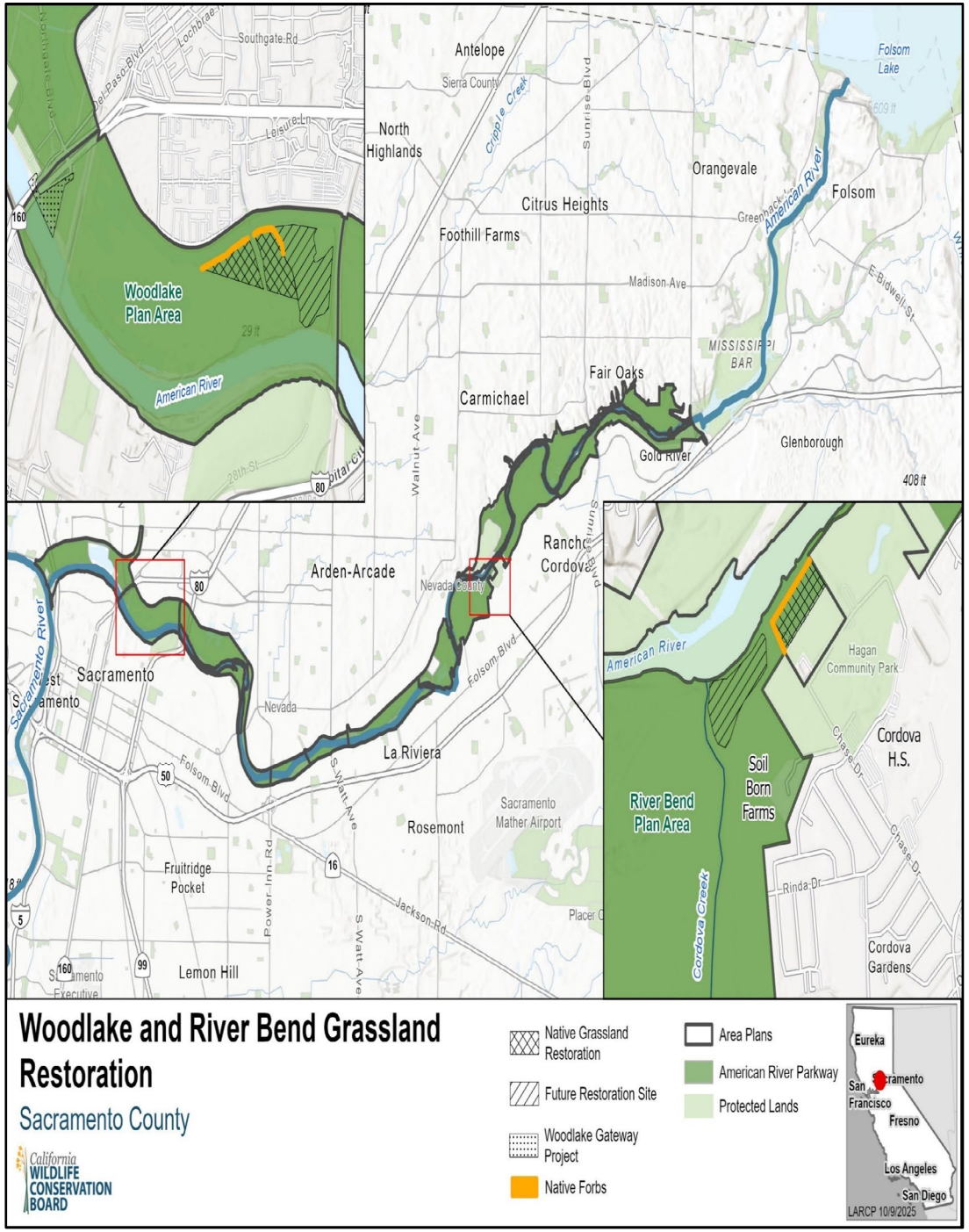
5a. Woodlake and River Bend Grassland Restoration

- Applicant: Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks
- WCB request: $770,500
- Restoration of 30 acres of native grasslands with forbs
- Two areas of Parkway – Woodlake and River Bend
  - Adjacent to future restoration sites
  - Within/adjacent to disadvantaged communities

Map of project area
Credit: WCB





5a. Woodlake and River Bend Grassland Restoration

Slide 2

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Exiting Conditions:

- Farmed in the mid-20th century
- Dominated by nonnative annual grasses and forbs
- Scattered patches of black walnut, oaks, and elderberry

Woodlake site (left), Woodlake site (middle) and River Bend site (right)

Credit: WCB

5a. Woodlake and River Bend Grassland Restoration

Slide 3

Project Goals:

- Restore habitat for grassland birds and pollinators
- Increase flora and fauna biodiversity
- Reduce wildfire threats
- Improve soil health
- Educate the community

Woodlake site
Credit: WCB

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5a. Woodlake and River Bend Grassland Restoration

Slide 4

Project Tasks:

- Site prep for two years using IPM
- Drill-seed native grasses
- Broadcast native forb seed along edges
- Baseline and annual monitoring
  - Vegetation cover and composition
  - Avian and terrestrial wildlife
  - Pollinators (in partnership with CSUS)
  - Soil compaction
- Install two interpretive signs at each site

River Bend site
Credit: WCB

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5a. Woodlake and River Bend Grassland Restoration

Slide 5

Project Outcomes:

- 25 acres of grasslands restored in the Woodlake area
- 5 acres of grasslands restored in the River Bend area
- Better bird habitat, more nectar for pollinators
- Improved conditions for wildlife movement
- Reduced flashy fuels and soil compaction
- Three NRMP objectives advanced

River Bend site
Credit: WCB

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5a. Woodlake and River Bend Grassland Restoration

Slide 6

Technical Review:

- Average score of 89
- Magnitude of Benefit: very significant for habitat, modest for education
- Disadvantaged community benefits:
  - Reduces wildfire risk
  - Provides new learning opportunities
  - Enhances wildlife viewing
- Applicant addressed concerns related to irrigation
- Funding sources Prop 68 and Prop 4

Staff Recommendation: fully fund as proposed and present at a future WCB meeting for final funding decision.

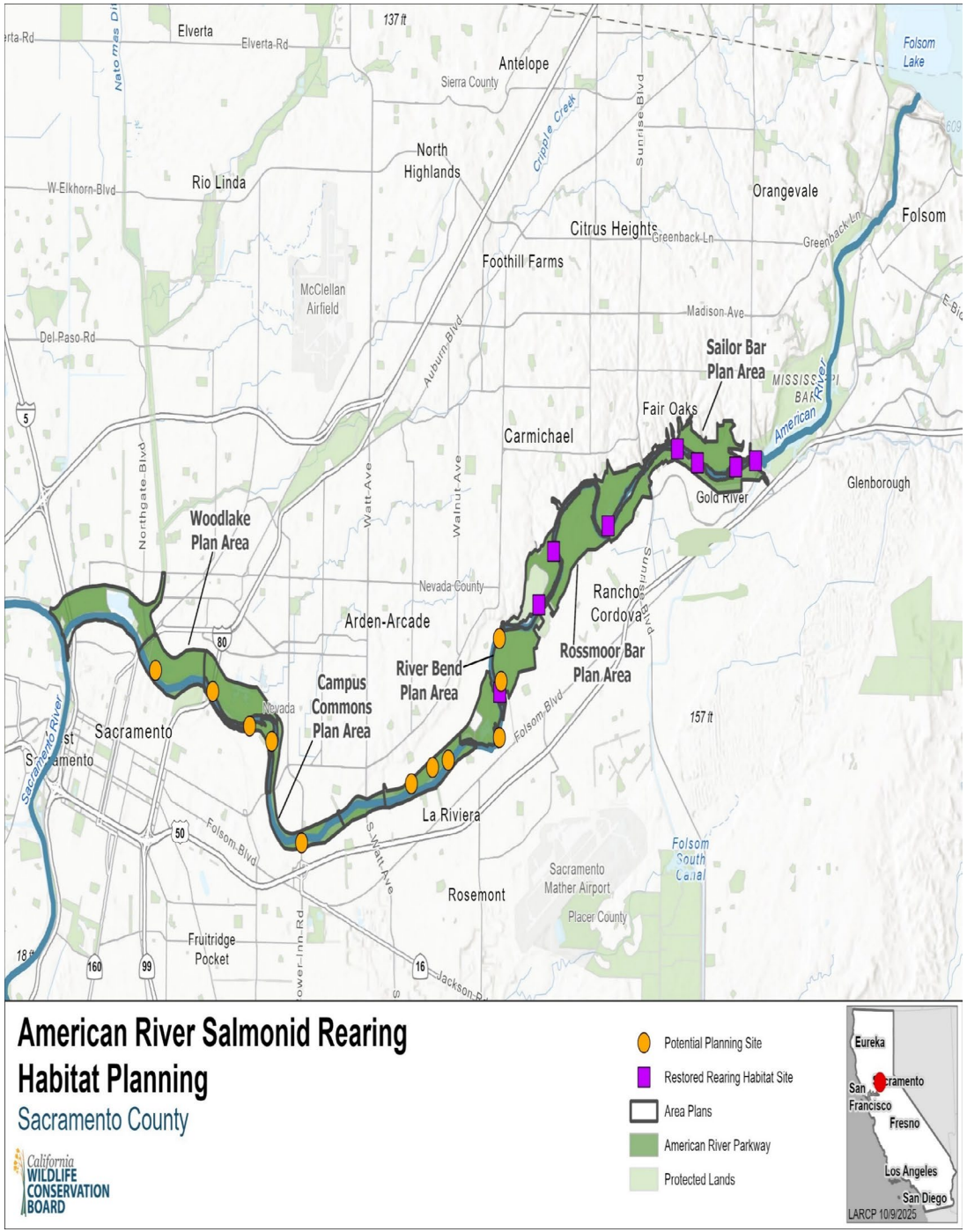
Non-native forbs at the Woodlake site
Credit: WCB

California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

5b. American River Salmonid Rearing Habitat Planning

- Water Forum (City of Sacramento)
- WCB request: $333,000
- Planning for approximately 30 acres of salmonid rearing habitat
- Parkway-wide

Map of project area
Credit: WCB



5b. American River Salmonid Rearing Habitat Planning

Slide 2

California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Project Need:

- American River disconnected from its floodplain
- Ecosystem processes and functions are missing
- Rearing habitat is limited for juvenile salmonids

Perched gravel bar within American River Parkway
Credit: Water Forum

5b. American River Salmonid Rearing Habitat Planning

Slide 3

Project Goal:

- Increase quantity and quality of juvenile salmonid rearing habitat
- Develop shovel-ready projects for 10 rearing habitat sites

Degraded side channel within American River Parkway
Credit: Water Forum

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5b. American River Salmonid Rearing Habitat Planning

Slide 4

Project Tasks:

- Utilize EcoFIP toolkit to identify 15-20 potential rearing habitat sites
- Prepare conceptual designs
- Host 3 landowner workshops to prioritize and select 10 sites
- Complete technical studies
- Prepare 65% designs for selected sites
- Complete CEQA (SERP) and identify permitting pathway strategy

Rarely activated floodplain in the American River Parkway
Credit: Water Forum

California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

5b. American River Salmonid Rearing Habitat Planning

Slide 5

Project Outcomes:

- Produce 10 shovel-ready restoration projects that:
  - Provide quality juvenile salmonid rearing habitat
  - Reactivate approximately 30 acres of floodplain
  - Restore ecosystem functions and important riverine habitat
  - Support the state and Federal salmonid population doubling goal
- Increase the pace and scale of restoration in the Parkway
- Evaluate the NRMP management action of “lower floodplain” for several areas in the Parkway

Restored side channel rearing habitat at Sailor Bar
Credit: Water Forum

California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

5b. American River Salmonid Rearing Habitat Planning

Slide 6

Technical Review:

- Average score: 90
- Magnitude of Benefit: very significant for habitat, meaningful for water quality
- Disadvantaged community benefits:
  - reduced heat effects
  - improved water quality
- Applicant addressed concerns related to tribal engagement and water temperature being part of habitat suitability analysis.
- Funding source Prop 68

Staff recommendation: fully fund as proposed and present at a future WCB meeting for final funding decision.

Restored seasonal floodplain below Nimbus Dam
Credit: Water Forum

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