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Date: June 23, 2005

To: Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Interested Parties, and Organizations

From: Rhonda Reed, Assistant Deputy Director
Ecosystem Restoration Program

Subject: Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Public Comment Period for the Sacramento River-Chico Landing Subreach Habitat Restoration Project

The California Bay-Delta Authority (CBDA), in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and CEQA Guidelines, has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed habitat restoration project on the Sacramento River. CBDA is the lead agency for the project under CEQA.

Project Location: The proposed project would be implemented at three units (properties) of the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge – Pine Creek, Capay, and Dead Man’s Reach. The parcels are located within the Chico Landing Subreach of the Sacramento River between river miles (RM) 178 and RM 206 within Butte and Glenn Counties.

Description of the Proposed Project: CBDA is proposing to fund habitat restoration work at three project sites in the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Restoration efforts would be implemented by The Nature Conservancy and focus on enhancing native riparian habitat on approximately 836 total acres with a combination of forest, savannah, and grassland habitats. To accomplish this, native riparian plant species would be planted and actively maintained from summer 2006 to fall 2009.

CBDA has prepared a Draft EIR evaluating the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project. The Draft EIR analyzes potential impacts for the following resource areas: agricultural resources and land uses; hydrology, water quality, and river geomorphology; terrestrial biological resources and fisheries; and cultural resources. All of the potential significant impacts reviewed could be mitigated to less than significant levels by mitigation identified in the Draft EIR.

The Draft EIR is available for review online at the CBDA website: <http://calwater.ca.gov> and is also available for review during normal business hours at the following location:

California Bay-Delta Authority
650 Capitol Mall, 5th Floor
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Public Review Period: The Draft EIR is being circulated for public review and comment for a review period of 45 days starting June 23, 2005. Written comments should be submitted no later than August 10, 2005, to the following address:

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