



**U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service**

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Bureau of Reclamation

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**California Department
of Fish and Game**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 7, 2003

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING MEETINGS SCHEDULED ON SUISUN MARSH
HABITAT MANAGEMENT, PRESERVATION, AND RESTORATION PLAN**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), co-lead Federal agencies, and the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), the lead State agency, are initiating environmental scoping for preparation of a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Report (PEIS/EIR) on the Habitat Management, Preservation, and Restoration Plan for the Suisun Marsh (Suisun Marsh Plan). The PEIS/EIR will analyze the impacts of proposed actions detailed in the Suisun Marsh Plan and will be prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act and the California Environmental Quality Act.

The actions to be developed in the Suisun Marsh Plan are aimed at preserving and enhancing managed seasonal wetlands, implementing a comprehensive levee protection/improvement program, protecting ecosystem and drinking water quality, while at the same time restoring habitat for tidal marsh-dependent sensitive species, consistent with the California Bay-Delta Program's strategic goals and objectives. To the extent possible, the Suisun Marsh Plan will present strategies to resolve permitting issues related to past and ongoing maintenance and management activities, and identify strategies to resolve other interagency conflicts related to the management of Suisun Marsh. The Suisun Marsh Plan will also provide for approval of an amendment to the Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement and for implementation of the California Bay-Delta Authority's levee program in Suisun Marsh.

The lead agencies have scheduled the following public scoping meetings in November and December 2003.

In Fairfield

Tuesday, November 25, 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Solano County Mosquito Abatement District
2950 Industrial Court

and

Wednesday, December 10, 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Solano County Office of Education, Pena Adobe Room
5100 Business Center Drive

-more-

In Benicia

Thursday, December 4, 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Benicia Public Library, Dona Benicia Meeting Room
150 East L Street

The public can provide comments on the scope of the proposed Suisun Marsh Plan or issues to be addressed in the PEIS/EIR at the scoping meetings and/or provide written comments by Monday, February 9, 2004, to the California Department of Fish and Game, Attention: Ms. Laurie Briden, 4001 N. Wilson Way, Stockton, California 95205. Written comments may also be sent by facsimile to 209-946-6355 or e-mailed to lbriden@delta.dfg.ca.gov.

Persons needing special assistance to participate in the public meetings should contact Dan Buford at 916-414-6600 or TDD 800-735-2922 as soon as possible.

For further information contact: Laurie Briden with DFG at 209-948-7347 or via email at lbriden@delta.dfg.ca.gov, or Dan Buford with FWS at 916-414-6600 or via email at Daniel_Buford@fws.gov, or Lee Laurence with Reclamation at 916-978-5193 or via email at llaurence@mp.usbr.gov. The three agencies' websites are <http://sacramento.fws.gov/>, <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/>, and www.dfg.ca.gov.

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