

AGENDA ITEM #

January 10, 2003

To: Delta Protection Commission
From: Margit Aramburu, Executive Director
Subject: Acquisition of Land in the Primary Zone Since January 1, 1993 by Public Agencies and Nonprofit Groups
(For Commission Information Only)

Background:

In January 1993, of the **487,625 acres** of land and water in the Primary Zone, approximately 33,725 acres were in public agency ownership. Nonprofit agency ownership was limited to the 1,566 acre Jepson Prairie Preserve owned by The Nature Conservancy.

In 1993, the total in public and nonprofit ownership was 35,191 acres or 7.22% of the Primary Zone.

The total currently in public and nonprofit ownership in the Primary Zone is 82,871 acres or 16.99% of the Primary Zone.

In 2001, this memo listed **5,782 acres (1.18% of Primary Zone)** under conservation easements. For 2002, the acreage has increased to **11,716.81 acres (2.4% of Primary Zone)** in conservation easements.

Acquisitions in 2002:

In 2002, 418 acres of land were acquired by local, State and federal agencies. Sacramento County purchased ten acres under the Community of Locke to address sewage and land ownership issues. East Bay Regional Park District purchased a 270-acre parcel for future development as a park; the lands will remain in agriculture until that time. A 100-acre inholding was added to Department of Fish and Game's holdings in the Yolo Bypass. The Bureau of Reclamation purchased a 29-acre parcel to use as a staging area for construction of new fish screens at the Tracy Pumps.

Land Ownership as of January 1, 1993

The Background Report on Land Use and Development, dated January 1994, describes land ownership in the Delta as of January 1, 1993. In 1993, ownership in the Primary Zone included:

- Ports owned 4,124 acres;
- Cities and Counties owned over 1,567 acres;
- Ironhouse Sanitary District owned about 3,000;
- East Bay Regional Park District owned or managed about 600 acres;
- Department of Parks and Recreation owned 4,857 acres of land and water-covered area;
- Department of Fish and Game owned over 8,000 acres of land and water-covered area;
- Department of Water Resources owned 8,545 acres [plus 193 acres by Cache Slough];
- CalTrans owned 480 acres of land, in addition to rights-of-way;
- Corps of Engineers owned 250 acres on the tip of Grand Island;
- Navy owned 2,000 acres;
- Bureau of Reclamation owned 109 acres at the Delta Cross Channel.
- State Lands Commission administers the State's sovereign ownership interests in tidelands, submerged lands, and beds of navigable waters; about 50,000 acres in the Primary Zone.

Land Owner	1993 (in acres)	2002 (2002 changes in bold)
Ports	4,124	4,124
Ironhouse Sanitary District	2,900	3,400
Cities and Counties	1,567	1,659
East Bay Regional Park District	600	2,547
Department of Parks and Recreation	4,857	5,120
Department of Fish and Game	8,000	24,491
Department of Water Resources	8,738	17,007
CalTrans	480	480
Corps of Engineers	250	1,890
Navy	2,000	2,000
Bureau of Reclamation	109	1,366
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	None	668
Nonprofits (TNC, TPL, ALC, Solano Land Trust)	1,566	8,119

TOTAL	35,191	82,871
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CURRENT LAND OWNERSHIP [Note: Bold type indicates acquisitions in 2002]

CITIES AND COUNTIES:

City of Davis: The City of Davis purchased property adjacent to Putah Creek with the intent of maintaining most of the site in agriculture and enhancing the riparian corridor.

City of Davis, Yolo County 82 acres

Sacramento County: The County purchased the land under the Community of Locke in anticipation of subdividing the property and selling it to building owners.

Locke 10 acres (2002)

SPECIAL DISTRICTS:

East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD): EBRPD serves Alameda and Contra Costa Counties and is funded through property taxes. EBRPD acquired a parcel on eastern Orwood Tract in Contra Costa County in 2002.

Big Break (Eastern Half), Contra Costa County 980 acres (1995)
 Big Break (Western Half), Contra Costa County 688 acres (1999)
Orwood Tract, Contra Costa County 279 acres (2002)

Ironhouse Sanitary District (ISD):

Jersey Island, Contra Costa County 800 acres

STATE:

Department of Fish and Game: Department of Fish and Game acquired a 100-acre inholding in the Yolo Bypass.

Yolo Bypass, Yolo County 3,583 acres
 Yolo Bypass, Yolo County 12,808 acres (2001)
Yolo Bypass, Yolo County 100 acres (2002)

Department of Water Resources:

Sherman Island, Sacramento County 8,146 acres

Hood, Sacramento County 123 acres (1995)

Department of Parks and Recreation:

Delta Meadows, Sacramento County 263 acres (1999)

FEDERAL:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: The Fish and Wildlife Service has been acquiring property within the boundary of the Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in Sacramento County. Acquisitions to date include:

Lodi Gun Club, Sacramento County	287 acres (1994)
Agri-Versified, Sacramento County	227 acres (1997)
Lewis Ranch, Sacramento County	50 acres (1998)
Samra Property, Sacramento County	104 acres (2000)

Fish and Wildlife Service received a grant from CALFED to acquire 4,750-acre Liberty Island in the Yolo Bypass in Yolo and Solano Counties. The Trust for Public Lands acquired the land in 1999; transfer of ownership must await certification of the environmental document currently under preparation.

Army Corps of Engineers:

Little Holland Tract, Solano and Yolo Counties 1,640 acres (1999)

Bureau of Reclamation: The Bureau purchased a parcel to use as a staging area for construction of new fish screening structures at the Tracy Pumps.

Prospect Island, Solano County	1,228 acres (1995)
Bettencourt Property, Contra Costa County	29 acres (2002)

NON-PROFITS/OTHER:

Solano Land Trust (formerly Solano County Farmlands and Open Space Foundation): The Jepsen Prairie Preserve was transferred from the Nature Conservancy to the Solano County Farmlands and Open Space Foundation in 1997 (land was already in non-profit ownership).

Jepsen Prairie Preserve, Solano County 1,566 acres (1997)

The Nature Conservancy, Cosumnes Preserve:

McCormack Williamson Tract, Sacramento County	1,654 acres (1999)
Staten Island, San Joaquin County	9,102 acres (2001)

Trust for Public Land:

Liberty Island, Solano and Yolo Counties	4,760 acres (1999)
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Wildlands, Inc: Wildlands Inc. is a private company that creates mitigation banks:

Kimball Island Mitigation Bank	109 acres (1998)
Pope Ranch, Yolo Bypass (Giant Garter Snake Mitigation Bank)	391 acres (2001)

American Lands Conservancy: A nonprofit entity.

Sun River/Kuhn Ranch (within Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge)	537 acres (2001)
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CONSERVATION EASEMENTS:

Several entities/agencies have purchased easements over privately owned property with the intent of protecting habitat on those lands. Easements have been acquired on several duck clubs in the Yolo Bypass, on mitigation sites, and on agricultural land with the intent of converting the land to seasonal habitat. The total acreage in the listed conservation easements is 11,716.81 acres. **Bold text indicates new, or newly logged easements.**

Bull Sprig Outing Club: In the Yolo Bypass, a conservation easement on 119 acres (1996, USFWS).

Channel Ranch: In the Yolo Bypass, a conservation easement on 190.89 acres (1998, USFWS).

Correira Property: In the Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, an easement on 140 acres (1999, USFWS).

Dawson Duck Club: In the Yolo Bypass, a conservation easement on 159 acres (1996, USFWS).

Empire Tract: A conservation easement on a 261 acre parcel in san Joaquin County to retire agriculture and create seasonal wetland habitat (1995, WCB).

Fern Headreach Island: In the Stockton Deepwater Ship Channel, in San Joaquin County, a conservation easement covering 168 acres (2000, Wildlife Conservation Board).

Frelier: On Holland Tract, in Contra Costa County, a permanent Wetlands Reserve Program easement covering 493 acres (1998, NRCS).

Glide In Ranch: Yolo Bypass, conservation easement on 851.93 acres (1996, USFWS).

H-Pond Duck Club: Yolo Bypass, conservation easement on 479 acres (1996, USFWS)

Laurel G Ranch: Yolo Bypass, permanent conservation easement covering 366 acres (1992, NRCS)

Laurel G Ranch: Yolo Bypass, conservation easement covering 122 acres (1996, USFWS)

Liberty Farms: Off Liberty Island Road, in Solano County, a Wetlands Reserve Program easement covering 563 acres (1998, NRCS).

Liberty Farms: Off Liberty Island Road, in Solano County, a Wetlands Reserve Program easement covering 565 acres (2002, NRCS).

L&L Farms: Medford Island, San Joaquin County, a permanent Wetlands Reserve Program easement covering 232 acres (1994, NRCS).

L&L Farms: Medford Island, in San Joaquin County, permanent Wetlands Reserve Program easement covering 512 acres (1998, NRCS).

L&L Farms: Medford Island, in San Joaquin County, permanent Wetlands Reserve Program easement covering 120 acres (2002, NRCS).

Los Rios Putah Creek: In the Yolo Bypass, a permanent Wetlands Reserve Program easement on 158 acres of managed wetland (2000, NRCS).

Mandeville Island: San Joaquin County, permanent Wetlands Reserve Program easement covering 3,067 acres (2002, NRCS).

Nuss Farms: San Joaquin County, a permanent conservation easement for row and field crops

covering 380 acres (2002, SJCOG).

Palm Tract: On the eastern half of Palm Tract, in Contra Costa County, a conservation easement covering 1,076 acres of agriculture-seasonal and permanent wetland, created as mitigation for impacts associated with construction of the WAPA power lines through the Delta (1994, DFG).

Rising Wing Duck Club: In the Yolo Bypass a conservation easement on 43.99 acres (1998, USFWS).

Saxon Duck Club: In the Yolo Bypass, a conservation easement on 480 acres of managed wetland.

Terminus Tract: In San Joaquin County, a conservation easement on 30 acres adjoining Sycamore Slough.

River Island, Sacramento County: On Tyler Island, 30-year easement on 800 acres to create seasonal wetland habitat (1998, WCB and NRCS).

Yolo Bypass-Skyraker Duck Club: In the Yolo Bypass, a conservation easement on 340 acres of managed wetland.

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