[Comment received via e-mail on 3/25/2014]

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on scoping for the 2015 update of the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP).
We are particularly interested in the parts of the plan that address riparian habitat of the Sacramento Valley.
 We look forward to continued participation in the development of this plan and request to be added to any email interested parties list.

We note that you identify goals for protected riparian habitat (which we assume to be public ownership), buffers between agricultural activities and river corridors and acreage of riparian habitat. However, we do not see strategies, objectives or activities that directly address these goals. For example, while an HCP/NCCP would could lead to purchase of riparian habitat into public ownership, it could be addressed through other mechanisms. Additionally, we would like clarification on the goal to establish buffers between agriculture and river corridors. The Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum has a long history of working to reconcile conflicts between habitat restoration and agriculture and believe this goal could prove problematic for local communities along our river corridor. We believe that enhancement and expansion of riparian habitat along the Sacramento River can be enhanced by working together in partnership with agricultural landowners through a working lands program. We recommend that you include that approach in your strategies, objectives and activities. In these days of diminishing public resources for habitat land acquisitions, leveraging private ownership and management of habitat lands can reduce costs and promote local engagement with conservation programs. While landowner-based restoration may not be appropriate for all habitat sites, we believe it can play a critical role in enhancing valley riparian habitat.

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