



November 2003

# Habitat Management, Preservation, and Restoration Plan for the Suisun Marsh, Solano County, California

Volume 1

*"Good plans shape good decisions. That's why good planning helps to make elusive dreams come true."*

*Lester Bittel*



## Planning Process Initiated

The Habitat Management, Preservation, and Restoration Plan for the Suisun Marsh (Suisun Marsh Plan) and its accompanying Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Report (PEIS/EIR) will develop, analyze, and evaluate potential environmental benefits and impacts resulting from various actions necessary in the Suisun Marsh to preserve and enhance managed seasonal wetlands, implement a comprehensive levee protection/improvement program, and protect ecosystem and drinking water quality, while restoring habitat for tidal marsh-dependent sensitive species, consistent with the California Bay-Delta Program's strategic goals and objectives. The Suisun Marsh Plan will address activities in the geographic area identified in the map shown here.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) are serving as the co-lead Federal agencies while the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) is the lead State agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).



**Project Objectives** - The proposed Suisun Marsh Plan will be developed to balance the goals and objectives of the Bay-Delta Program, Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement (SMPA), and other management and restoration programs within the Suisun Marsh in a manner that is responsive to the concerns of all stakeholders and is based upon voluntary participation by private landowners. The proposed Suisun Marsh Plan will provide for simultaneous protections and enhancement of:

- (1) Pacific Flyway and existing wildlife values in managed wetlands,
- (2) endangered species recovery,
- (3) restoration of tidal marsh and other ecosystems, and
- (4) protection of water quality, including, but not limited to the maintenance and improvement of levees.

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 the Suisun Marsh. The Suisun Marsh Plan will also provide for approval of an amendment to the SMPA, and for implementation of the California Bay-Delta Authority's Levee Program in Suisun Marsh.

*The Suisun Marsh Plan will provide for protection and enhancement of the Pacific Flyway, existing wildlife in managed wetlands, endangered species, restoration of tidal marsh and other ecosystems, water quality, and the maintenance and improvement of levees.*

## Upcoming Scoping Meetings

Citizens can become part of this important planning process by attending one of the scoping meetings and/or providing written comments on the scope of the proposed Suisun Marsh Plan or issues to be addressed in the PEIS/EIR 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](mailto:lbriden@delta.dfg.ca.gov).

### **Scoping Meeting Schedule**

- Tuesday, November 25, 2003, 12:00-3:00 p.m. in Fairfield, CA (Solano County Mosquito Abatement District, 2950 Industrial Court)
- Thursday, December 4, 2003, 6:00-8:30 p.m. in Benicia, CA (Benicia Public Library, Dona Benicia Meeting Room, 150 East L Street)
- Wednesday, December 10, 2003, 6:00-8:30 p.m. in Fairfield, CA (Solano County Office of Education, Pena Adobe Room, 5100 Business Center Drive)

Persons needing reasonable accommodations in order to attend and participate in the public meetings should contact Dan Buford at (916) 414-6600 or TDD (800) 735-2922, as soon as possible. Information regarding this proposed action is available in alternative formats upon request.

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## Want more information?

For more information, please contact: Laurie Briden with DFG at (209) 948-7347 or [lbriden@delta.dfg.ca.gov](mailto:lbriden@delta.dfg.ca.gov), or Dan Buford with FWS at (916) 414-6600 or [Daniel\\_Buford@fws.gov](mailto:Daniel_Buford@fws.gov), or Lee Laurence with Reclamation at (916) 978-5193 or [llaurence@mp.usbr.gov](mailto:llaurence@mp.usbr.gov). The three agencies' websites are <http://sacramento.fws.gov/>, <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/>, and [www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov).

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