significant acreages of agricultural lands, presenting challenges to remaining agriculture due to the large scale of acreages involved, potential conflicts between land uses and disruption of the interconnected system of agricultural lands and the infrastructure that supports it. The County wants to ensure that conversion of lands to other uses is protective of and addresses the continuing economic vitality of agricultural lands. The Cache Slough Region contains prime agricultural soils, an abundant water supply with senior water rights, a good climate and proximity to markets, all of great value to existing agriculture in the Region..

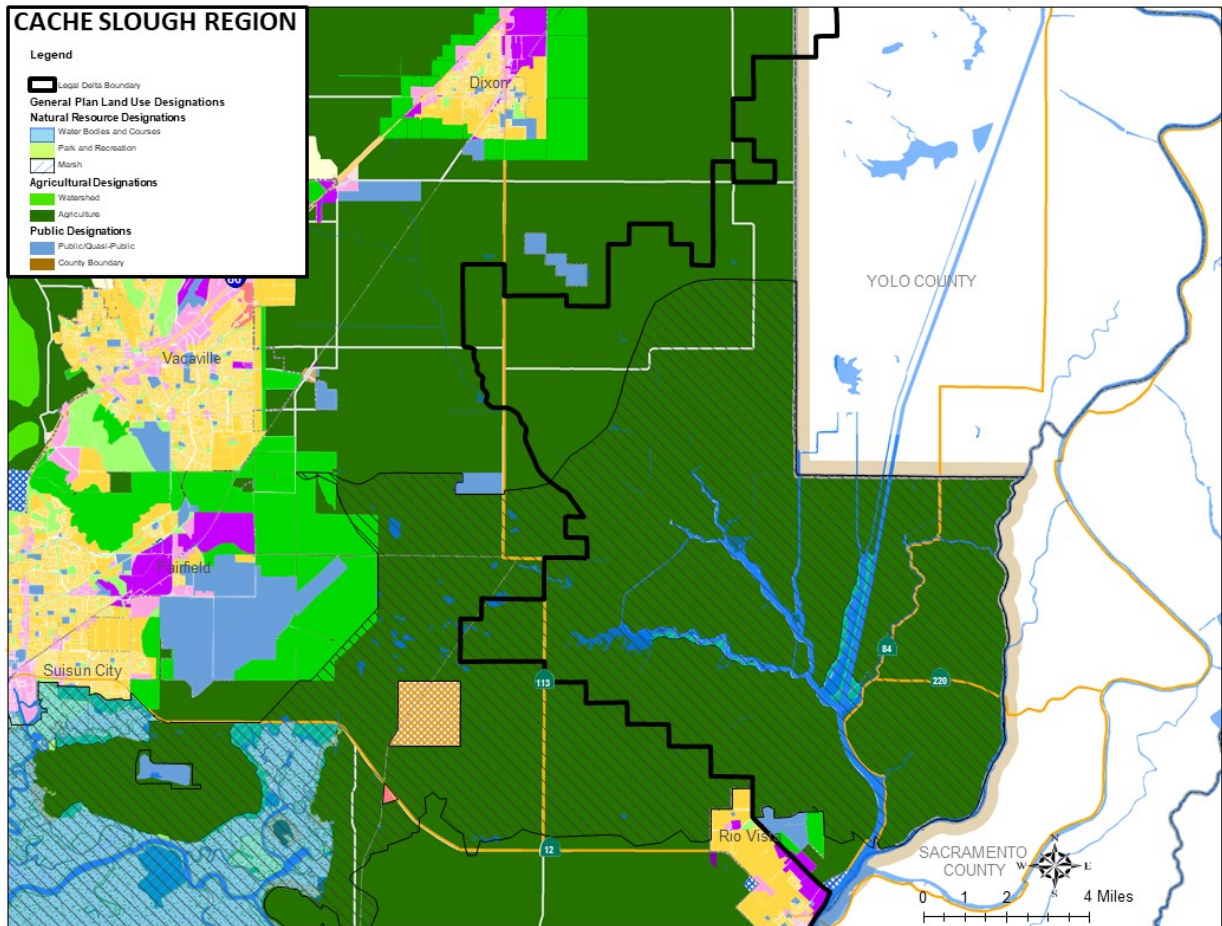


Figure RS-3.1 Cache Slough Region Land Use and Legal Delta Boundary

The following are policies, applicable to the Cache Slough Region and adjacent lands, to help guide decision making and which are consistent with the Goals and Objectives of the Agricultural, Resources and Public Health and Safety chapters of the General Plan.

Agriculture

- RS.P-29.1: The conversion of agricultural lands to other land uses shall not diminish the economic viability of agriculture in the larger region. Measures to offset impacts may include enhancements to agricultural infrastructure and operations, water supply, drainage, and levees.
- RS.P-29.2 Conversion of agricultural lands in Cache Slough shall not disrupt the road transportation network including access to remote locations, without improving other routes.

- RS.P-29.3 Where conversion of agricultural land for ecosystem restoration or flood risk reduction purposes occurs, measures incorporated into the project shall reduce local flood and seepage risks.
- RS-P-29.4 Regulatory or other assurances to protect agricultural operations from incidental take of protected species shall be provided.
- RS.P-29.5 Where possible, retain water rights from converted lands for the benefit of agricultural users in the County.
- RS-P-29.6 Reduce conflict between agricultural operations and non-agricultural activities by establishing Good Neighbor Policies and working with adjacent landowners and farmers to minimize impacts to agricultural operations.
- RS-P-29.7 Where conversion of agricultural lands is anticipated, early and frequent public outreach, ongoing engagement and collaboration shall include adjacent landowners, Reclamation Districts and affected public agencies.
- RS-P-29.8 Where agricultural lands are converted to non-agricultural land use, compensation for the loss of agriculture shall be 1.5 to 1 ratio (1.5 acres for 1 acre of loss), consistent with General Plan policy AG-I.1 (Agricultural Chapter). Compensation measures shall be discussed with the County during the formal consultation as specified in RS.P-29,9.

Ecosystem Restoration

- RS.P-29.9 State or Federal initiated ecosystem restoration proposals shall initiate a formal consultation early in the process with the County to ensure consistency with General Plan policies.
- RS.P-29.10 Ecosystem proposals shall provide multiple benefits, including flood risk reduction, protection of agriculture and other benefits.
- RS-P-29.11 Public recreational opportunities shall be provided, especially where there is access to the larger waterway system.
- RS-P-29.12 Establish buffer zones between land uses such as setbacks, wildlife friendly agriculture, land use transitions, barriers or other measures to minimize nuisance impacts to adjacent agriculture.

- RS.P-29.13 In areas where ecosystem activities is proposed, long term stewardship of the land must be addressed, including on-site management and on-going operations/maintenance along with appropriate funding.
- RS.P-29.14 Consistent project monitoring and adaptive management plans shall be prepared. Monitoring shall occur through an independent party to ensure the success of the restoration project.
- RS-P-29.15 Active revegetation with native species and control of non-native species is required within restoration lands.

Flood

- RS-P-29.16 Strengthen and maintain levees in the Yolo Bypass Flood Control System that protect the region and upstream urban areas from excessive flooding.
- RS-P29.17 Prepare and fund a flood protection plan specific to the Region to assure continued levee protection from Yolo Bypass ecosystem projects that create higher water levels, higher flood frequency and duration, wave action and erosion. The Plan should consider long-term O&M funding for the flood system.

Water Supply & Quality

- RS.P-29.18 Protect the quality and enhance the water supply infrastructure that sustains agricultural activities in the Cache Slough region.
- RS.P-29.19 An active water quality monitoring program is required to ensure there is no degradation of water quality for agriculture and municipal & industrial purposes in the region. Should there be a conflict among land uses, a Plan is required to address these conflicts.

Cache Slough Region Implementation Program

- RS.I-15.1 A Cache Slough Protection and Management Plan shall be developed between the County, State and Federal agencies, to address the transition of land uses in a comprehensive manner, with relevant agency oversight. Said plan should be implemented in a timely manner to ensure that

significant restoration activities do not occur prior to required agricultural sustainability measures, are put in place.

The County shall adopt an Overlay Zone for the Cache Slough Region that establishes detailed guidance for oversight of land use changes to help ensure compatibility among land uses, and to provide greater clarity in County expectations for the protection of agriculture in the context of ecosystem restoration projects.

Related Policies RS.P-29.1 to RS.P-29.19

Agency/Department Resource Management

Timing: 2 years