

## Recreation Features Report

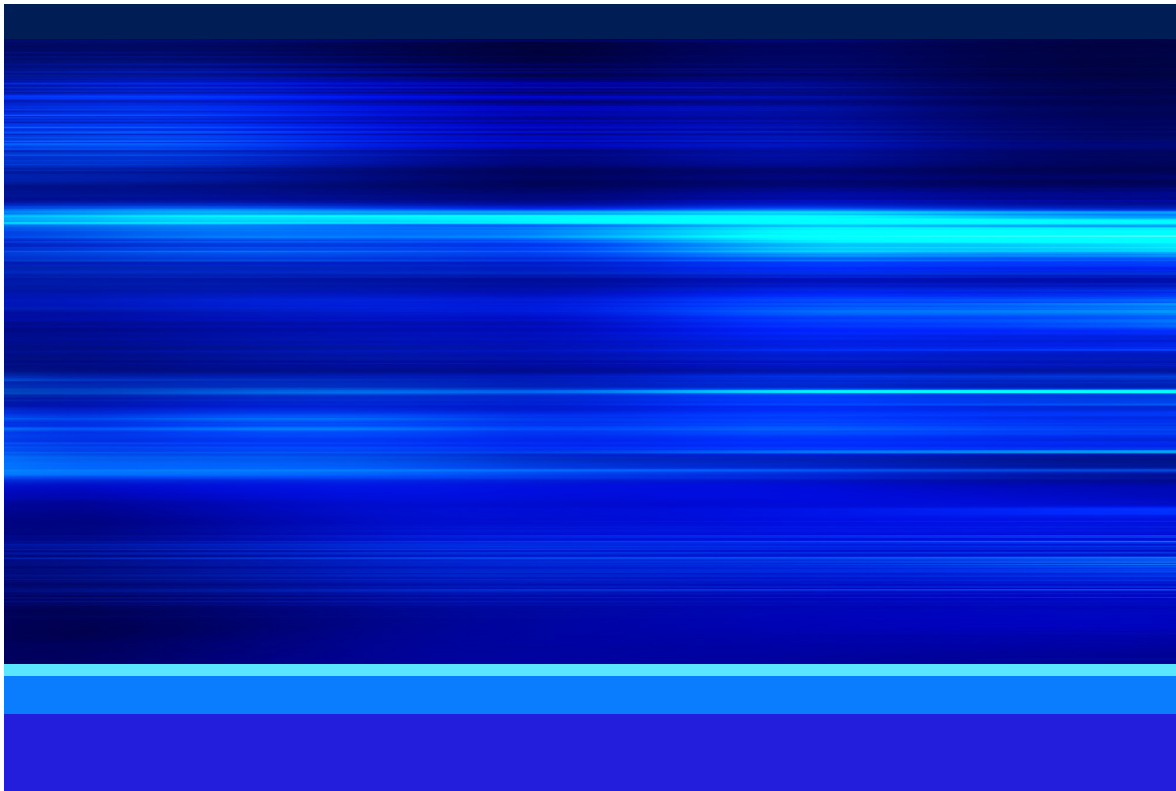
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Little Egbert Multi-Benefit Project

California Department of Water Resources

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## Contents

<b>Acronyms and Abbreviations.....</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>1. Introduction .....</b>	<b>1-1</b>
1.1 Purpose of the Report .....	1-1
1.2 Little Egbert Multi-Benefit Project .....	1-1
1.2.1 2018 Feasibility Study .....	1-1
1.2.2 2023 Feasibility Study .....	1-3
1.3 Next Steps .....	1-8
<b>2. Existing Setting for Recreation Use.....</b>	<b>2-1</b>
2.1 General Setting .....	2-1
2.2 Relevant Plans and Policies .....	2-1
<b>3. Outreach for Recreation.....</b>	<b>3-1</b>
3.1 Introduction.....	3-1
3.1.1 Communication Tools .....	3-1
3.1.2 GARE Racial Equity Tool.....	3-3
3.2 Initial Engagement with Interested Parties.....	3-5
3.3 Focus Group Meeting.....	3-6
3.4 GARE Racial Equity Tool Outcomes .....	3-7
3.5 Mobile Workshops .....	3-9
3.6 Results of Interested Party Engagement .....	3-9
<b>4. Potential Recreation Features .....</b>	<b>4-1</b>
4.1 Design Concept 1A. Pedestrian Trails & Small Craft Boat Launch .....	4-1
4.2 Design Concept 1B. Pedestrian Trails & Small Craft Boat Launch.....	4-3
4.3 Design Concept 2. Motorized Boat Launch.....	4-5
4.4 Design Concept 3. Pedestrian Trail Along Habitat Berm.....	4-7
4.5 Conclusion .....	4-9
<b>5. References .....</b>	<b>5-1</b>

## Appendices

- A Communications and Engagement Plan
- B Findings from Interviews with Interested Parties
- C Focus Group Meeting Summary
- D Mobile Workshop Summary
- E Mobile Workshop Summary

# Recreation Features Report

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## Tables

2-1	Summary of Relevant Plans and Policies .....	2-2
3-1	Interested Parties .....	3-2
3-2	Equitable Engagement Measures and Outcome Results and Considerations .....	3-7
4-1	Summary of Recreation Design Concepts.....	4-9

## Figures

1-1	Little Egbert Recreation Planning Area.....	1-2
1-2	LEMBP Alternative 17.....	1-4
1-3	LEMBP Alternative 19.....	1-5
1-4	LEMBP Alternative 24.....	1-6
1-5	LEMBP Alternative 26.....	1-7
2-1	Rio Vista Airport Influence Area.....	2-7
3-1	Census Tract 6095253500 CalEPA Disadvantaged Communities Screening.....	3-4
4-1	Recreation Concept Design Drawing 1A.....	4-2
4-2	Recreation Concept Design Drawing 1B.....	4-4
4-3	Recreation Concept Design Drawing 2.....	4-6
4-4	Recreation Concept Design Drawing 3.....	4-8

## Acronyms and Abbreviations

C&E	communications and engagement
CalEPA	California Environmental Protection Agency
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CNRA	California Natural Resources Agency
Delta	Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
GARE	Government Alliance on Race and Equity
LEJPA	Little Egbert Joint Powers Agency
LEMBP	Little Egbert Multi-Benefit Project
NPO	nonprofit organization
O&M	operation and maintenance
REGGI	race, ethnicity, gender, geography, and income
RET	Racial Equity Tool
SR	State Route

## **1. Introduction**

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR), together with the Little Egbert Joint Powers Agency (LEJPA) and the landowner, are considering the Little Egbert Multi-Benefit Project (LEMBP). The proposed project would be implemented on Little Egbert Tract, which is approximately 3,100 acres of land in unincorporated Solano County north of Rio Vista (Figure 1-1). The project would deliver regional flood risk reduction and create new habitat for threatened species in the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta (Delta). As part of this effort, the potential for the LEMBP to provide new recreation opportunities in the area is being considered.

### **1.1 Purpose of the Report**

This report summarizes the ongoing LEMBP planning activities, including the proposed project configuration Alternatives under consideration and the anticipated next steps in project review. The report also summarizes existing conditions for recreation uses within Little Egbert Tract, and in the general project area, based on desktop research and informed by a recent outreach effort focused on engaging with local organizations and individuals. Within this context, the report then describes several options for recreation features that appear to be compatible with the project’s flood risk reduction and habitat creation objectives. DWR and LEJPA can use this report to determine how these recreation features may be included in the overall LEMBP description to be carried forward for detailed analysis.

### **1.2 Little Egbert Multi-Benefit Project**

This section summarizes the LEMBP planning efforts to date, focusing on the current (2023) Feasibility Study under preparation. This section also describes the next steps in project planning.

#### **1.2.1 2018 Feasibility Study**

The initial LEMBP concept was developed through a 2018 Feasibility Study commissioned by the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency on behalf of the Lower Sacramento–Delta North Regional Flood Management Planning team (SAFCA 2018). The concept formulated by the 2018 study demonstrated the proposed project’s potential to optimize flood risk reduction, habitat creation, and agricultural economic benefits in the face of sea level rise and climate change. Fifteen alternative project designs (Alternatives) were developed.

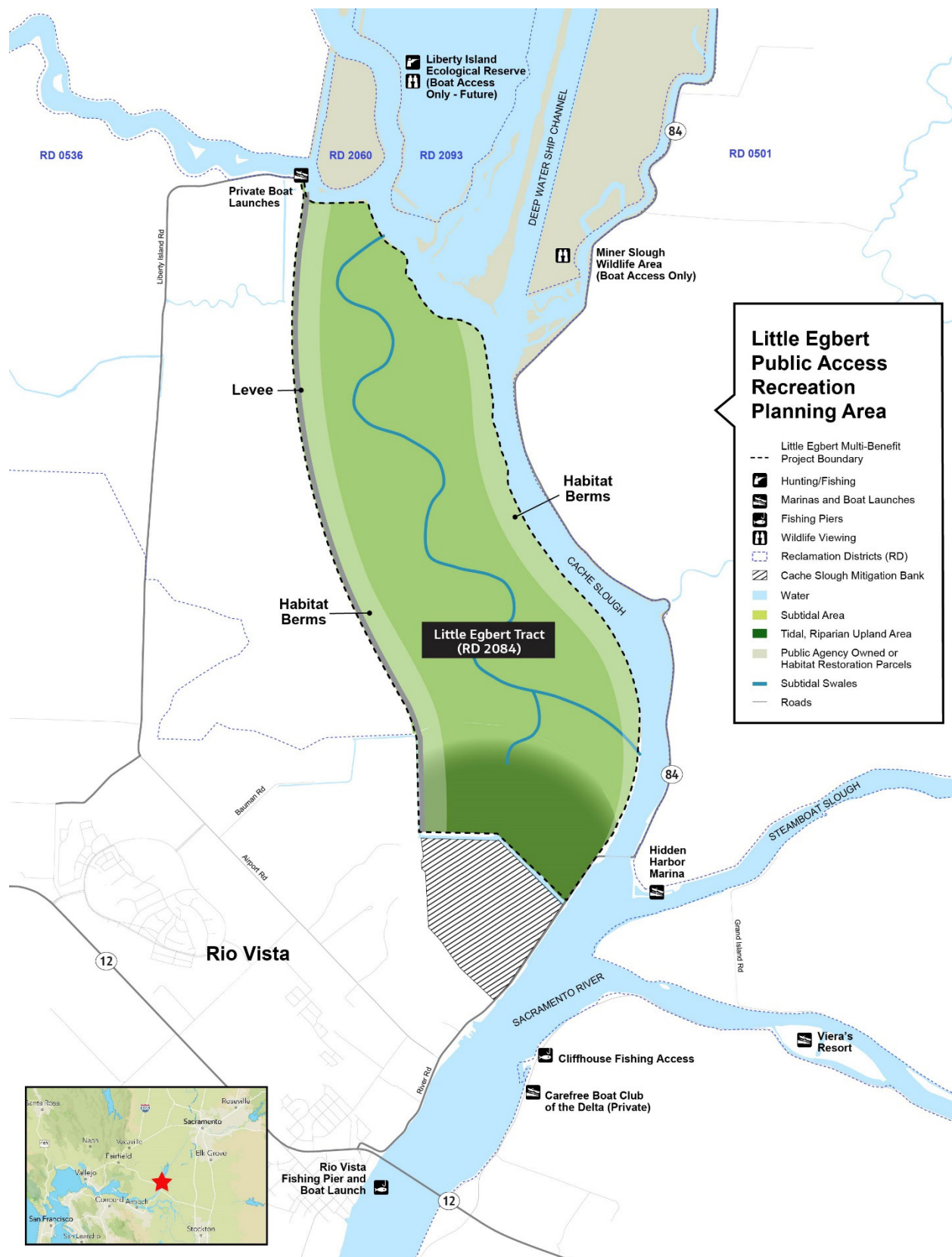


Figure 1-1. Little Egbert Recreation Planning Area

## 1.2.2 2023 Feasibility Study

In 2020, the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) announced it would direct funding to LEJPA to advance a new feasibility study. As part of this effort, LEJPA would engage with local stakeholders, continue advancing technical studies, and undertake preliminary steps in designing project alternatives as a continuation of the groundwork laid in the 2018 Feasibility Study. LEJPA and DWR are leading these efforts to produce the 2023 LEMBP Feasibility Study.

The purpose of the 2023 Feasibility Study is to identify a range of alternatives for the proposed multi-benefit project that enhance public safety relative to flood risk reduction and create habitat. An additional goal of the study is to identify recreational opportunities that could be incorporated into project features, which is informed by this Recreation Features Report. LEJPA developed 14 new Alternatives, building on the initial 15 Alternatives developed in the 2018 Feasibility Study. Of the 29 Alternatives considered, LEJPA narrowed the options down to four: Alternatives 17, 19, 24, and 26. These four Alternatives are presented on Figures 1-2 through 1-5 and described in the subsequent text.

Alternative 17, shown on Figure 1-2, includes a 2,500-foot-long full levee breach serving as the inlet at the north end of the restricted height levee. Floodwaters are released downstream through a 2,500-foot-long full levee breach near the southern end of the restricted height levee. A meandering subtidal swale runs between the main upstream and downstream breaches. Two smaller levee breaches are located along the restricted height levee between the main inlet and outlet. Wide habitat berms are constructed along the eastern and western levees. A bridge or culvert provides access over the southern tidal opening. The Alternative also includes levee improvements to a series of levees along the southwestern edge of the tract.

Alternative 19, shown on Figure 1-3, consists of a 2,500-foot-long water quality inlet weir at the north end of the restricted height levee. Floodwaters are released downstream through a 2,500-foot-long full levee breach near the southern end of the restricted height levee. A meandering subtidal swale runs between the main upstream and downstream breaches. Two smaller levee breaches are located along the restricted height levee between the main inlet and outlet. Narrow habitat berms are constructed along the eastern and western levees. The Alternative also includes levee improvements to a series of levees along the southwestern edge of the tract.

Alternative 24, shown on Figure 1-4, consists of a 2,500-foot-long water quality inlet weir at the north end of the restricted height levee. Floodwaters are released downstream through a 2,500-foot-long compound water quality breach near the southern end of the restricted height levee. A meandering subtidal swale runs between the main upstream and downstream breaches. There are no intermediate levee breaches between the main inlet and outlet. Wide habitat berms are constructed along the eastern and western levees. The Alternative also includes levee improvements to a series of levees along the southwestern edge of the tract.

Alternative 26, shown on Figure 1-5, consists of a 2,500-foot-long full levee breach serving as the inlet at the north end of the restricted height levee. Floodwaters are released downstream through a 2,500-foot-long full levee breach near the southern end of the restricted height levee. A meandering subtidal swale runs between the main upstream and downstream breaches. There are no intermediate levee breaches between the main inlet and outlet. Narrow habitat berms are constructed along the eastern and western levees. A bridge or culvert provides access over the southern tidal opening. The Alternative also includes levee improvements to a series of levees along the southwestern edge of the tract.



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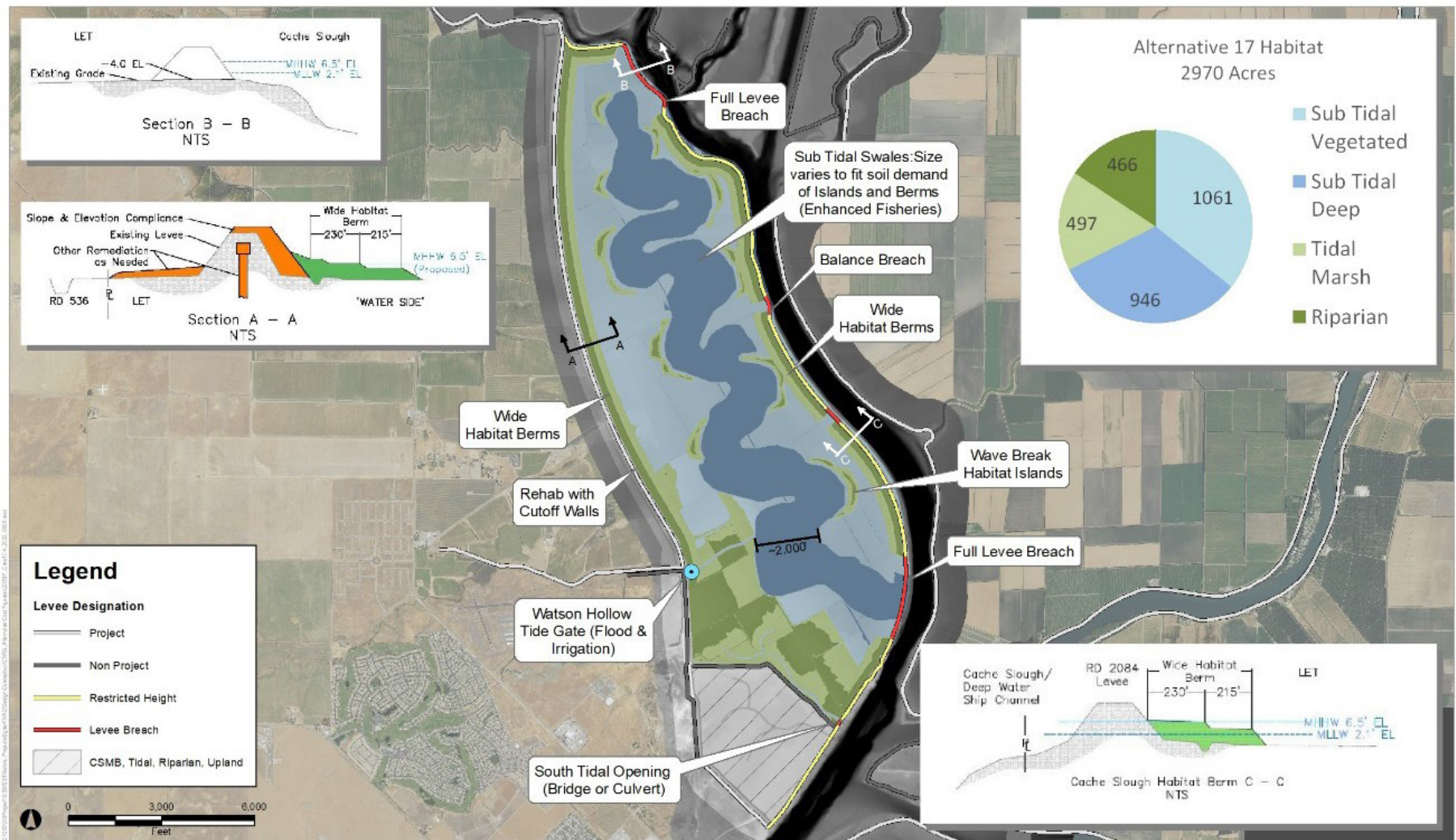
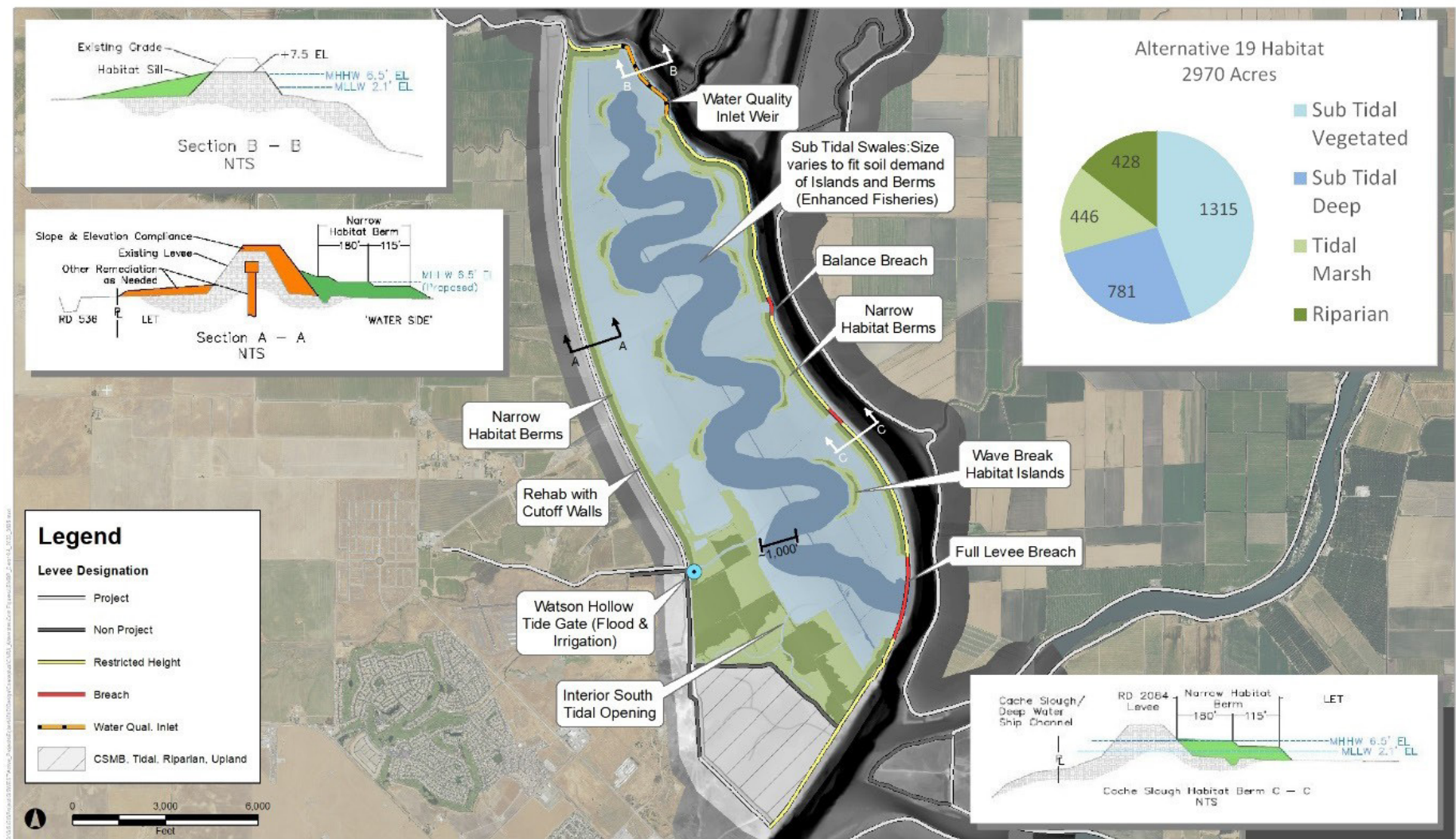


Figure 1-2. LEMBP Alternative 17

Source: Westervelt Ecological Services, LLC

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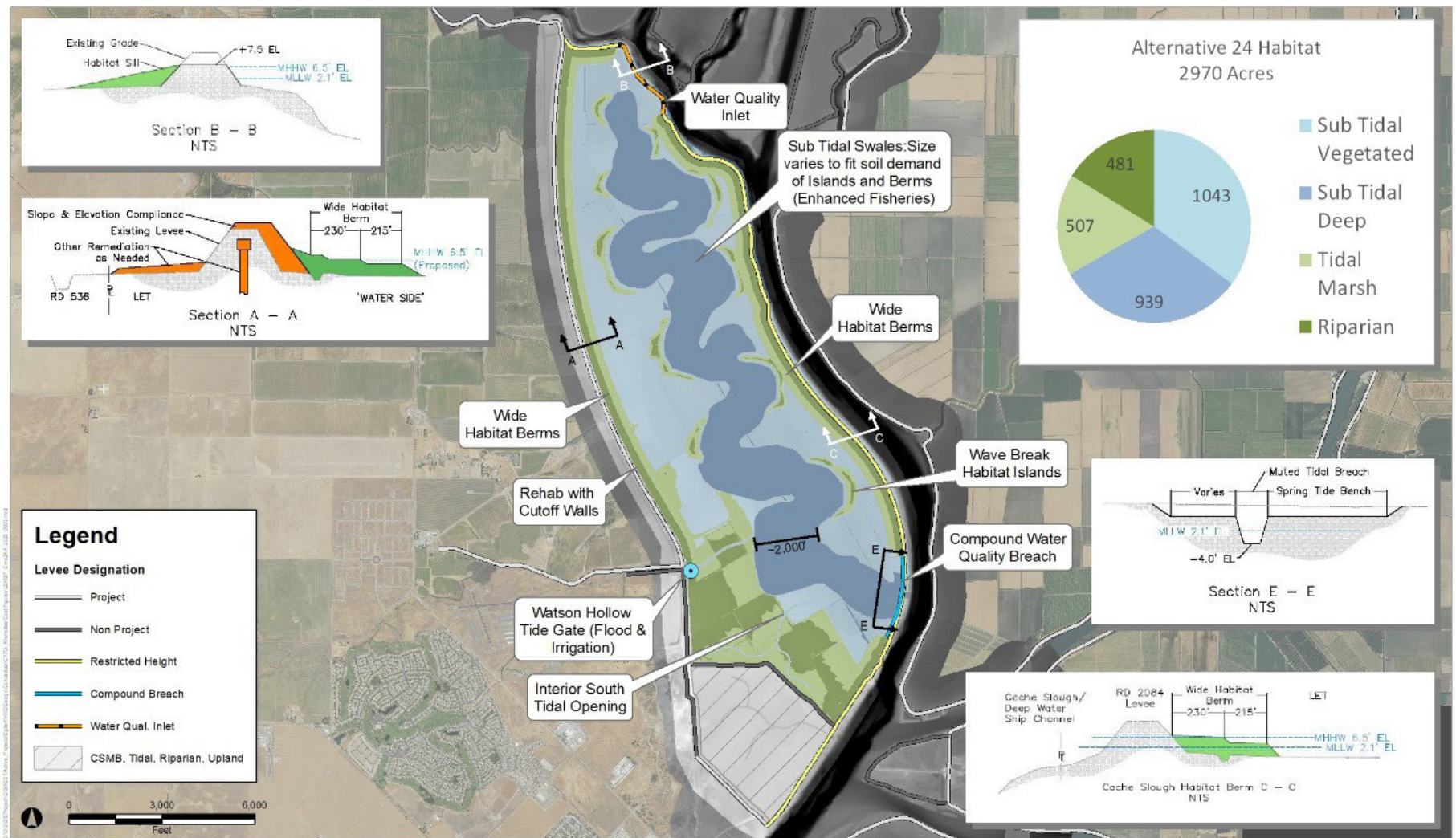


**Figure 1-3. LEMBP Alternative 19**

Source: Westervelt Ecological Services, LLC)



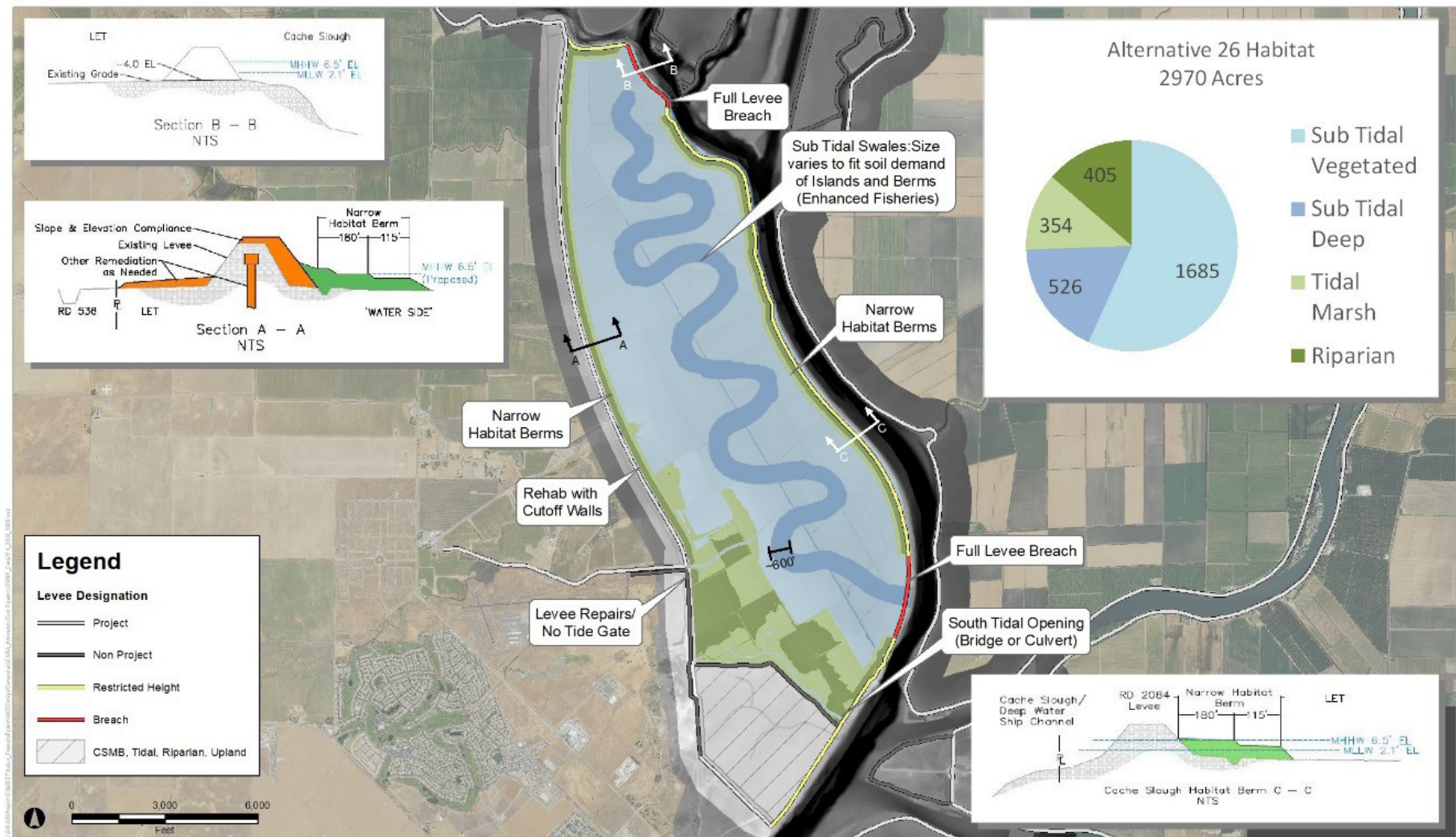
## Recreation Features Report



**Figure 1-4. LEMBP Alternative 24**

Source: Westervelt Ecological Services, LLC)

## Recreation Features Report



**Figure 1-5. LEMBP Alternative 26**

Source: Westervelt Ecological Services, LLC



## 1.3 Next Steps

Completing the current LEMBP Feasibility Study will mark the end of the current phase, with the development of four feasible Alternatives. DWR plans to take the next steps in continued partnership with LEJPA and the landowner. These next steps are expected to include the following:

- Refining the four Alternatives designs into a reasonable range of Alternatives with an additional “no action” Alternative to be evaluated under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This includes selecting the recreation features; refer to Section 4.
- Developing one of the Alternatives into the proposed project.
- Evaluating the proposed project and alternatives for significant environmental impacts and presenting the results in a CEQA document. This includes public and agency engagement at various times, such as scoping and with the release of the draft environmental document.
- Certifying the CEQA document, stating that environmental impacts and mitigation measures have been considered, along with a range of reasonable alternatives.

These steps are planned for summer 2023 through 2024.

## 2. Existing Setting for Recreation Use

This section describes the setting for existing recreation facilities and uses within Little Egbert Tract and the broader area. It also describes plans and policies relevant to recreation.

### 2.1 General Setting

The Little Egbert Tract is located in the Delta within the lower reach of the Yolo Bypass, downstream of the confluence of several watercourses referred to as the Cache Slough Complex. The tract is enclosed by levees on all sides, which are maintained by various reclamation districts, and the majority land use is agriculture. The tract is bordered by water to the north and east, and by primarily agricultural land and the Rio Vista Municipal Airport to the west. The Real McCoy #2 Ferry has a dock on the southeast corner of the tract that connects to State Route (SR) 84 heading south into Rio Vista. There is no public access to the private property.

Based on interviews and desktop reviews, it was found that no known public recreational uses have or currently exist on Little Egbert Tract. Private, hunting bird watching by owners are reported to take place within the tract.

While there are no known public recreational uses in Little Egbert, the surrounding area is used for a wide variety of public recreation, including wildlife observation, boating, fishing, hunting, swimming, picnicking, and camping (refer to Figure 1-1). Regional trails along roads and levees (where permitted) are used for hiking and biking. Agritourism has been on the rise in the form of informal wineries, “u-pick” opportunities, and roadside stands.

Rio Vista is located immediately south to southwest of the tract. Rio Vista is a regional hub for recreation activities, with infrastructure such as boat launches, gas, equipment rental, food, and lodging. Rio Vista is also a cultural hub and destination for festivals and fairs, such as the annual Rio Vista Bass Derby and Festival.

### 2.2 Relevant Plans and Policies

Desktop research included a review of nine documents related to recreation and tourism in the Delta. Many of the documents are primarily focused on proposed or desired recreational opportunities, but all contained descriptions of existing features and activities in some capacity. Table 2-1 summarizes the existing recreational resources, facilities, and uses as described in these documents.

**Table 2-1. Summary of Relevant Plans and Policies**

Document	Date	Overview of Recreation Uses and Facilities	Relevance to Little Egbert Tract
<i>City of Rio Vista General Plan, City of Rio Vista</i>	2001	Recreational Uses/Facilities in Rio Vista: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Neighborhood, community, and regional parks are used for active and passive recreation, including play areas, sports fields, picnic areas, swimming, camping, and fishing.</li> <li>▪ Several boat launches provide access to the Sacramento River for boating, water sports, fishing, and other water-based recreation.</li> <li>▪ An open space network that includes bicycle and pedestrian paths.</li> <li>▪ Waterfront Access Plan is in development to increase public access to the riverfront within city boundaries.</li> <li>▪ A golf course.</li> </ul>	The City of Rio Vista sits due south of Little Egbert Tract and could serve as an access point to the tract via SR 84 (River Road).
<i>Solano County General Plan, Solano County</i>	2008	Recreational Uses/Facilities in Solano County: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Neighborhood, community, and regional parks and preserves are used for active and passive recreation, including play structures, sports fields and complexes, picnic areas, swimming, camping, fishing, hunting, and wildlife observation and nature appreciation.</li> <li>▪ Bicycle, equestrian, and pedestrian paths.</li> <li>▪ Boating and off-road vehicle facilities.</li> <li>▪ Cultural facilities and areas of natural and historic value.</li> <li>▪ Golf courses.</li> </ul>	Little Egbert Tract falls within unincorporated Solano County. While there are no public recreation uses identified for the tract, the regional uses described could apply.
<i>Central Valley Vision Implementation Plan, CA State Parks Planning Division</i>	2009	Recreational Uses/State Park Facilities in the Central Valley: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ State parks with campgrounds, picnic areas, and trails</li> <li>▪ Historic sites and parks</li> <li>▪ Recreation areas on water bodies and land</li> <li>▪ Vehicular recreation areas</li> <li>▪ Natural reserves/wildlife areas</li> <li>▪ Vehicular recreation areas</li> </ul>	Little Egbert Tract is located within the Central Valley. While the tract is not referenced in the document, the recreational opportunities envisioned for the Delta could apply.

Document	Date	Overview of Recreation Uses and Facilities	Relevance to Little Egbert Tract
<i>Recreation Proposal for the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh, CA State Parks Planning Division</i>	2011	<p>Recreational Uses/Facilities in the Delta and Suisun Marsh:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Parks and wildlife areas support a wide variety of recreation activities, providing opportunities for fishing, hunting, motorized and nonmotorized boating, beach play, swimming and windsurfing, wildlife viewing, picnicking, hiking, biking, and camping (tent, recreational vehicle, and houseboat). Some offer trails and options for driving tours, public fishing and hunting access, and visitor and interpretive centers.</li> <li>▪ Boating and fishing facilities include a few large public marinas with launch ramps, picnicking areas, and trails. Angling is also available at public fishing piers. Public land may also include access to beach and windsurfing areas, or areas for bank fishing and hunting.</li> <li>▪ Scenic highways, including State Highway 160 and local roads such as the Delta Loop, state recreational trail routes, railroads, and other transportation corridors connect recreation areas, offer scenic vistas, and link to destinations in other regions.</li> </ul>	Little Egbert Tract falls within the Delta. While the tract is not referenced in the document, the existing and proposed recreational opportunities identified could apply.
<i>Inventory of Recreation Facilities in the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta, Delta Protection Commission</i>	2015	<p>Recreational Resources in the Delta:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Public parks, public land, historic sites, legacy communities, agritourism-suitable crops, and wildlife areas, refuges, and reserves.</li> </ul> <p>Recreational Facilities in the Delta:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Boat launches, marinas, boat storage, transient tie-ups, docks and piers, environmental services, boating and hunting club facilities, trails and paths, driving routes, picnic sites, agritourism sites, visitor information and education centers and museums, nonmotorized boat launch sites, campgrounds, event venues, public restrooms, fishing accesses, and waterfront promenades.</li> </ul> <p>Recreational Support in the Delta:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recreation equipment providers, overnight lodging, restaurants and specialty foods, hunting and fishing guides, and recreation and tourism providers.</li> </ul>	This document offers a thorough inventory of recreational facilities and resources in the Delta/Solano County area surrounding Little Egbert Tract that could be applied. No recreational facilities or uses are identified for the tract.



## Recreation Features Report

Document	Date	Overview of Recreation Uses and Facilities	Relevance to Little Egbert Tract
<i>Suisun Marsh Public Access Study, DWR</i>	2018	<p>Recreational Facilities and Public Access in Suisun Marsh:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hunting, boating, pier and bank fishing, nature and wildlife viewing and educational study, picnicking, hiking, biking, and photography.</li> <li>▪ Marinas, boat harbors, navigable waterways, and trails all provide public access to the marsh and waterfront.</li> <li>▪ Amenities include parking, hunting blinds, boat ramps and docks, fishing piers, trash receptacles, toilets and restrooms, potable water, benches, picnic tables, and shade structures and trees.</li> </ul>	<p>Much of Suisun Marsh is established as a sanctuary, conservation area, or dedicated wildlife area with limited human use. As Little Egbert Tract is ecologically restored, similar access considerations may need to be considered.</p>
<i>Recreation &amp; Tourism in the Delta, Delta Protection Commission</i>	2019	<p>Based on interviews at four Delta events, the following recreational activities were identified by interviewees (in order from most to least frequently reported):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hiking and walking, attending festivals and events, scenery/wildlife viewing, dining, historical sightseeing, boating (motorized), driving for pleasure, wine tasting, swimming, visiting museums, birdwatching, kayaking and canoeing, farm visits, beach play, sunbathing, shopping, tent camping, fishing, berry picking, waterskiing, wakeboarding, tubing, road cycling, jet skiing, paddleboarding, sailing, hunting, horseback riding, off-road and mountain biking, geocaching, motorcycle touring, golfing, windsurfing, kitesurfing, and photography.</li> </ul>	<p>Little Egbert Tract falls within the Delta. While the tract is not referenced in this document, the existing and proposed recreational opportunities identified could apply.</p>

Document	Date	Overview of Recreation Uses and Facilities	Relevance to Little Egbert Tract
<i>Economic Sustainability Plan for the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta, Recreation and Tourism Chapter 2020 Update, Delta Protection Commission</i>	2021	<p>In the Delta, people seeking recreation experiences go to private enterprises, including marinas, restaurants, retail establishments, wineries, and farm stands. Public recreation includes scenic driving, hiking, biking, swimming, boating (motorized and nonmotorized), paddle sports, picnicking, day use, fishing, hunting, camping, wildlife viewing, photography, and shopping at farmers' markets.</p> <p>Participation in nonmotorized boating is increasing at a faster rate than motorized, while motorized boating ownership is declining. Among younger generations, a shift in focus to experiences, group recreation, and shared ownership has been observed. Other trends involve the provision of high-end camping, and water recreation-oriented urban redevelopment and development centers.</p> <p>This plan reported an expanded demand for outdoor recreation during the COVID-19 pandemic, including hiking, boating, fishing, and camping.</p>	No recreational facilities or activities are identified within Little Egbert Tract; however, the recreational uses identified throughout the Delta could apply.
<i>Great California Delta Trail Master Plan, Delta Protection Commission</i>	2022	<p>Existing opportunities for recreation in the Delta in relation to the Great California Delta Trail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Master Plan proposes a main trail corridor, supported by local access trails, water launch sites, and adventure hubs.</li> <li>▪ The main corridor will accommodate pedestrians, bicycles, and equestrians wherever feasible, and prioritize connectivity to boat access sites.</li> <li>▪ The main route will prioritize connections to Delta legacy communities, public transportation, and other important destinations.</li> <li>▪ The trail will be designed to highlight unique qualities, activities, and destinations in the Delta Region, including farm stands, historic downtowns, river trails, rail-to-trails, bridges, water access, and wetlands.</li> </ul>	Little Egbert Tract is located within the Central Region of the planning area. While currently inaccessible by the public, it is close to Rio Vista, a proposed adventure hub, and could be integrated into the Great California Delta Trail by local access trails or water launch sites.

In addition to the plans and policies that address recreation in the area, the Rio Vista Municipal Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan is very important for considering recreation opportunities on Little Egbert Tract (Solano County Airport Land Use Commission 2018).<sup>1</sup> Rio Vista Municipal Airport is a general aviation airport with two active runways, and with an estimated 96 operations per day consisting of arrivals, departures, and touch-and-go operations (Solano County Airport Land Use Commission 2018). The Land

<sup>1</sup> Little Egbert Tract also falls within airport zones designated by Travis Air Force Base but, because of the greater distance, those zones do not further constrain potential future land uses on Little Egbert Tract.

Use Compatibility Plan designates various safety zones associated with airport operations, primarily based on the runway locations and including a planned runway extension toward Little Egbert Tract. As shown on Figure 2-1, some of the safety zones overlap portions of Little Egbert Tract:

- **Zone 2: Inner Approach/Departure Zone.** Zone 2 includes a small part of the southern portion of Little Egbert Tract near the west levee. In Zone 2, residences are limited to one per 10 acres and nonresidential intensity is limited to 40 people per acre. Sensitive uses, such as schools, hospitals, and theaters, are prohibited. Stadiums and group recreational uses are prohibited.
- **Zone 3: Inner Turning Zone.** Zone 3 includes additional lands adjacent to Zone 2 in the southern portion of Little Egbert Tract. In Zone 3, residences are limited to one per 2 acres and nonresidential intensity is limited to 70 people per acre. Sensitive use prohibitions are similar to those for Zone 2.
- **Zone 4: Outer Approach/Departure Surface.** Zone 4 is an extension of Zone 2, penetrating further into Little Egbert Tract. In Zone 4, residences are limited to one per 2 acres and nonresidential intensity is limited to 100 people per acre. Sensitive use prohibitions are similar to those for Zones 2 and 3.
- **Zone 6: Traffic Pattern Zone/Inner Wildlife Hazard Attractants Boundary.** Zone 6 covers most of the southern half of Little Egbert Tract. This zone is primarily about wildlife hazard attractants, which increases the potential for dangerous bird strikes. Although mostly an ecological consideration, recreation features should be evaluated for their potential to attract wildlife.

The Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan constrains the ability to develop most public uses within Zones 2, 3, and 4, including larger, active “group” recreation features (Solano County Airport Land Use Commission 2018). Smaller recreation features are assumed to be compatible with these zones.

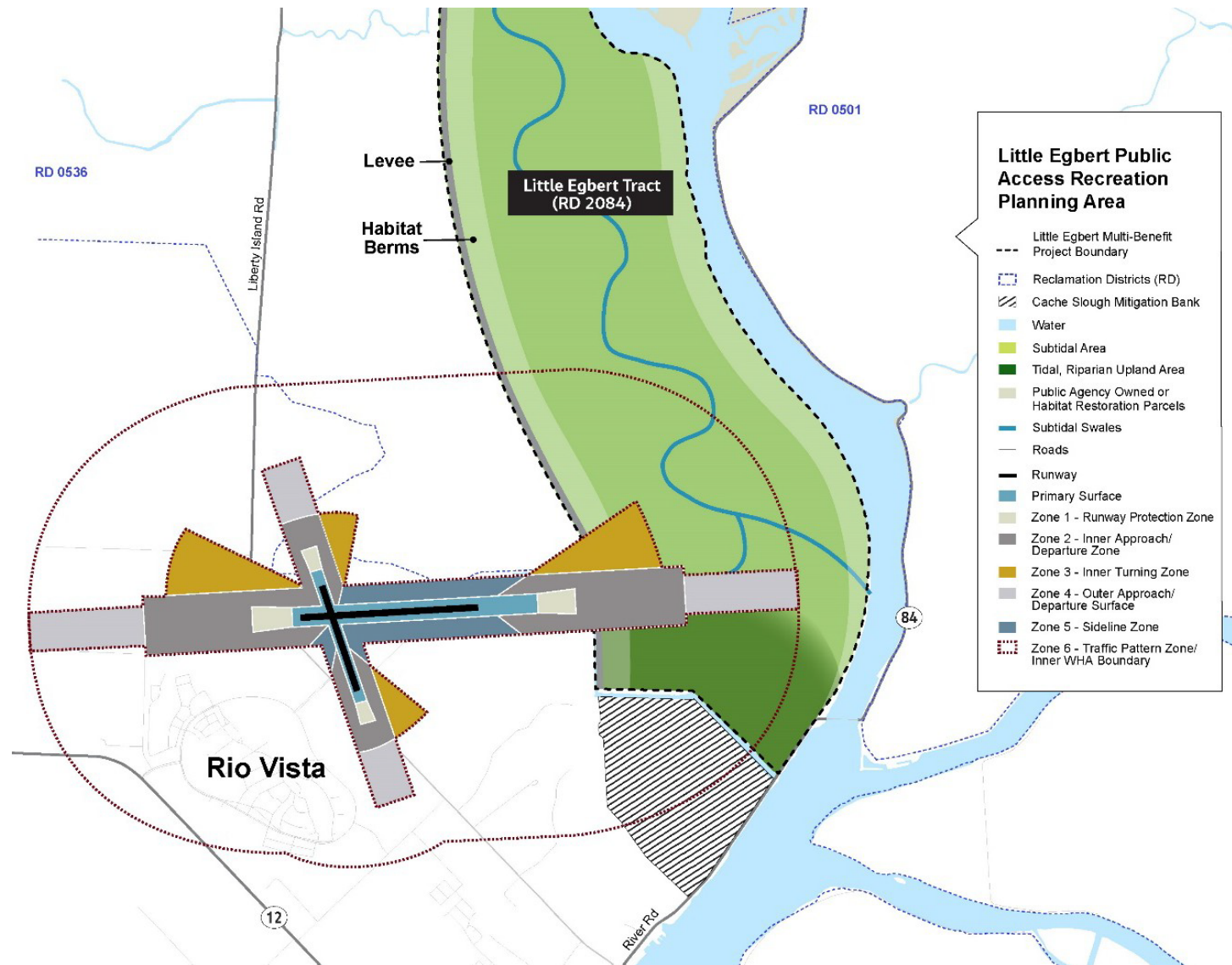


Figure 2-1. Rio Vista Airport Influence Area

## 3. Outreach for Recreation

### 3.1 Introduction

This section describes communications and engagement (C&E) activities completed with interested parties to support the proposed project's Recreation Features Report. To guide these activities, a C&E Plan was developed to serve as a roadmap throughout the drafting of the Recreation Features Report. The C&E Plan is available in Appendix A. The C&E Plan and its implementation were informed by the Government Alliance on Race and Equity's (GARE's) Racial Equity Tool, described in Section 3.1.2, as well as outreach methods that have been effective for similar projects led by DWR.

The C&E Plan identified the following communications and engagement objectives to support the recreation planning aspects of the project:

- Identify root causes of racial disparity within Little Egbert Tract and implement strategies that engage communities who have been subject to these disparities in a manner that ensures accountability, transparency, and equitable participation. Engage all interested parties on public access opportunities and concerns from all perspectives, including landowners and agricultural operations, flood and reclamation districts, recreation groups and visitors, and agency representatives.
- Understand interests in and usage of the tract to inform DWR's priorities for enhancing public access, such as expanding opportunities for fishing, hunting, boating, kayaking, or other recreational uses to inform design alternatives for the LEMBP.
- Build interested parties' understanding of the LEMBP's intended outcomes and how potential recreation opportunities align with needs associated with flood protection, agriculture, climate change adaptation, and the re-establishment of threatened species.

The following subsections describe the tools, activities, and results of the C&E process.

#### 3.1.1 Communication Tools

Communication tools and materials were developed to accompany the broader C&E process. The objectives of these tools were to (1) ensure that consistent and accurate messages are provided to interested parties throughout the planning and implementation of the proposed project and (2) ensure that all interested parties are aware of the details and benefits of the project. These tools and materials are summarized as follows:

- **Key messages** were developed to inform all presentation materials and informational products. These messages, approved by DWR and LEJPA, describe the background, purpose, and current stage of the LEMBP as well as the project's recreation planning process specifically.
- Publicly facing informational materials, such as a project factsheet and online presentation to support the February 22, 2023 Focus Group meeting (described in Section 3.3), were developed to provide interested parties with succinct information on the project status to inform their input on recreation that would be considered in the development of the Recreation Features Report.
- An **email bank** to identify contact information for interested parties was developed and maintained throughout the drafting of the Recreation Features Report.

### 3.1.1.1 Stakeholder Goals and Objectives

As identified in the C&E Plan, the following table outlines interested parties, audience members, and their interests as they relate to the proposed project.

**Table 3-1. Interested Parties**

Interested Party Audience	Interests	Audience Members (not exhaustive)
Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning and providing public services</li> <li>Addressing local concerns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Solano County Supervisor John Vasquez</li> <li>Solano County Supervisor Mitch Mashburn</li> <li>City of Rio Vista</li> </ul>
State and Federal Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providing for the health and education of Californians</li> <li>Preserving ecological diversity</li> <li>Protecting natural and cultural resources</li> <li>Creating opportunities for outdoor recreation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>California State Parks</li> <li>DWR</li> <li>Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta Conservancy</li> <li>Delta Protection Commission</li> <li>Delta Stewardship Council</li> </ul>
Regional Entities and Districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protecting land</li> <li>Preserving agricultural practices</li> <li>Assisting landowners and residents with managing land, water, and wildlife resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LEJPA, which includes Reclamation Districts 2084 and 536</li> </ul>
Recreation Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protecting outdoor recreation</li> <li>Protecting wildlife</li> <li>Conserving land</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Backcountry Hunters &amp; Anglers</li> <li>Bay Area Sea Kayakers</li> <li>California Waterfowl Association</li> <li>California Striped Bass Association</li> <li>Delta Kayak Adventures</li> <li>Ducks Unlimited</li> <li>Fly Fishing Anglers</li> <li>Liberty Island Access</li> <li>NorCal Guides &amp; Sportsmen’s Association</li> </ul>
Community Benefit Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providing equitable access to current and expanded recreational opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Justice Outside</li> <li>Little Manila Rising</li> <li>Restore the Delta</li> <li>Rise Stockton Coalition</li> <li>Third City Coalition</li> </ul>

Interested Party Audience	Interests	Audience Members (not exhaustive)
Landowners and Agricultural Interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protecting agricultural lands</li> <li>Protecting the interests of farmers and ranchers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual landowners near the project site</li> </ul>
General Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protecting outdoor recreation</li> <li>Protecting wildlife</li> <li>Protecting and conserving land</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General public</li> </ul>

### 3.1.2 GARE Racial Equity Tool

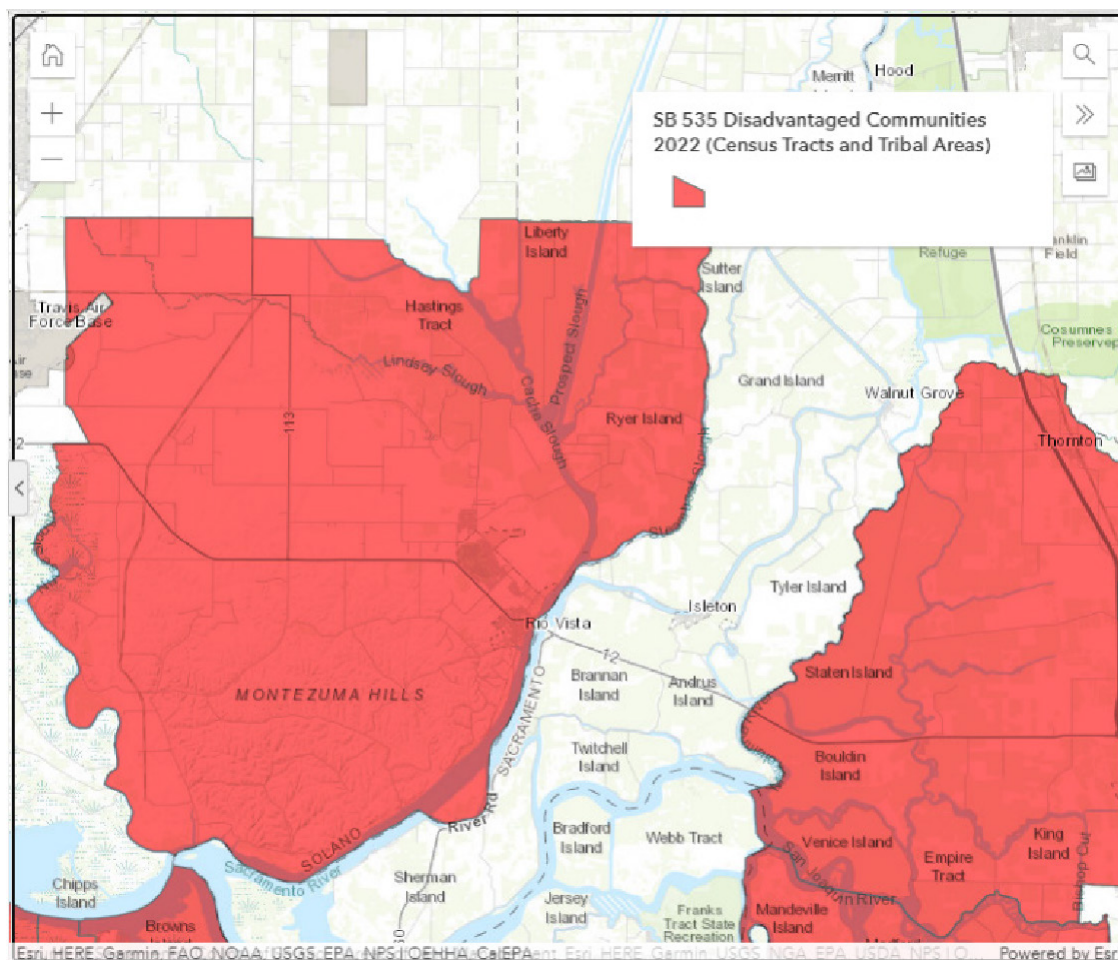
DWR is committed to ensuring equity in its programs and services through inclusive outreach and engagement. Since 2020, DWR has taken several steps in advancing justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in its programs. In 2022, DWR created the Racial Equity Action Plan (DWR 2023) to advance DWR's Racial Equity Vision that all people in California are healthy, financially stable, and safe.

Project strategies are improved by including groups who are most affected by project outcomes and decisions. Two goals of DWR's Racial Equity Plan are to improve community engagement with communities most affected by structural racism and embed racial equity into projects and programs. To achieve those goals, DWR applies a Racial Equity Tool (RET) when conducting outreach. The use of RET enables a move from an "inform" approach to a community-led approach. RET was used in the outreach for LEMBP in the following ways.

#### 3.1.2.1 Community Indicators and Data on Specific Populations

The Little Egbert Tract and surrounding land are designated as a disadvantaged community under California Environmental Protection Agency's (CalEPA's) California Environmental Screen 4.0 (CalEnviroScreen 4.0) tool. The census tract that contains Little Egbert Tract (6095253500), located in Solano County, is in the CalEnviroScreen 77.8 percentile, therefore putting this region in the top 25% of the disadvantaged community category (Figure 3-1).





**Figure 3-1. Census Tract 6095253500 CalEPA Disadvantaged Communities Screening**

Source: CalEPA 2022

An equity profile of the project area was developed using indicators disaggregated by race, ethnicity, gender, geography, and income (REGGI) to identify communities who could be disproportionately affected by decisions and outcomes within the project area. Community indicators and data were analyzed from within a 20-mile radius of the project area. The specifics of the REGGI dataset included information from the 2020 census, CalEnviroScreen 4.0, and local sources for community and cultural identity. Engagement strategies for this project were designed based on an analysis of REGGI data and information from cultural and interest groups, environmental justice groups, and insular communities found within the 20-mile radius of the project area.

### **3.1.2.2 Root Cause(s) of Racial Disparity within and adjacent to the Little Egbert Tract and Corresponding Engagement Strategies Used to Address Them**

Information gathered from the REGGI analysis was considered when selecting engagement strategies. Disparities in the project area were analyzed by identifying 10 groups from within the 20-mile project radius who indicated that they experience racial or economic disparity. The disparity analysis examines local histories, cultural observations, economic and educational inequities, barriers to wealth accumulation, housing insecurity, and disparities by skin tone.



People are experts in their own community, and their perspective is essential to all decisions that affect them. The goal of the engagement efforts to inform the Recreation Features Report was to engage those most affected to learn what solutions they desire and what solutions will work best for them regarding the recreational uses of Little Egbert Tract. To do that, engagement strategies for this project included individual interviews, focus groups, public presentations, and outreach events at locations where the most affected groups convene. Outreach events were organized to consider other factors to promote equitable participation, including having Spanish-speaking staff available as needed, providing physical and virtual opportunities for public feedback, and including local hosts and facilitators when possible.

### 3.1.2.3 Performance Measures for Equitable Engagement

DWR set goals to measure the success of equitable engagement strategies. Measures for equitable engagement to support the Recreation Features Report included the following:

- Create an analysis of the greater project area (20 miles) using the REGGI dataset.
- Identify a minimum of 10 groups experiencing racial disparity from within 20 miles of project area.
- Offer a minimum of 5 opportunities for providing feedback that consider the engagement needs and preferences of the 10 groups.
- Establish communication channels with 100% of the 10 groups to accomplish the following:
  - Exchange contact information
  - Communicate project updates and future engagement opportunities
  - Provide opportunities for continued feedback, concerns, and ideas
- Receive responses from 90% of the 10 groups.
- Obtain project feedback from 80% of the 10 groups.
- Include 100% of the feedback obtained in the final report for this project.

When DWR applies the RET to engage meaningfully and understand the needs of the project's most affected groups, lasting partnerships can be formed. Through these partnerships, DWR will continue to listen to concerns and ideas from the groups engaged in the project.

## 3.2 Initial Engagement with Interested Parties

Between November and December 2022, an interested party assessment was conducted to inform engagement strategies in support of the LEMBP. This assessment included interviews with 19 individuals representing a variety of interests, including agriculture, local government, community benefit organizations, recreation, reclamation districts, and state regulatory agencies. The interviews provided an opportunity to develop an understanding of historical, current, and desired recreation activities in the area. It also allowed interviewees to provide recommendations for a successful engagement process with communities and groups. Key themes from these interviews are included as follows. The assessment is included in full in Appendix B.

- Identification and integration of recreational concepts should not delay the overall implementation of the proposed project. Recreation features should not impede the flood-resistant components of the project; any concept that supports or augments flood benefits should be prioritized.
- Ensure the compatibility and cost-effectiveness of expanded/new recreation opportunities. Specifically, preserve existing land uses (for example, farming, Rio Vista Municipal Airport) and pursue recreation opportunities with limited operation and maintenance (O&M) costs.

- Clearly define roles and responsibilities, particularly who will provide funding for O&M and potential law enforcement needs.
- Interviewees had varying levels of project understanding (for example, its current status and overall scope), which influenced the level of detail in their responses. For example, some interviewees provided recreation recommendations specific to project alternatives under consideration by LEJPA. In contrast, others had no prior interaction with the project and could not offer location-specific feedback. Additionally, some interviewees were under the impression that only water-based recreation opportunities would be considered given that surrounding lands are all privately owned. Numerous methods were used to address this varied level of understanding, which included the following:
  - Sharing a map of the project area to detail the surrounding land ownership, recreational facilities, geography, and roads and highways to assist in providing context on where future recreational opportunities could be located
  - Sharing publicly available alternatives developed by LEJPA that were current at the time of the interviews
  - Inviting interviewees to follow up with the project team with specific, technical questions that could be shared with and addressed by the team
  - Noting that land-based recreational opportunities would be considered as a part of the technical analysis in addition to water-based recreational opportunities
- Regarding engagement strategies, interviewees recommended that the project team prioritize small group settings (for example, focus groups, pop-ups) for more targeted feedback.
- For many interviewees, equitable access in terms of racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic status were not among the factors raised as priorities for future recreation opportunities. Instead, their desires for equitable access pertained to ensuring access for a multitude of recreational uses.

### 3.3 Focus Group Meeting

On February 22, 2023, DWR organized a virtual focus group meeting with a cross section of interested parties from within and adjacent to the project area. This meeting entailed the following: providing an update on the proposed LEMBP and alternatives under consideration, discussing potential recreation interests, feedback received to date, identifying geographically feasible locations for recreational access points in Little Egbert Tract, as well as gathering recommendations for future engagement opportunities and audiences.

The focus group meeting included a total of 15 participants representing local government and elected officials, recreation groups, and local landowners. CBOs were invited to participate but did not attend due to scheduling conflicts, lack of staff/resources, competing priorities (for example, participation in other government agencies' engagement opportunities), and/or needing to prioritize funded activities.

Attendees participated in a series of interactive exercises designed to collect input on current and future recreational uses of the project area, and on criteria and planning considerations the DWR team could use to identify new accessible and affordable recreation opportunities.

A summary of the focus group meeting is available in Appendix C.

### 3.4 GARE Racial Equity Tool Outcomes

Table 3-2 shows the measures applied to engagement efforts, as described in Section 3.1.2.3, the results of the engagement efforts in terms of the level of success in meeting the performance measures, and considerations regarding the extent to which the measures were met.

**Table 3-2. Equitable Engagement Measures and Outcome Results and Considerations**

Equitable Engagement Performance Measures	Outcome Results	Outcome Considerations
Create an analysis of the greater project area (20 miles) using the REGGI dataset	100% The analysis was conducted, and a demographic-focused map was created to inform the equitable and inclusive outreach strategies of the project's C&E Plan.	The analysis and project map were created using demographic data from the 2020 census and CalEnviroScreen. Other factors considered for the analysis were cultural and subsistence uses of the Delta.
Identify a minimum of 10 groups experiencing racial disparity from within 20 miles of project area	100% Ten groups with environmental justice, racial or cultural focuses were identified within the project area. Four groups are informally organized spiritual or cultural groups with Person of Color Representatives above the age of 40. Six groups are formally organized as nonprofit organizations (NPOs) with Persons of Color Representatives aged 18 to 65.	Many groups representing racial disparity experiences are not formally organized and do not have outdoor recreation as a group priority. The 10 groups identified for this project include environmental or recreation topics as a group priority.
Offer a minimum of 5 opportunities for providing feedback that consider the engagement needs and preferences of the 10 groups	100% Representatives from the groups identified in the analysis indicated that their preferred feedback methods were: (1) focus groups, (2) mobile workshops with multilingual staff, (3) participation in groups' existing meetings, and (4) meeting with the groups individually via interview or phone call. Ten feedback opportunities were offered to the groups identified using the four methods indicated and eight feedback opportunities were conducted, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One focus group meeting</li> <li>Two mobile workshops</li> <li>Five individual interviews with environmental justice-focused community groups</li> </ul>	Two feedback opportunities were planned at two of the NPOs' existing meetings. Both of those opportunities were canceled by the groups' representatives. The cancelations were due to the groups being invited to many government engagement opportunities and needing to prioritize funded activities.

Equitable Engagement Performance Measures	Outcome Results	Outcome Considerations
<p>Establish communication channels with 100% of the 10 groups to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Exchange contact information</li> <li>▪ Communicate project updates and future engagement opportunities</li> <li>▪ Provide opportunities for continued feedback, concerns, and ideas</li> </ul>	<p>100%</p> <p>DWR initiated communication with and sent invitations for feedback opportunities and project updates to the 10 groups identified in the analysis. Ten groups were contacted. Communications channels used were emails, phone calls, and submitting contact forms on the groups' web or social media pages.</p>	<p>It took an average of five communication attempts before a representative from the group responded to the project team.</p>
<p>Receive responses from 90% of the 10 groups</p>	<p>100%</p> <p>DWR received responses from all ten groups contacted.</p> <p>Four of the groups responded via emails. Six responded via phone call.</p> <p>One responded via a social media platform.</p>	<p>The informally organized groups and nonprofit organizations with representatives above age 40, responded via phone calls. All nonprofit organization with representatives under the age of 40 responded via email or social media platforms.</p>
<p>Obtain project feedback from 80% of the 10 groups</p>	<p>63%</p> <p>Of the ten groups identified and contacted, five groups participated in at least one of the feedback opportunities.</p>	<p>All of the groups contacted indicated that they are over-burdened and under-funded and are unable to respond to feedback opportunity requests.</p> <p>Four groups stated that they had competing interests and that they could not provide feedback without compensation.</p>
<p>Include 100% of the feedback obtained in the final report for this project</p>	<p>100%</p> <p>All feedback obtained from the five groups who participated in feedback opportunities was included in the final project report.</p>	<p>DWR integrated all feedback into the report and shared the inclusion of the groups' feedback for their review and approval.</p>

### 3.5 Mobile Workshops

DWR conducted two mobile workshops (also known as pop-up outreach events) to collect feedback on current and desired recreational uses of the project area from local residents and/or those who recreate in the vicinity of Little Egbert Tract. These events occurred on April 29, 2023, at the Rio Vista Bait & Tackle Shop and on May 20, 2023, at Sandy Beach County Park. Key themes of these events are captured as follows. Summaries of these events are included in Appendices D and E.

- Current recreational uses include the following:
  - Fishing both within the waterway (for example, from kayaks or boats) and from riverbanks
  - Hunting
  - Boating
  - Kayaking
  - Picnicking
  - Bird watching
- Aspirations for future recreation include the following:
  - More public amenities, such as publicly available beaches, campsites, and picnicking areas
  - As additional visitors would equate to more trash; provide trash receptacles and signage to mitigate littering
  - Public restrooms with running water
  - Additional access for kayaks and power boats

### 3.6 Results of Interested Party Engagement

During November 2022 and May 2023, a total of 59 individuals were engaged through interviews, informational calls, the focus group meeting, and/or pop-up events. These individuals represented local government, state agencies, recreation groups, community benefit organizations, and the general public.

Key themes of feedback received across engagement activities conducted during this time period are as follows:

- Prioritize the identification and implementation of flood-specific components of the proposed project ahead of implementing recreational opportunities.
- Ensure costs for the construction and maintenance of future recreation opportunities are not exorbitant and that funding responsibilities are reflective of the budget capacities of all parties involved.
- Protect existing or planned land uses within the project area from being infringed upon by future recreational opportunities.
- Future recreation opportunities should be prioritized based on how accessible they are to as wide of an audience as possible. This would include public boat launches, camping sites, running and potable water, picnic tables, and amenities to support fishing (for example, fish cleaning stations).

## **4. Potential Recreation Features**

The selection of potential recreation features drew from a review of historical recreation in the project area and opportunities identified through outreach, while taking into account the physical and economical constraints of the proposed project, such as access by land and water and long-term operations and maintenance. Concept features were designed with water elevation levels in mind, to either sit above the high water line or be able to withstand intermittent inundation. The following four design concepts were developed for inclusion.

### **4.1 Design Concept 1A. Pedestrian Trails & Small Craft Boat Launch**

Shown on Figure 4-1, this concept covers features in the tidal riparian upland area in the southern portion of the tract, based on elevations in CNRA Alternative 17. The total area of recreation and associated improvements is 4.4 acres, and up to 35 parking spaces are provided. Parking lots are accessible by car from SR 84, and vehicular access uses the existing unpaved road feature (elevation +8 to +10 feet). This "spine" allows access deeper into the area with three potential parking areas.

Features include unpaved nature trails with trailhead educational signage about restoration components, including native species and habitat. Loop trails are in upland elevations above the typical tidal high-water level. Boardwalks are provided over regularly saturated areas along the basin edges to provide an up-close experience of the tidal habitat. This concept plan depicts approximately 3 miles of trails and a 1,500-foot segment of boardwalk.

At the terminus of the spine road, water access is provided from the parking area. The parking lot layout would accommodate vehicles with small trailers used for the transport of kayaks or canoes. Portable restrooms may be provided. The tidal basin is reached via an accessible ramp path and boardwalk that slopes down from the parking area. Multiple launch points are located at high tide/low tide elevations along the boardwalk and pier.



# **LITTLE EGBERT MULTI-BENEFIT PROJECT DESIGN CONCEPT 1A**

## **LEMBP ALTERNATIVE 17**

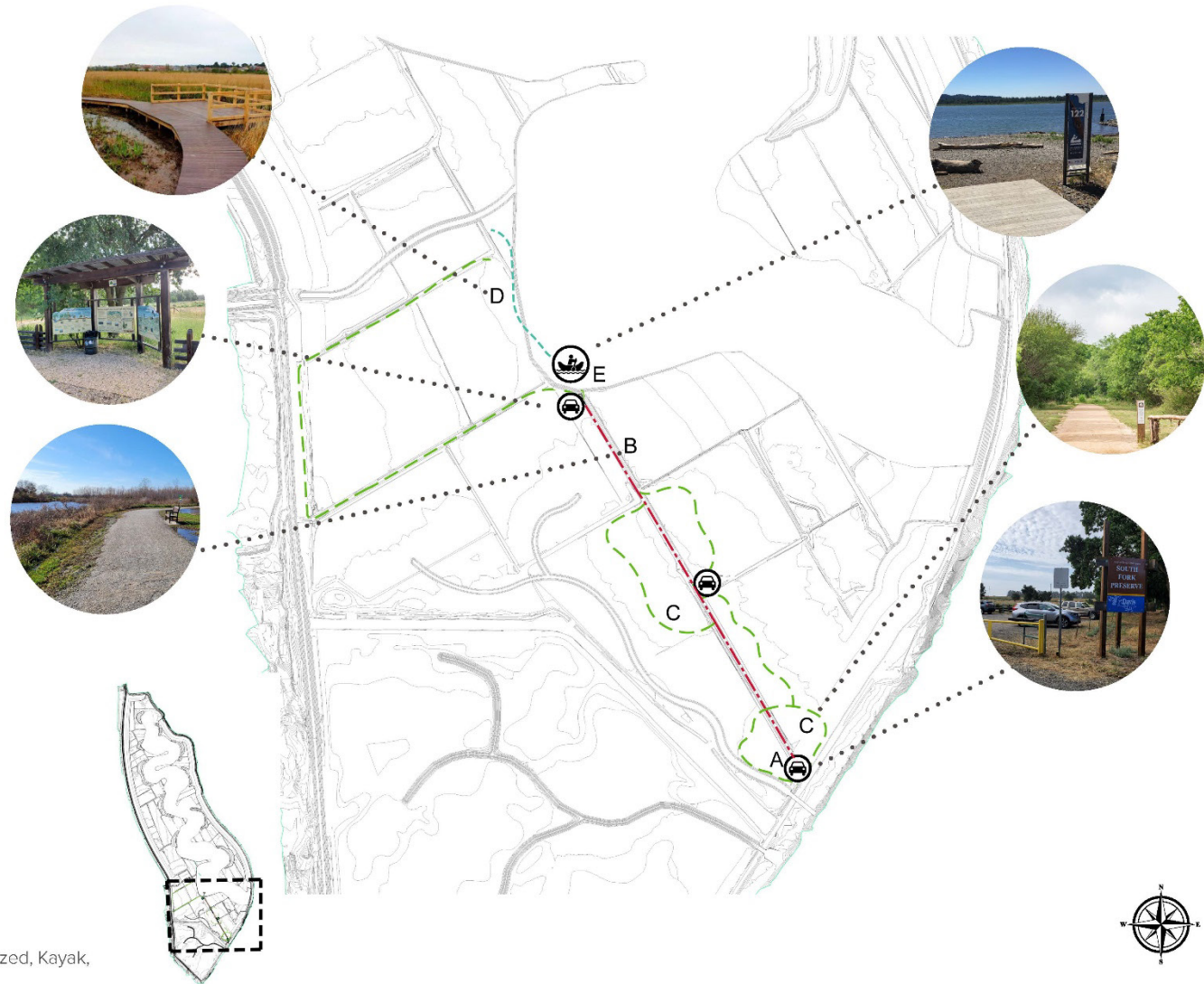
### **CONCEPT FEATURES INCLUDE:**

- Pedestrian trails in upland elevations
- Loop trails of varying distances
- Access road and trail routes take advantage of existing and proposed topographic features to remain above tidal influx
- Multiple parking and trailhead options
- Boardwalk trail at edge of tidal basin

### **LEGEND**

- A. Parking Area with Trailhead and Interpretive Signage  
 B. Access "spine" utilizing unpaved road (exisiting)  
 C. Loop Trails (Above +6.5 Elevation)  
 D. Boardwalk  
 E. Boat Access for Small Non-Motorized Vehicles

- Pedestrian/Bike Trail  
 --- Access Road ("Spine")  
 --- Boardwalk  
 Parking Area  
 Boat Access (Small Non-Motorized, Kayak, Canoe)



**Figure 4-1. Recreation Concept Design Drawing 1A**

## **4.2 Design Concept 1B. Pedestrian Trails & Small Craft Boat Launch**

This concept, shown on Figure 4-2, covers features in the tidal riparian upland area in the southern portion of the tract, based on elevations in CNRA Alternative 24. The total area of recreation and associated improvements is 3.2 acres, and up to 35 parking spaces are provided. Similar to Design Concept 1A, parking lots are accessible by car from SR 84, and vehicles can use the existing unpaved spine road to access additional parking areas.

This concept provides the same recreational opportunities described in Design Concept 1A, but with a reduced total trail length of 1.3 miles and slightly longer boardwalk segments. Topographic elevations in Alternative 24 limit the extents of upland trail areas that are not regularly inundated by tidal flux.

The spine road terminates at a deep tidal swale, and access to water recreation uses the parking area near the end of the road.



## LITTLE EGBERT MULTI-BENEFIT PROJECT DESIGN CONCEPT 1B



### LEMBP ALTERNATIVE 24

#### CONCEPT FEATURES INCLUDE:

- Pedestrian trails in upland elevations
- Loop trails of varying distances
- Access road and trail routes take advantage of existing and proposed topographic features to remain above tidal influx
- Multiple parking and trailhead options
- Boardwalk trails connecting to pedestrian trails

#### LEGEND

- A. Parking Area with Trailhead and Interpretive Signage
- B. Access “spine” utilizing unpaved road (existing)
- C. Loop Trails
- D. Boardwalk Trail
- E. Boat Access for Small Non-Motorized Vehicles

- Pedestrian/Bike Trail
- Access Road (“Spine”)
- Boardwalk
-  Parking Area
-  Boat Access (Small Non-Motorized, Kayak, Canoe)

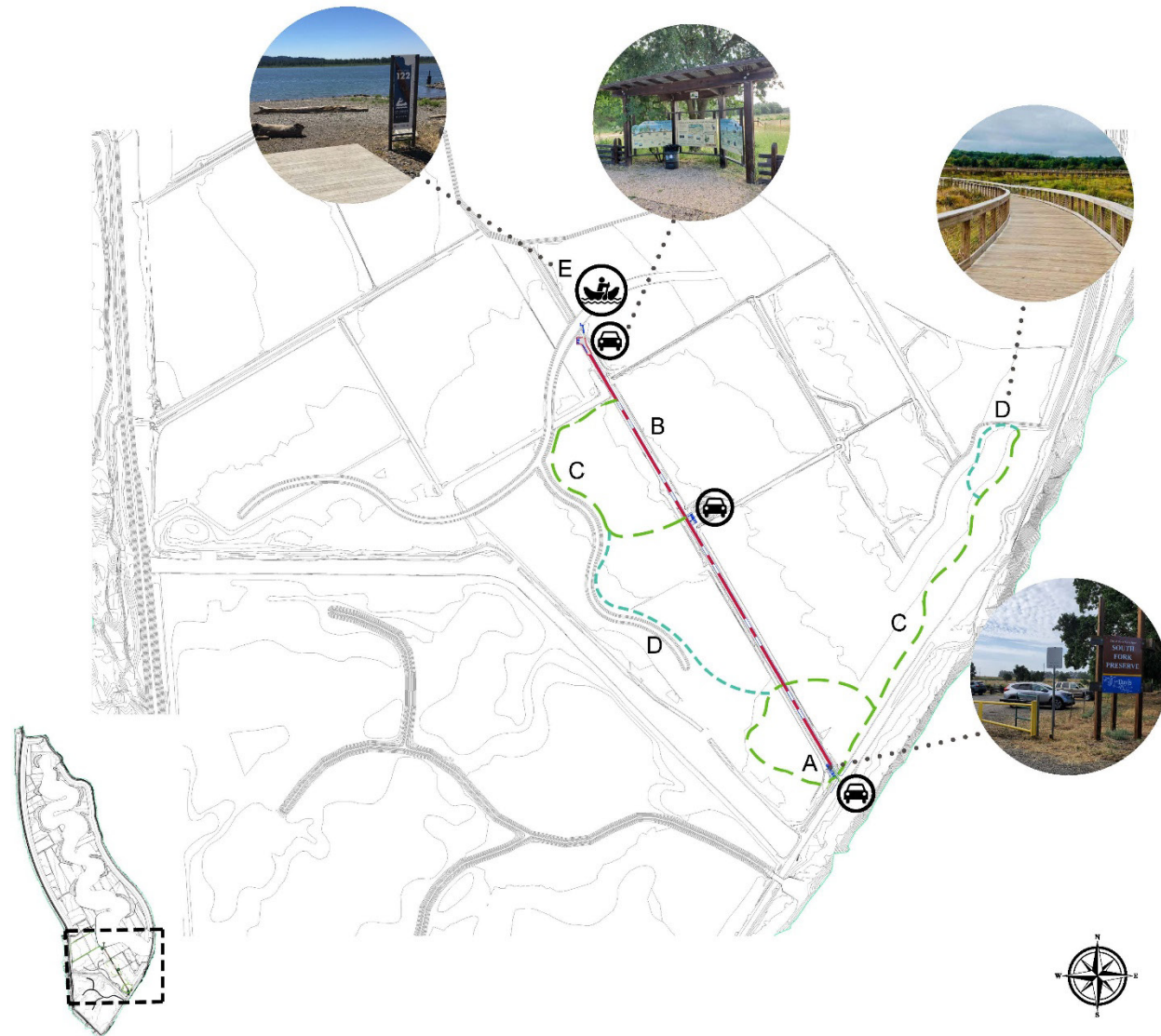


Figure 4-2. Recreation Concept Design Drawing 1B

### **4.3 Design Concept 2. Motorized Boat Launch**

This concept, shown on Figure 4-3, consists of a motorized boat launch on the northern bank of the tract, west of the levee breach. The total area of recreation and associated improvements is 2.1 acres. Up to 33 standard parking spaces are provided, with an additional 19 spaces for parking vehicles with trailers. Parking lots are accessible by car from Liberty Island Road.

The motorized boat launch requires permission to extend the public roadway access along Liberty Island Road, which is currently private. The access road would follow the existing road to a flat upland area along the Cache Slough shoreline.

Features include a motorized boat launch ramp, parking for vehicles and trailers, a shade pavilion, picnic tables, an accessible shore fishing dock and kayak launch, and restrooms. The restrooms will not have running water unless it becomes available from a feasible source.

The northern extent of the pedestrian trail detailed in Design Concept 3 would terminate at the parking lot for the boat launch.

## LITTLE EGBERT MULTI-BENEFIT PROJECT DESIGN CONCEPT 2

### LEMBP ALTERNATIVE 24

#### CONCEPT FEATURES INCLUDE:

- Boat launches
- Fishing dock
- Accessible parking for vehicles and trailers
- Restrooms
- Shade pavilion with picnic tables
- Connection to the southern pedestrian and bike trail

#### LEGEND

- A. Shade pavilion and picnic tables
- B. Parking Area
- C. Restrooms
- D. Fishing dock and small boat launch
- E. Boat launch
- F. Accessible path to fishing dock and small boat launch
- G. Pedestrian/bike trail from southern area of tract

— Pedestrian/Bike Trail

 Parking Area

 Boat Launch

 Fishing Dock

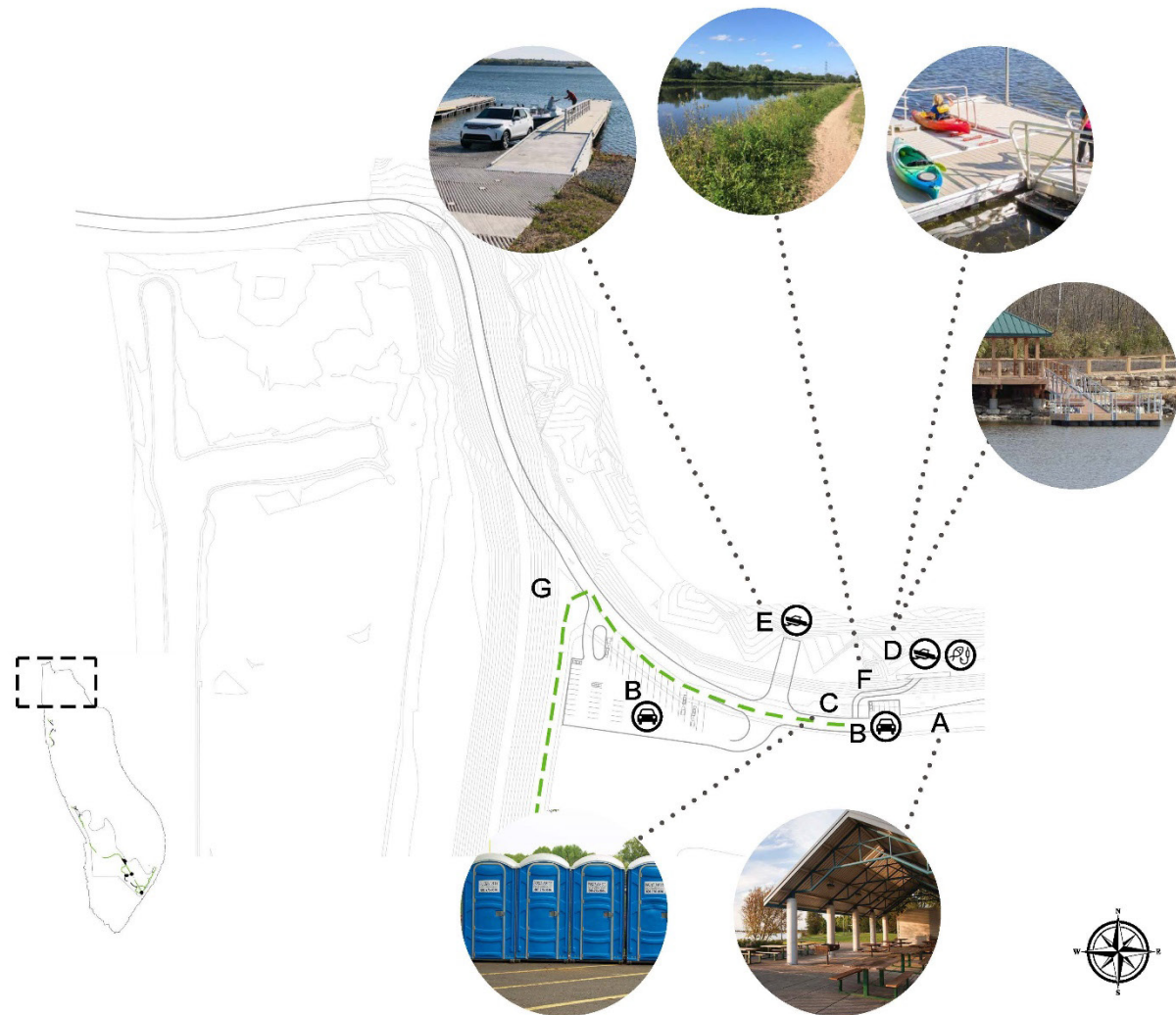


Figure 4-3. Recreation Concept Design Drawing 2

#### **4.4 Design Concept 3. Pedestrian Trail Along Habitat Berm**

Shown on Figure 4-4, this concept expands the pedestrian trails depicted in Design Concepts 1A and 1B to extend north along the habitat berm following the western levee of the tract. The total area of recreation and associated improvements is 3.2 acres. Parking is as described for the other design concepts, with parking areas accessible by car from SR 84 to the south and Liberty Island Road to the north.

A pedestrian bridge extends the trail system at the access road terminus of Feature 1B; alternately, the westernmost segment of loop trail depicted in Feature 1A continues north to Liberty Island Road. The trail can either use the proposed levee maintenance road at the toe of the levee slope or run along the highest bench of the habitat berm.

Design Concept 3 includes all the recreational amenities of Design Concepts 1A and 1B, with the provision of an extended trail running the entire western length of the Little Egbert tidal habitat restoration area.

Boardwalks and/or pedestrian bridges will be needed where the trail crosses swales or sloughs.

## LITTLE EGBERT MULTI-BENEFIT PROJECT DESIGN CONCEPT 3

### LEMBP ALTERNATIVE 24

#### CONCEPT FEATURES INCLUDE:

- Provides extensive walking and biking recreation experience connecting north and south of Little Egbert Tract
- Access road and trail routes take advantage of existing and proposed topographic features to remain above tidal influx
- Multiple parking and trailhead options

#### LEGEND

- A. Parking Area with Trailhead and Interpretive Signage  
 B. Access "spine" utilizing unpaved road (existing)  
 C. Long Trail Feature  
 D. Boat Access for Small Non-Motorized Vehicles  
 E. Pedestrian Bridge over the tidal swale channel

- Pedestrian/Bike Trail  
 - - - Access Road ("Spine")
-  Parking Area  
 Boat Access (Small Non-Motorized, Kayak, Canoe)

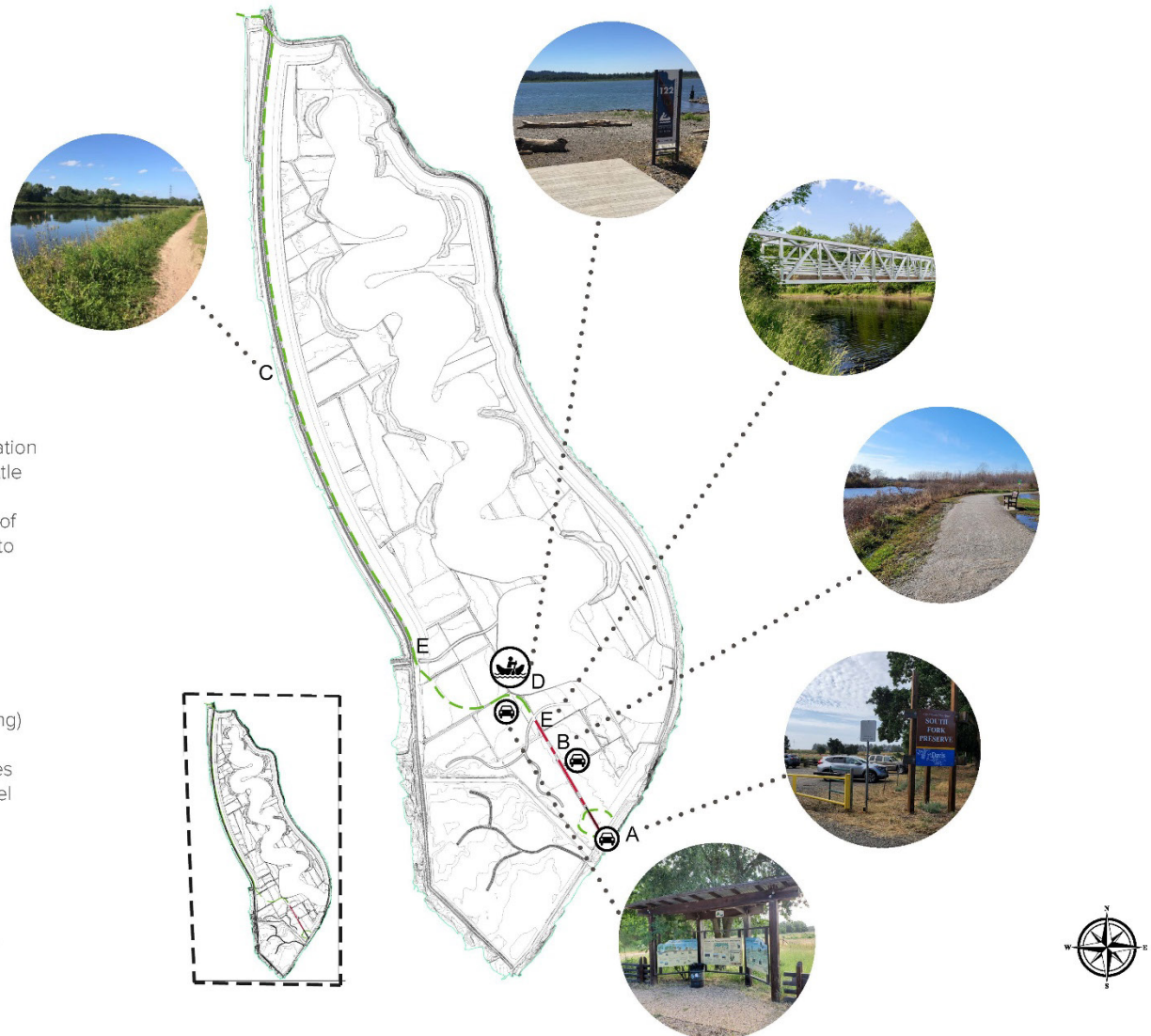


Figure 4-4. Recreation Concept Design Drawing 3



## 4.5 Conclusion

The recreation feature concepts presented in this chapter are a first step in a fully integrated project description encompassing all parts of the LEMBP. As described in Section 1.3, DWR will further develop the Feasibility Study Alternatives, including the integration of appropriate recreation features into the proposed project Alternatives. Although the concepts shown are based on Feasibility Study levels of design, additional design challenges are expected to include the following:

- Verifying the appropriate elevations of recreation features, such as boardwalks and parking lots, relative to expected future water surface elevations (high tide and low tide).
- Designing recreation features to withstand periodic inundation, including such factors as flood frequency, duration, depth, and flow.
- Gaining access to the recreation sites, including any required expansion of easements through private property.
- Adapting the recreation feature concepts to refinements in the Feasibility Study Alternatives. This is especially important if the optimal locations for levee breaches need to change as a result of more detailed hydrodynamic modeling.

**Table 4-1. Summary of Recreation Design Concepts**

Recreation Design Concept	Features	Acres
Design Concept 1A. Pedestrian Trails & Small Craft Boat Launch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pedestrian trails in upland elevations</li> <li>▪ Loop trails of varying distances</li> <li>▪ Access road and trail routes</li> <li>▪ take advantage of existing and proposed topographic features to remain above tidal influx</li> <li>▪ Multiple parking and trailhead options</li> <li>▪ Boardwalk trail at edge of tidal basin</li> </ul>	4.4
Design Concept 1B. Pedestrian Trails & Small Craft Boat Launch	Same as Concept 1A	3.2
Design Concept 2. Motorized Boat Launch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Boat launches</li> <li>▪ Fishing dock</li> <li>▪ Accessible parking for vehicles and trailers</li> <li>▪ Restrooms</li> <li>▪ Shade pavilion with picnic tables</li> <li>▪ Connection to the southern pedestrian and bike trail</li> </ul>	2.1
Design Concept 3. Pedestrian Trail Along Habitat Berm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provides extensive walking and biking recreation experience connecting north and south of Little Egbert Tract</li> <li>▪ Access road and trail routes take advantage of existing and proposed topographic features to remain above tidal influx</li> <li>▪ Multiple parking and trailhead options</li> </ul>	3.2

Although these and other challenges remain, the four recreation feature concepts presented here show that multi-benefit objectives can be realized. Little Egbert Tract can be redeveloped for flood system enhancement and ecosystem uplift while also including new public recreation opportunities.

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# **Appendix A**

## **Communications and Engagement Plan**



# Little Egbert Multi-Benefit Project Recreation Planning

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## Communications and Engagement Plan

*May 9, 2023*



# Table of Contents

## Contents

<b>Acronyms and Abbreviations .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>CHAPTER 1 .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<i>1.1 Project Overview .....</i>	<i>5</i>
<b>CHAPTER 2 .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Communication &amp; Engagement Objectives and Approach .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<i>2.1 C&amp;E Objectives .....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>2.2 Integration of GARE Racial Equity Toolkit .....</i>	<i>8</i>
2.2.2: Root cause(s) of Racial Disparity within the Little Egbert Tract and Corresponding Engagement Strategies Utilized to Address Them .....	8
<i>2.3 C&amp;E Approach.....</i>	<i>9</i>
2.3.1: Align Engagement with Recreation Planning Milestones and Decision Points .....	9
2.3.2: Interested Parties Assessment Findings .....	10
2.3.3: Providing Varied Opportunities for Engagement.....	11
2.3.4: Recognition of Varying Level of Influence .....	11
<b>CHAPTER 3 .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Interested Party Audiences and Interests .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>CHAPTER 4 .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Interested Party Engagement Activities .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<i>4.1 Technical Team Engagement .....</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>4.3 Focus Group Meeting with Interested Parties .....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>4.4 Community Benefit Organization Outreach .....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>4.5 Mobile Workshops.....</i>	<i>16</i>
<b>CHAPTER 5 .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Communications Materials .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<i>5.1 Key Messages .....</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>5.2 Information Materials .....</i>	<i>17</i>

<b>CHAPTER 6 .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Staff Roles and Responsibilities .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Attachment A1: Project Timeline .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Attachment A2: IAP2 Spectrum of Participation .....</b>	<b>20</b>

## Tables

Table 1. Interested Party Audiences and Interests.....	<b>8</b>
Table 2. Key Engagement Activities .....	<b>9</b>
Table 3. MOU Partners and Consultant Roles .....	<b>11</b>

# Acronyms and Abbreviations

C&E	Communications and Engagement
CA	California
CBO	Community Benefit Organization
CVFPP	Central Valley Flood Protection Plan
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
GARE	Government Alliance on Race and Equity
IAP2	The International Association of Public Participation
LEJPA	Little Egbert Join Powers Agency
LS-DN	Lower-Sacramento – Delta North
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
RD	Reclamation District
REGGI	Race, ethnicity, gender, geography, and income
RET	Racial Equity Tool
SAFCA	Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency



# CHAPTER 1

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## Introduction

The proposed Little Egbert Multi-Benefit Project (Project) is a continuation of implementation of the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) and proposed for the approximately 3,150-acre Little Egbert Tract. This property is located within the Yolo Bypass immediately upstream of the City of Rio Vista in Solano County. The initial Project concept was developed through a 2018 Project Concept Study commissioned by the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) on behalf of the Lower Sacramento – Delta North (LS-DN) Regional Flood Management Planning (RFMP) team. This early Project concept was formulated to demonstrate the Project’s potential to optimize flood risk reduction, habitat, and agricultural benefits.

This Communications and Engagement (C&E) Plan is intended to inform and guide C&E activities to support the Project’s Recreational Features Report and Recreation Features Plan Sets. The C&E plan will function as a roadmap for the interested party engagement process and implementation of the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) Racial Equity Worksheet; it identifies intended interested party engagement objectives for the proposed project and outlines the specific interested party engagement activities that will be implemented to achieve those objectives. The C&E plan includes a timeline for implementing engagement activities that is directly connected to the environmental milestones of the proposed project.

The C&E plan is intended to be a living document that will be revisited and updated as needed at regular intervals.

### 1.1 Project Overview

The proposed Project is being developed by the Little Egbert Joint Powers Agency (LEJPA) in partnership with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). LEJPA is comprised of Reclamation Districts 2084 and 536.

LEJPA is currently conducting an in-depth Feasibility Study that will build from the previously completed concept feasibility study (SAFCA 2018) and incorporate updated technical study assessments and data collection. These efforts will provide options and inform the refinement of

concept-level alternatives, leading to a recommendation of the alternatives to be carried into the next step of project development.

DWR is funding a recreation study and additional hydrodynamic modeling. The additional hydrodynamic modeling includes sedimentation modeling; wind wave and fetch modeling; and particle tracking modeling. The recreation study and hydrodynamic modeling will be completed concurrently with the Feasibility Study and their results will be incorporated into the Feasibility Study.

# CHAPTER 2

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## Communication & Engagement Objectives and Approach

DWR plans to implement a transparent Communication and Engagement (C&E) effort to ensure all interested parties and agency partners are fully informed about the proposed Project. This C&E effort is informed by the Government Alliance on Race and Equity's Racial Equity Toolkit as well as outreach methods that have been effective for similar projects led by DWR and its consultants (Jacobs and Kearns & West).

### 2.1 C&E Objectives

DWR has identified the following communications and engagement objectives to support the Project.

- Identify root causes of racial disparity adjacent to the Little Egbert tract and implement engagement strategies that engage communities who have been subject to these disparities in a manner that ensures accountability, transparency, and equitable participation.
- Engage all interested parties on public access opportunities and concerns from all perspectives including landowners and agricultural operations, flood and reclamation districts, recreation groups and visitors, and agency representatives.
- Understand interests and usage to inform DWR's priorities for enhancing public access, such as expanding opportunities for fishing, hunting, boating, kayaking, or other recreational uses in order to inform design alternatives for the LEMBP.
- Build interested parties' understanding of the LEMBP's intended outcomes and how potential recreation opportunities align with needs associated with flood protection, agriculture, climate change adaptation, and the re-establishment of threatened species.

## 2.2 Integration of GARE Racial Equity Toolkit

DWR is committed to ensuring equity of its programs and services through inclusive outreach and engagement. Since 2020, DWR has taken several steps in advancing justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in its programs. In 2022, DWR created the [Racial Equity Action Plan](#) to advance DWR's Racial Equity Vision that all people in California are healthy, financially stable, and safe.

Project strategies are improved by including groups who are most impacted by project outcomes and decisions. Two goals of DWR's Racial Equity plan are 1) to improve community engagement with communities most impacted by structural racism and 2) to embed racial equity into projects and programs. To achieve those goals, DWR applies a Racial Equity Tool (RET) when conducting outreach. The use of RET allows us to move from an "inform" approach to a community-led approach. RET will be used in the outreach for Little Egbert Multi-benefit Project in the following ways.

### 2.2.1: Community Indicators and Data on Specific Populations

This project will create an equity-informed community profile using data disaggregated by race, ethnicity, gender, geography, and income (REGGI) to identify who in the project area is most negatively impacted by decisions and outcomes. The project area is defined as the location of the Little Egbert Tract (see map of Little Egbert Tract). Community indicators and data will be analyzed from within a 20-mile radius of the project area. The specifics of the REGGI dataset will draw from information from the 2020 census, CalEnviroScreen 2.0, and local sources for community and cultural identity. Engagement strategies for this project will be designed based on an analysis of REGGI data and information from cultural and interest groups, environmental justice groups, and insular communities found within the 20-mile radius of the project area.

### 2.2.2: Root cause(s) of Racial Disparity within the Little Egbert Tract and Corresponding Engagement Strategies Utilized to Address Them

Racial disparities and community indicators will be considered when selecting engagement strategies. DWR and its consultants will analyze racial disparities in the project area by identifying a minimum of 10 groups from within the 20-mile project radius who experience racial or economic disparity. The disparity analysis will examine local histories, cultural observations, economic and educational inequities, barriers to wealth accumulation, housing insecurity, and disparities by skin tone.

People with lived experiences are experts of their own community, and their perspective is essential to all decisions that impact them. The goal of the project's engagement efforts is to engage those who historically have not been able to recreate within the Project area, whether it be a result of lack of public access or financial constraints preventing them from recreating within the waterway. Engagement with these groups is intended to identify what solutions they desire and what solutions will work best for them regarding the recreational uses of Little Egbert Tract. To do that, engagement strategies for this project will include individual interviews, focus groups, public presentations, and outreach events at locations where the most impacted groups convene.

Outreach events will be in multiple languages, if needed, and consider other factors including scheduling evening meetings, providing physical and virtual opportunities for public feedback, and including local hosts and facilitators when possible.

### 2.2.3: Performance Measures for Equitable Engagement

DWR is committed to transparent processes, and staff is accountable for ongoing outreach and evaluation so DWR can understand if the proposed project is doing what it said it would over time. The proposed project will set goals in order to measure the success of equitable engagement strategies. Measures for equitable engagement for this proposed project are:

1. Create an analysis of the greater project area (20 miles) using the REGGI dataset.
2. Identify a minimum of 10 groups experiencing racial disparity from within 20 miles of project area.
3. Offer a minimum of five opportunities for providing feedback that consider the engagement needs and preferences of the 10 groups.
4. Establish communication channels with 100% of the 10 groups
  - a. Exchange contact information,
  - b. Communicate project updates and future engagement opportunities, and
  - c. Provide opportunities for continued feedback, concerns, and ideas.
5. Receive responses from 90% of the 10 groups.
6. Obtain project feedback from 80% of the 10 groups.
7. Include 100% of the feedback obtained in the final report for this project.

When DWR applies RET to understand the needs of the project's most impacted groups, and upon successfully inform and engage the most negatively impacted, trust is built and form lasting partnerships. Through these partnerships, DWR continues to listen to concerns and ideas for improvement and be accountable to creating policies and processes that improve how the groups interact with the outcomes of the project.

## 2.3 C&E Approach

DWR's approach to engagement for the proposed Project includes the following components. Integration of GARE Racial Equity Toolkit, as noted in the previous section, will be a throughline of the approach to and implementation of engagement activities.

### 2.3.1: Align Engagement with Recreation Planning Milestones and Decision Points

The engagement process will be planned and implemented to ensure interested parties' feedback is collected in a manner and timeframe that aligns with Jacobs' development of the Recreational Features Report and Recreation Features Plan Sets, as noted in the project timeline in Attachment



A1. Chapter 4 illustrates the overall Project schedule and how it aligns with various engagement activities.

### 2.3.2: Interested Parties Assessment Findings

Between November and December 2022, Kearns & West conducted an interested parties assessment to inform engagement strategies to support the proposed LEMBP. This assessment included interviews with 19 total individuals representing a variety of interests, including agriculture, local government, community benefit organizations (CBOs), recreation, reclamation districts, and state regulatory agencies. The interviews provided an opportunity to develop an understanding of historical, current, and desired recreation activities in the area. It also allowed interviewees to provide recommendations for the engagement process to support the proposed LEMBP, specifically, communities and groups to involve in the process and how best to engage them. This assessment Key themes from these interviews are included below. The assessment is included in the accompanying document entitled:

“LEMBP\_Recreation\_Planning\_Interviews\_Summary\_12.22.2022”.

- Identification and integration of recreational concepts should not delay the overall implementation of the proposed Project. Completion of **flood-specific components should be prioritized**.
- Ensure **compatibility and cost-effectiveness** of expanded/new recreation opportunities. Specifically, preserve existing land uses (e.g., farming, Rio Vista Municipal Airport) and pursue flood-resistant recreation opportunities with limited operations and maintenance (O&M) costs.
- Clearly **define roles and responsibilities**, particularly who will provide funding for O&M and potential law enforcement needs.
- Interviewees had **varying levels of Project understanding** (e.g., its current status and overall scope), which influenced the level of detail in their responses. For example, some interviewees provided recreation recommendations specific to project alternatives under consideration by LEJPA. In contrast, others had no prior interaction with the proposed project and could not offer location-specific feedback. Additionally, some interviewees were under the impression that only water-based recreation opportunities would be considered, given that surrounding lands are all privately owned, which, in turn, influenced the types of recreation opportunities suggested.
- Regarding engagement strategies, interviewees recommended that the project team **prioritize small group settings** (e.g., focus groups, pop-ups) for more targeted feedback.
- For many interviewees, **equitable access was generally not top of mind** – racial, ethnic, and socio-economic status were not among the factors raised for existing or future recreation

opportunities. Additionally, the immediate area is not an environmental justice community per CalEnviroScreen.

### 2.3.3: Providing Varied Opportunities for Engagement

Recognizing the broad geographic representation of interested parties and considering COVID-19 safety measures, DWR can pursue varied means for convening engagement activities. DWR anticipates that this will entail both virtual and in-person activities. Additionally, when feasible and appropriate, DWR aims to conduct “hybrid” meetings to accommodate participants in-person and those attending remotely. Virtual and hybrid meetings can provide the advantages of increasing the participation and accessibility of participants while reducing the cost and time associated with travel and location expenses.

### 2.3.4: Recognition of Varying Level of Influence

An important consideration in identifying appropriate engagement activities related to a planning or environmental process is the level of influence that interested party input will have on that process’s final decisions and outcomes. The International Association of Public Participation (IAP2), an organization dedicated to advancing and extending the practice of public participation, has developed a Spectrum of Public Participation which identifies different levels of public influence. These different levels – inform, consult, involve, collaborate, and empower – help define the range of potential interested party influence and provide a helpful reference for a decision-making agency and its interested parties to reach a common understanding of how input will be considered.

While the level of influence can vary for the same activity depending on the circumstances and audience – for example, natural resource agencies will have greater influence on the process, while engagements with the general public may focus on sharing information – the IAP2 Spectrum (see Attachment A2) provides a useful framework for the engagement planning process.

# CHAPTER 3

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## Interested Party Audiences and Interests

Table 1 outlines the interested party audiences, audience members, and their interests as they relate to the Project.

Table 1: Interested Party Audiences and Interests

Interested Party Audience	Interests	Audience Members (not exhaustive)
Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Planning and providing public services</li><li>• Addressing local concerns</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Solano County Supervisor John Vasquez</li><li>• Solano County Supervisor Mitch Mashburn</li><li>• City of Rio Vista</li></ul>
State and Federal Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide for the health and education of Californians</li><li>• Preserve ecological diversity</li><li>• Protect natural and cultural resources</li><li>• Create opportunities for outdoor recreation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CA State Parks</li><li>• CA Department of Water Resources</li><li>• Delta Conservancy</li><li>• Delta Protection Commission</li><li>• Delta Stewardship Council</li></ul>
Regional Entities and Districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Land protection</li><li>• Preserve agricultural practices</li><li>• Assist landowners and residents to manage land, water, and wildlife resources</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Little Egbert Joint Powers Agency, which includes Reclamation Districts 2084 and 536</li></ul>

Interested Party Audience	Interests	Audience Members (not exhaustive)
Recreation Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outdoor recreation protection</li> <li>• Wildlife protection</li> <li>• Land conservation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Backcountry Hunters &amp; Anglers</li> <li>• Bay Area Sea Kayakers</li> <li>• California Waterfowl Association</li> <li>• California Striped Bass Association</li> <li>• Delta Kayak Adventures</li> <li>• Ducks Unlimited</li> <li>• Fly Fishing Anglers</li> <li>• Liberty Island Access</li> <li>• NorCal Guides &amp; Sportsmen's Association</li> </ul>
Community Benefit Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equitable access to current and expanded recreational opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Justice Outside</li> <li>• Little Manila Rising</li> <li>• Restore the Delta</li> <li>• Rise Stockton Coalition</li> <li>• Third City Coalition</li> </ul>
Landowners and Agricultural Interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agricultural lands protection</li> <li>• Protect the interests of farmers and ranchers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual landowners near the Project site</li> </ul>
General Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outdoor recreation protection</li> <li>• Wildlife protection</li> <li>• Land protection and conservation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General public</li> </ul>

# CHAPTER 4

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## Interested Party Engagement Activities

Below is an overview of the Project timeline, including milestones and the engagement activities that will be conducted during the Project. A detailed project schedule is included as Attachment A1.

Development of the Feasibility Study and associated appendices for the Project began in August 2022, with Project Team coordination meetings occurring approximately every month for the duration of the Project timeline. The draft Recreational Features Report is expected to be completed by April 2023 with a final version slated for release in June 2023. A draft of the Recreation Features Plan Sets is expected to be available in May 2023 and will be followed by a final version in June 2023. These documents will inform a project description for the CEQA process associated with the LEMBP, which is anticipated to begin in June 2023.

Engagement activities to support the development of the Recreational Features Report and Recreation Features Plan Sets are documented in Table 2. More detailed descriptions of these activities are included in the text that follows.

**Table 2. Key Engagement Activities**

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Activity	Purpose	Target Audience(s)
Technical Team Engagement	Ensure common understanding of Project status, including that of the Feasibility Study and its associated appendices as well as interested parties engagement.	DWR, LEJPA
Initial Engagement with Interested Parties	Engage interested parties to identify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Historical, current, and desired recreation activities in the area</li><li>• Challenges and opportunities in this part of the Delta related</li></ul>	Recreation Groups, Reclamation Districts, Regional Entities, State/Federal Natural Resource and Permitting Agencies, CBOs, Elected Officials



	<p>to land use and recreation opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subjects interviewees would like to be addressed in the recreation planning process</li> <li>• Additional people or organizations who might be interested in engaging in the recreation planning process</li> </ul>	
<b>Focus Group Meeting(s) with Interested Parties</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirm current/desired uses, goals, objectives, and resources available</li> <li>• Vet concepts, criteria and means for prioritizing recreation opportunities</li> <li>• Opportunities to provide input on draft Recreational Features Report and Recreation Features Plan Sets</li> </ul>	Recreation Groups, Reclamation Districts, Regional Entities, State/Federal Natural Resource and Permitting Agencies, CBOs, Elected Officials
<b>CBO Outreach</b>	Identify means for ensuring equitable access to recreation opportunities for communities/groups who have historically not recreated within the Project area	CBOs with potential interest in the Project given their proximity to the Project and/or mission statements
<b>Mobile Workshops</b>	Build understanding of the project and intended outcomes and collect feedback on current/potential recreation opportunities (e.g. popup workshops, surveys)	General public

## 4.1 Technical Team Engagement

The Technical Team (LEJPA, DWR, and their respective consultants) meets monthly throughout the span of the Project to ensure common understanding of the status of various components of the Project, including development of technical documents/reports and interested parties engagement activities. Technical Team engagement is primarily conducted through a virtual meeting format.

## 4.2 Initial Engagement with Interested Parties

As noted above, Kearns & West conducted a stakeholder assessment between November and December 2022 which entailed one-on-one and small group meetings with Recreation Groups, Reclamation Districts, Regional Entities, State/Federal Natural Resource and Permitting Agencies, Community Benefit Organizations (CBOs), and Elected Officials. These conversations focused on four main topics: historical, current, and desired recreation activities in the proposed Project area; challenges and opportunities related to recreation; means for prioritizing various potential recreation opportunities; and additional people or organizations who might be interested in engaging in the recreation planning process.

### 4.3 Focus Group Meeting with Interested Parties

DWR and consultant staff convened a focus group meeting with interested parties on February 22, 2023. This meeting brought in perspectives from local elected officials and government agencies, recreational interests, and landowners to discuss: the LEMBP and its specific features (e.g., levee break, habitat berm, etc.); collecting attendees' feedback on potential recreation interests, feedback received to date, and geographically feasible locations for recreational access points in the Little Egbert Tract; and identifying opportunities for future engagement activities and audiences.

### 4.4 Community Benefit Organization Outreach

Kearns & West engaged regional Community Benefit Organizations (CBOs) to determine their familiarity with the Project and to learn their preferences for participating in the Recreation Planning Process. These organizations participated in individual interviews and were invited to the focus group meeting described above. Through these touch points, CBOs expressed a varied level of interest or ability to participate in the process. This is due to resource constraints, such as limited staff and funding, and needing to allocate those resources to existing programs or other issues that are of a higher priority for respective CBOs and those they represent. Kearns & West will continue to engage identified CBOs who have expressed interest in the Recreation Planning Process to the extent they are willing and able to participate. These activities could include additional one-on-one phone calls, presentations during regularly scheduled CBO meetings, and partnering with CBOs for pop-up workshops (described below).

### 4.5 Mobile Workshops

Additional outreach activities will be conducted to collect the general public's feedback on the Recreation Planning Process. These activities include mobile or "pop-up" workshops at locations frequented by local residents and/or those who recreate in the Little Egbert Tract. These pop-up workshops could be organized to align with existing community events or adjacent to the vicinity of the Little Egbert tract (e.g. bait and tackle shops, boat launches, Sandy Beach County Park).

# CHAPTER 5

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## Communications Materials

Communications materials are intended to:

- Ensure that consistent and accurate messages are provided to interested parties throughout the planning and implementation of the Project.
- Ensure that all interested parties are aware of the details and benefits of the Project.

### 5.1 Key Messages

DWR and consultant staff develop project messages to inform all presentation materials and information products. The materials be regularly reviewed for accuracy, consistency, and understandability. Tailored messages will also be developed for use with specific interested party groups based on their interests.

### 5.2 Information Materials

DWR and consultant staff will originate publicly facing informational materials, pulling from existing documents to the greatest extent possible. As appropriate, DWR will also determine what materials should be provided in languages other than English. Information materials could include presentations, maps, graphics, and factsheets.

# CHAPTER 6

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## Staff Roles and Responsibilities

Table 3 below identifies specific staff roles with respect to the Project.

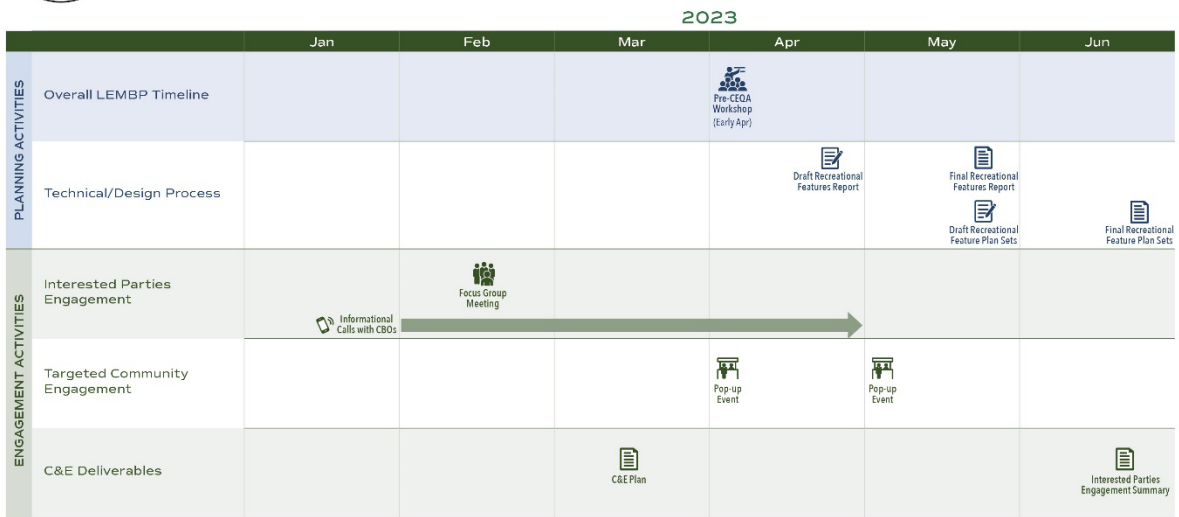
Table 3. DWR and Consultant Roles

Staff	Position	Role
Megan LeRoy	DWR	Project Lead
Matthew Franck	Jacobs Engineering	Technical Lead
Melissa Hassler	Jacobs Engineering	Technical Lead
Jeremy Thomas	Jacobs Engineering	Technical Lead
Amanda Ford	Kearns & West	Outreach and Engagement
Ben Gettleman	Kearns & West	Outreach and Engagement
Marlys Jeane	Kearns & West	Outreach and Engagement
Matt Marvin	Kearns & West	Outreach and Engagement

# ATTACHMENT A1: PROJECT TIMELINE

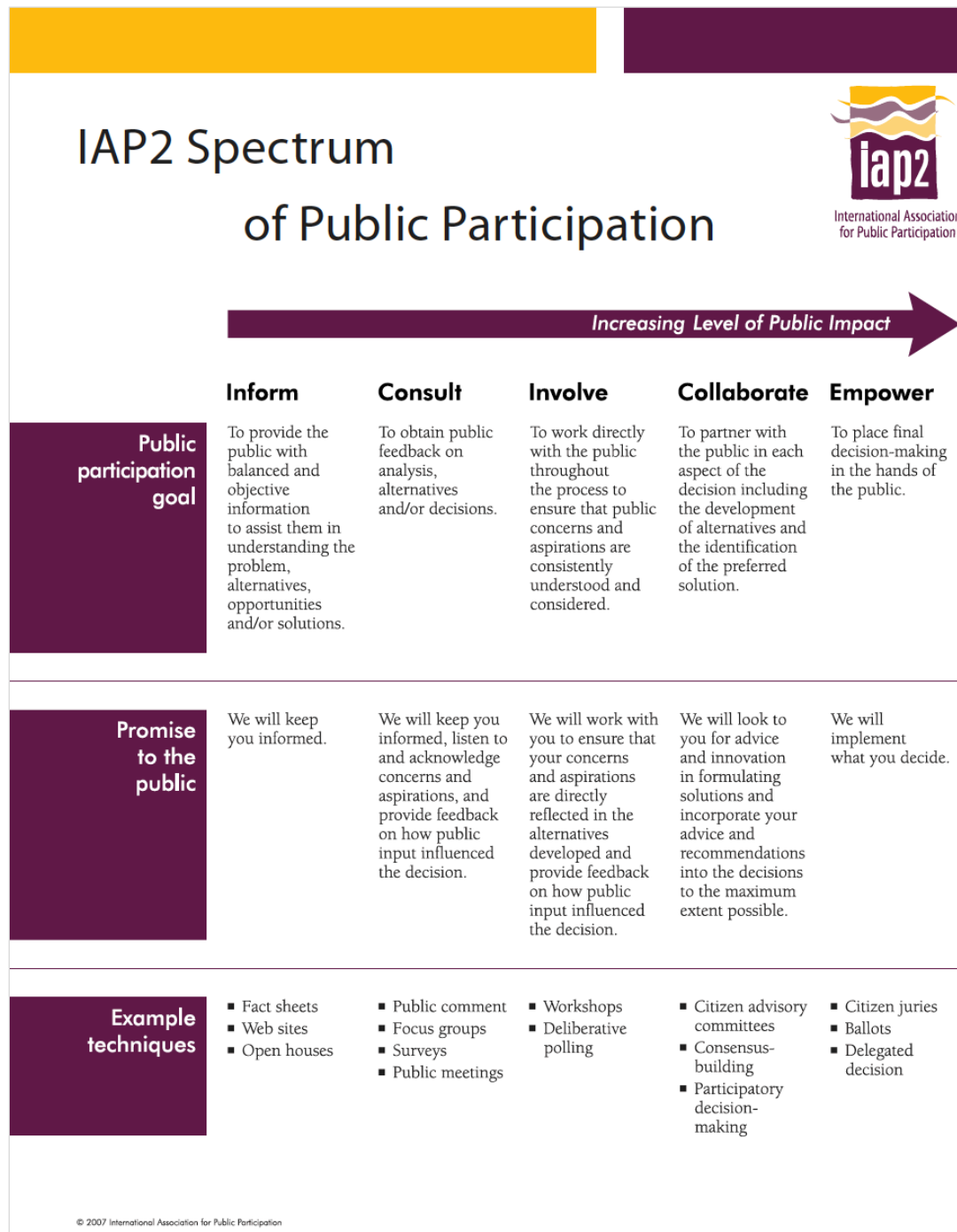


## LITTLE EGBERT MULTI-BENEFIT PLAN Recreation Planning Timeline



3/13/2023

# ATTACHMENT A2: IAP2 SPECTRUM OF PARTICIPATION





## **Appendix B**

### **Findings from Interviews with Interested Parties**





# Little Egbert Multi-Benefit Project Recreation Planning

*Findings from Interviews with Interested Parties*

Prepared by Kearns & West

December 22, 2022

## Section 1 – Overview

### Section 1.1. Project Background

The Little Egbert Multi-Benefit Project (Project) is a continuation of the implementation of the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) and is proposed for the approximately 3,150-acre Little Egbert Tract. This property is located within the Yolo Bypass immediately upstream of Rio Vista in Solano County. The initial Project concept was developed through a 2018 Project Concept Study commissioned by the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) on behalf of the Lower Sacramento – Delta North (LS-DN) Regional Flood Management Planning (RFMP) team. This early Project concept was formulated to demonstrate the Project’s potential to optimize flood risk reduction, habitat, and agricultural benefits.

The Project is being developed by the Little Egbert Joint Powers Agency (LEJPA) in partnership with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). LEJPA is comprised of Reclamation Districts 2084 and 536.

LEJPA is currently conducting an in-depth Feasibility Study that will build from the previously completed concept feasibility study (SAFCA 2018) and incorporate updated technical study assessments and data collection. These efforts will provide options and inform the refinement of concept-level alternatives, leading to a recommendation of five alternatives to be carried into the next step of project development.

DWR is funding a recreation study and additional hydrodynamic modeling. The other hydrodynamic modeling includes sedimentation modeling, wind wave and fetches modeling, and particle tracking modeling. The recreation study and hydrodynamic modeling will be completed concurrently with the Feasibility Study, and their results will be incorporated into the Feasibility Study.

### Section 1.2 Purpose and Approach for Interested Parties Interviews

Kearns & West is developing a Communications and Engagement (C&E) Plan to guide how interested parties will be involved in identifying potential recreation opportunities for the Project. As a first step in developing this C&E Plan, Kearns & West conducted a series of interviews during November and December 2022 with 14 total individuals representing a variety of interests, including agriculture, local government, recreation, reclamation districts, and state regulatory agencies. See Attachment B1 for the complete list of interested parties interviewed.

The findings from these interviews are synthesized in the following document, which identifies interests, concerns, perceived challenges, and recommendations. The C&E Plan will be developed in response to these findings, and will focus on effective, inclusive engagement, which will hopefully lead to the identification of recreation opportunities in the Little Egbert Tract.

This document is organized into the following sections:

- Current Uses and User Groups
- Key Findings
  - Overarching Priorities and Reflections

- Recreation Uses, Opportunities, Priorities, and Considerations
- Equity Considerations
- Engagement and Outreach Recommendations
- Attachment B1: List of Interested Parties Interviews
- Attachment B2: Interview Instrument

## Section 2 – Current Uses and User Groups

The Little Egbert Tract (Tract) is currently privately owned by Reclamation District (RD) 2084. The land is dedicated to farming and agriculture, with public access mainly confined to the waters of the Sacramento River on the east. RD 536 owns the agricultural land bordering the west side of the tract, and there is no public access. On the north end of the tract, the Westervelt Company owns a private facility off Liberty Island Road which includes boat launches and is the only known designated boat facility on the Tract. On the south end of the Tract lies a private residence, and just beyond is the public ferry crossing to Ryer Island across the river.

While no sanctioned recreation activities are happening on the Tract, interviewees indicated current recreation uses are generally confined to the waterway and include kayaking, fishing, and some sanctioned private hunting happening on the Tract itself. More robust recreation occurs in adjacent areas, such as Hastings Tract, Cache Slough, Lindsey Slough, and Liberty Island, including hunting, bird watching, hiking, some camping, fishing, and boating, including motorized boating but more commonly non-motorized boating like kayaking in the nearby sloughs.

## Section 3 – Key Themes

What follows are key themes that emerged from the interviews. These findings summarize input directly from the interview participants and do not include commentary or observations from Kearns & West.

### Overarching Priorities and Reflections

Across the interviews completed, common themes emerged relating to how recreation should be prioritized within the development of the overall Project, align with existing land uses, and be funded and maintained. The extent to which interviewees had prior project understanding also shaped the type and level of feedback provided.

- Identification and integration of recreational concepts should not delay the overall implementation of the Project. Completion of **flood-specific components should be prioritized.**
  - Ensure **compatibility and cost-effectiveness** of expanded/new recreation opportunities. Specifically, preserve existing land uses (e.g., farming, Rio Vista Municipal Airport) and pursue flood-resistant recreation opportunities with limited operations and maintenance (O&M) costs.
  - Clearly **define roles and responsibilities**, particularly who will provide funding for O&M and potential law enforcement needs.
-

- Interviewees had **varying levels of Project understanding** (for example, its current status and overall scope), which influenced the level of detail in their responses. For example, some interviewees provided recreation recommendations specific to project alternatives under consideration by LEJPA. In contrast, others had no prior interaction with the project and could not offer location-specific feedback. Additionally, some interviewees were under the impression that only water-based recreation opportunities would be considered, given that surrounding lands are all privately owned, which, in turn, influenced the types of recreation opportunities suggested. Numerous methods were utilized to address this varied level of understanding, which included:
  - Sharing a map of project area to detail the surrounding land ownership, recreational groups/facilities, geography, and roads and highways to assist in providing context on where future recreational opportunities could be located.
  - Sharing publicly available alternatives developed by LEJPA that were current at the time of the interviews.
  - Inviting interviewees to follow up with the Kearns & West team with specific, technical questions that could be addressed by Jacobs, DWR, and/or LEJPA.
  - Noting that land-based recreational opportunities would be considered as a part of the technical analysis in addition to water-based recreational opportunities.
- Regarding engagement strategies, interviewees recommended that the project team **prioritize small group settings** (e.g., focus groups, pop-ups) for more targeted feedback.
- For many interviewees, **equitable access was generally not top of mind** – racial, ethnic, and socio-economic status were not among the factors raised for existing or future recreation opportunities. Additionally, the immediate area is not an environmental justice community per CalEnviroScreen.

### **Recreation Uses, Opportunities, Priorities, and Considerations**

Interviewees provided a range of feedback on current recreation, opportunities and priorities for future recreation, and the potential challenges to implementing expanded access.

#### *Current Recreation Uses*

- By and large, **recreation is confined to the waterway**. This primarily entails kayaking, fishing, and hunting.
- Interviewees noted **minimal land-based recreation**, which generally involves sanctioned private hunting, dog walking, and bird watching.

#### *Recreation Opportunities*

- Future recreation opportunities should focus on **expanding access to water-based activities** that have the least impact on existing uses (e.g., Rio Vista Municipal Airport), mitigate

trespassing on private property, and avoid costs associated with the maintenance of land-based recreation. Specific recommendations include the development of additional boat launch(es) and kayak water path(s).

- Additionally, **“low barrier to entry” land-based activities**, such as building a fishing pier and walking path, should also be pursued. This would entail installing infrastructure to accommodate expanded recreation, such as a parking lot, restrooms, picnic tables, and trash cans.

#### *Prioritizing Recreation Opportunities*

- Provide **beneficial use to the broadest audience** and de-prioritize costly opportunities that are only accessible at certain times of the year. The latter would include expanded hunting areas as they would require payment for hunting licenses and are only operational on a seasonal basis.
- Ensure **flood-resiliency of recreation opportunities**. Prioritize new recreation that is not susceptible to floods to eliminate a chance that the opportunity is un-operational until maintenance is completed.
- Recreation opportunities should be prioritized based on the ease in which **dedicated and continuous funding sources** can easily be identified to cover maintenance, cleanup, and law enforcement.

#### *Recreation Planning Considerations*

- Some entities with overlapping jurisdictions will need to be engaged before expanding recreation. This includes:
    - Avoiding recreation opportunities that would bring about large congregations of people within a certain proximity to the Rio Vista Municipal Airport, per Federal Aviation Administration regulations.
    - Confirming where and when the airport will be expanding its footprint.
    - Coordination with the US Army Corps of Engineers, given their ownership of levees within the Tract.
  - Expansion of recreation opportunities will:
    - Equate to **more visitors from a broader geographic area**. This will have subsequent implications for integrating equity into the project's development, as described in the following section.
    - Need to account for **competing uses within the same geography** and mitigate conflicts between user groups. For example, ensuring the safety of campers and hikers in areas adjacent to those designated for hunting.
    - Require determining how to **offset impacts on habitats and wildlife** with an increased presence of humans and dogs.
    - Potentially be prone to floods. Subsequently, **flood resiliency must be accounted for** to ensure access and usage.
-



## Equity Considerations

While some interviewees expressed a range of understanding and suggestions related to equitable access to recreation within Little Egbert, equity was not a consistent consideration in the feedback received. Specific equity considerations discussed during interviews are described below.

- Pursue **free or affordable opportunities** for recreators, such as those not requiring a license (e.g., hunting) or expensive equipment (e.g., motorboat). Other cost-related suggestions included not requiring entrance, parking, or boating fees.
- Promote **broader accessibility** for recreators. This could entail creating bank boat launches for small and non-motorized boats that cannot access a large boat launch. It would also include ADA-accessible parking spots, bathrooms, and walkways.
- Post signage in English and Spanish throughout the site. This would include designating where and when hunting and fishing are permitted, as individuals whose primary language is not English could use the area for subsistence.
- Additional access to Little Egbert would result in a broader recreator base from a demographic perspective. Specifically, trends in recreational uses across genders would change and require the integration of **safety considerations**, such as lighted or semi-lighted pathways and launches.
- **Communication with Tribal entities before the CEQA process** would allow the project team to collect perspectives on traditional uses of Little Egbert before formal consultation. Understanding these perspectives early in the process would ensure the Project is designed in a manner that respects and does not impede on traditional uses.

## Section 4 – Engagement and Outreach Recommendations

### Interviewee Recommendations

Many interviewees emphasized the importance of personalized and genuine interactions with recreation user groups. There are many different perspectives to be shared which can sometimes get lost in a large workshop or public meeting format. Meeting the recreation user groups within their communities around the Little Egbert Tract would minimize the burdens people may face including distance and time to travel, COVID health and safety concerns, and inconvenient times of day.

Therefore, the most common recommendations for effective engagement methods are the following:

- **Small Group meetings** convened in person, virtually, or via a “hybrid” model.
  - **Pop-up workshops**, such as organizing information tables at areas with high foot traffic (e.g., bait shops, fishing locations).
  - **Partnering with trusted entities** (e.g., non-governmental and community-based organizations, local recreation groups) for joint outreach to target communities and user groups.
-

## **Kearns & West Preliminary Recommendations**

What follows are preliminary process recommendations from Kearns & West, which build off input provided during the interviews. These recommendations also incorporate general best practices for engagement.

- **Leverage existing venues to share project updates.** This would entail presenting during meetings convened by existing entities adjacent to the Little Egbert Tract, such as those hosted by CBOs, public agencies, and for other projects being developed in nearby regions of the Delta (for example, at the Cache Slough Public Access Recreation Action Plan public engagement meetings).
  - **Convene Focus Group sessions** with a cross-section of organizations and perspectives. These meetings would focus on sharing and collecting feedback on potential recreation opportunities and their alignment with flood protection alternatives under consideration.
  - **Partner with equity-focused organizations** (e.g., Restore the Delta) to engage underrepresented and hard-to-reach communities. Collaboration with these groups would entail leveraging their existing knowledge and best practices to engage specific populations and reach broader perspectives.
  - **Ensure recreation is discussed during Little Egbert Multi Benefit Plan (LEJPA) meetings and workshops.** Continuing to engage the technical team and LEJPA members on recreation input and updates received from interested parties will assist in refining feasible options, which can be shared with the public through all outreach and engagement activities.
-

## Attachment B1 – List of Interested Parties Interviews

Organization	Name/Role	Date
City of Rio Vista	Robin Borree, Public Works Department  Phil Carter, City Manager  Ron Kott, Mayor	Nov. 14
N/A	Neil Anderson, Local farmer	Nov. 15
NorCal Guides & Sportsmen's Association	James Stone, Executive Board President	Nov. 17
Solano BOS	Supervisor John Vasquez	Nov. 21
RD 536	Bob Wagner	Nov. 21
Delta Kayak Adventures	Kathy Bunton, Owner	Nov. 22
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers	Josh Restad  Nic Zanotti	Nov. 22
CA State Parks	Clint Elsholz, Diablo Range District Superintendent  Sadie Smith, Senior Park and Recreation Specialist, Alternative Accommodations Specialist	Nov. 29

Delta Stewardship Council	Harriet Ross, Associate Deputy Executive Officer for Planning & Climate	Nov. 30
Solano County Planning Department	Nedzlene Ferrario, Principal Planner	Nov. 30
RD 2084	Tara Beltran, Planner with Westervelt, RD 2084 Secretary  Mark Young, Director of Ecological Services with Westervelt, RD 2084 President/Trustee	Dec. 1
Solano BOS	Supervisor Mitch Mashburn	Dec. 5
Restore the Delta	Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla, Campaign Director	Dec. 7
California Waterfowl Association	Mark Hennelly, Vice President of Advocacy	Dec. 13

## Attachment B2 – Interview Instrument

### Background and Introduction (to be shared by the interviewer)

#### Essential background information and purpose of calls

- The Little Egbert Multi-Benefit Project (Project) is proposed for the approximately 3,150-acre Little Egbert Tract that lies adjacent to the southern edge of the Little Egbert tract. These properties are located within the Yolo Bypass immediately upstream of Rio Vista in Solano County. The Project is being developed by the Little Egbert Joint Powers Agency (LEJPA) in partnership with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). LEJPA is comprised of Reclamation Districts 2084 and 536.
- DWR has hired my firm, Kearns & West, as part of the Multi-Benefit Project Feasibility Study Planning Team to support outreach and engagement for the Little Egbert recreation planning effort to identify recreation elements for consideration in the Study.
- As part of our early preparations, we're interested in learning more about the interests and issues involved in this effort. We're conducting several (~10) informal informational calls with diverse groups and people. We plan to use the information shared to inform the development of a Communications and Engagement Plan that will be used to guide engagement throughout the Recreation Planning process.
- We will not attribute what we learn from specific individuals during these calls when we prepare the summary report of these informational interviews.
- This call should take about 30-45 minutes.
- Any questions before we begin?

#### Discussion Questions

1. To what extent have you or your organization been involved in the discussions, presentations, or meetings for the Little Egbert Multi-Benefit Project to date? (Also, ask about involvement in recreation planning discussions in the Delta region)
2. What is your understanding of current recreational uses in and/or near the Little Egbert tract? What are the most common recreation activities in the area?
3. In your view, what recreation activities are most compatible with other existing uses (ag, habitat, flood protection, etc.) in this part of the Delta? What are potential conflicts or incompatible services that we should keep in mind?
4. What opportunities do you see to expand recreation access in the planning area (in and/or near the Little Egbert tract)? What concerns do you have?
5. How would you prioritize potential or desired recreation uses for this effort? What recreation uses or types might best fit in this area?

6. How can recreation associated with the Little Egbert project be made accessible and affordable? What types of uses could be considered to support this goal?
7. Do some people want to recreate in this area but are not able to? If so, what are the barriers, and how could they be addressed?
8. In your view, what other organizations or individuals should be involved in this recreation planning effort? What are the most effective ways to gather input from them?
9. How would you like to stay updated in this process moving forward?
10. Anything else you want to share with us?



## Appendix C

### Focus Group Meeting Summary



## Meeting Summary

### **Little Egbert Multi Benefit Project Public Access and Recreation Focus Group Meeting Wednesday, February 22, 2023 3:00 – 5:00 p.m .**

#### **Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review**

Amanda Ford, facilitator, welcomed attendees and reviewed the meeting agenda. Ford noted the objectives of the meeting were to:

- Provide an update on the proposed Little Egbert Multi Benefit Project and alternatives under consideration.
- Discuss potential recreation interests and feedback received to date and identify geographically feasible locations for recreational access points in the Little Egbert Tract.
- Identify opportunities for future engagement activities and audiences.

#### **Little Egbert Multi-Benefit Project Overview & Feedback Received to Date**

Matt Franck, and Jacobs, provided an overview of the Little Egbert Multi-Benefit Project (LEMBP), including its history and key components, noting LEMPB is a continuation of the implementation of the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) and proposed for the approximately 3,150-acre Little Egbert Tract. This property is located within the Yolo Bypass immediately upstream of Rio Vista in Solano County. The initial Project concept was developed through a 2018 Project Concept Study commissioned by the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) on behalf of the Lower Sacramento – Delta North (LS-DN) Regional Flood Management Planning (RFMP) team. This early Project concept was formulated to demonstrate the Project's potential to optimize flood risk reduction, habitat, and agricultural benefits.

The Little Egbert Joint Powers Agency (LEJPA) was subsequently created in 2020 and is comprised of Reclamation Districts 2084 and 536. LEJPA is currently working with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to refine the concept study and develop a feasibility study. The primary goal of the feasibility study is to identify means for letting water into the tract to allow the southern part of the tract to become riparian land with a permanently wet swale that runs through the tract.

While specific alternatives for the LEMBP are currently under development, features of the feasibility study include the following:

- Levee break
- Habitat berm
- Subtidal swale
- Subtidal area
- Upland/tidal riparian area

DWR is funding a recreation study and additional hydrodynamic modeling. Hydrodynamic modeling includes sedimentation modeling, wind wave, fetch modeling, and particle tracking modeling. The recreation study and hydrodynamic modeling will be completed concurrently with the Feasibility Study, and their results will be incorporated into the Feasibility Study.

Matt Marvin, Kearns & West, described key feedback received to date related to the recreation study. Interviews were conducted in late 2022 with interested parties to determine: current and potential future recreation uses, means for prioritizing recreational uses, and how to account for other considerations within the project area (e.g., the Rio Vista Municipal Airport, impacts of expanded recreation on habitats); and promoting broader recreation accessibility. Key themes that emerged from the interviews include:

- Prioritize flood protection/project implementation ahead of adjacent recreation.
- Consider compatibility with other land uses (e.g., airport, farming, private lands).
- Consider roles and responsibilities for funding and maintenance.
- Consider equitable access to all user groups.
- Consider tailored engagement strategies to meet the needs of specific groups/communities.
- Current recreation uses primarily include activities confined to the waterways, e.g., kayaking, fishing, and hunting, and not directly on the Tract.
- Promotion of accessibility, e.g., ADA-accessibility and affordability, language, safety, and consideration of indigenous perspectives

#### Q&A

- **Comment:** In the future, please include the airport and overlay zones in your project area maps.
- **Comment:** There are two airport safety zones within Little Egbert Tract in which group recreation is prohibited in those zones.
- **Question:** Can you clarify where existing and potential future public access points are located?
  - **Answer:** There is no public road past the ferry on the southern end of the Tract. On the north end of the Tract, there is the potential for an access point, but it turns into a private road before Little Egbert Tract Unless access concerns can be resolved, the north end would only be accessible by boat with the levee breaches.
- **Comment:** Law enforcement will be needed with the expansion of recreation, especially any land-based opportunities. This responsibility will seemingly fall on the shoulders of the County and the Sheriff's Department. We need to engage public safety organizations in these discussions.
- **Comment:** Upfront investment and upkeep costs must be considered before committing to any new recreation opportunities.
- **Question:** Where can I find a document illustrating the proposed concepts identified in the 2018 Project Concept Study?
  - **Answer:** The concepts within that study have changed since 2018. Please contact LEJPA directly for the most up-to-date information and concept designs for the multi-benefit project.

### **Interactive Group Exercise: Identifying Recreation Opportunities**

Ford then introduced a group exercise inviting attendees to amend, add to, and prioritize key themes of the 2022 interviews. Results and key themes of this exercise are provided in Attachment C1. Ford clarified that the prioritization aspect of this exercise would not necessarily sway decision-making as it relates to recreational opportunities carried forward within the feasibility study. Instead, this exercise was intended to gather interested parties' priorities for recreation as the project team's consideration as it evaluates opportunities in developing supporting documents for the feasibility study.

Participants were then invited to identify place-based recreation concepts on a project area map. Full results are available in Attachment C2.

As summarized below, interested parties and the project team engaged in verbal discussion throughout the mapping exercise.

- Some participants expressed a desire for the following recreational elements:
  - Access points for boats where people can stop and have lunch.
  - Bathrooms for human-powered craft boaters.
  - An elevation bank that will only periodically be underwater; currently, the only part of the Tract not underwater is the south end which could be in the flight paths of the Rio Vista Airport.
  - A boat launch or ramp, some parking, and a bathroom at the Reclamation District service area on the north end of the Tract.
  - Accessible signage.
- In response, one participant noted that some suggestions, such as trails and bathrooms, can't work because most of the Tract will be underwater.
- Some participants expressed concern about the following:
  - The breached part of the levee on the south end of the Tract will be within 500 feet of the flight zone.
- Some participants expressed the need for further information to make sound decisions related to recreation elements:
  - Need for an elevation map to know which parts of the Tract will be underwater.
  - Need for maps of airport safety zones and defining "group recreation" (the County agreed to share shapefiles of the airport safety zones with the project team)
  - Need to know the timeline of future airport runway extensions; the current maps will be outdated eventually.
  - Unclear where the Flannery Group has land ownership.
  - The City of Rio Vista is concerned about how this project and recreation activities would impact usage on local roads, added congestion on Highway 84, the Highway 84 Ferry, and other unforeseen effects on transportation and traffic.
  - Unclear if the levee between the two reclamation districts will be improved as part of state flood control efforts; whether it's possible to have trails on top of the levees or not.
- Other comments brought up by participants include the following:

- Airport land use planning and safety zones should be a separate meeting on their own to discuss fencing, trail locations, windsurfing, or motor boating near the airport, creating a subcommittee to address these issues, etc.
- Need coordination with other recreational planning work in this area, e.g., Yolo Bypass Partnership, the Cache Slough Region, the Delta Protection Commission, and Delta Trails. The discussion around this topic went as follows:
  - **Question:** How does the Little Egbert Multi Benefit Project correlate or combine with those other efforts?
  - **Answer:** There is a process for public access and recreation planning in the Cache Slough region. It's possible that recreation options at Little Egbert Tract can be one of the concepts identified in this process. However, that is a higher-level effort and today's meeting is focused on options specific to Little Egbert Tract.
  - **Answer:** The Department of Water Resources (DWR) will be developing a consistency determination with the Delta Plan.

### **Action Items and Next Steps**

Ford invited attendees to provide recommendations for future engagement opportunities related to the recreation planning aspect of the LEMBP. Attendees supported convening an additional Focus Group meeting before the LEMBP moved into the California Environmental Quality Act process.

Ford then reviewed the following action items before adjourning the meeting.

- Jacobs
  - Reach out to the City of Rio Vista to collect shapefiles of airport safety zones and planned extensions.
  - Develop an updated concept map and send it to attendees.
- Kearns & West
  - Develop and distribute meeting summaries to attendees.
  - Provide LEJPA with a meeting invite list to ensure attendees are updated on future developments for the overall LEMBP.

## Attachment C1: Interactive Exercise Key Feedback

Participants were asked to provide feedback on key themes from the 2022 interested parties interview process during this exercise. Specifically, they were asked to provide other considerations for recreation opportunities and prioritize considerations as the project team moves forward in developing the Recreational Features Report and Recreational Features Plan Sets. The following table organizes feedback received during the meeting from highest to lowest priority, as designated by attendees. The project team will consider all recommendations regardless of the level of prioritization identified.

<b>Current Uses</b>  <i>How is Little Egbert currently used for recreation and other uses?</i>	<b>Future Uses</b>  <i>How should Little Egbert be used for recreation in the future?</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rio Vista Airport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The existing airport runway is 700 feet to Little Egbert</li> <li>• Flight school as well as recreational use (not on the Tract, but in the area); directly within the flight path Zone 1 and Zone 2; flights go over this area</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Mostly confined to the mainstem of the river</li> <li>3. Primarily includes kayaking, fishing, and hunting</li> <li>4. Unsanctioned camping</li> <li>5. Waterfowl and pheasant hunting, and possibly dove hunting</li> <li>6. Flood easement</li> <li>7. Farmland</li> <li>8. Neighboring ranchlands with associated dry levees</li> <li>9. Private property with housing on south end</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Expand access to water-based activities (e.g. boat launches, kayaking) that have the least impact on existing uses/private property and avoids costs associated with maintenance of land-based recreation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Put launches close to levee breach areas so people can access the tidal waterways with minimal time on the Sacramento River, which is more dangerous for small craft like kayaks, etc.</li> <li>• Locate water access for human powered craft close to parking lot or have an area to drop-off</li> <li>• Signs &amp; canoe (in-water signage)</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Airport safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group recreational uses should not be located within the Rio Vista Airport Safety zones (define “Group Rec” as xxx number of people); concerns about group recreational activities or events in proximity to flight safety zones</li> <li>• Runway extension planned and will expand the Flight Path and safety zones requiring no recreational activities within Zone 1 and very limited access in Zone 2</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Adding infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parking lot</li> <li>• Potable water stations, and permanent bathrooms</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

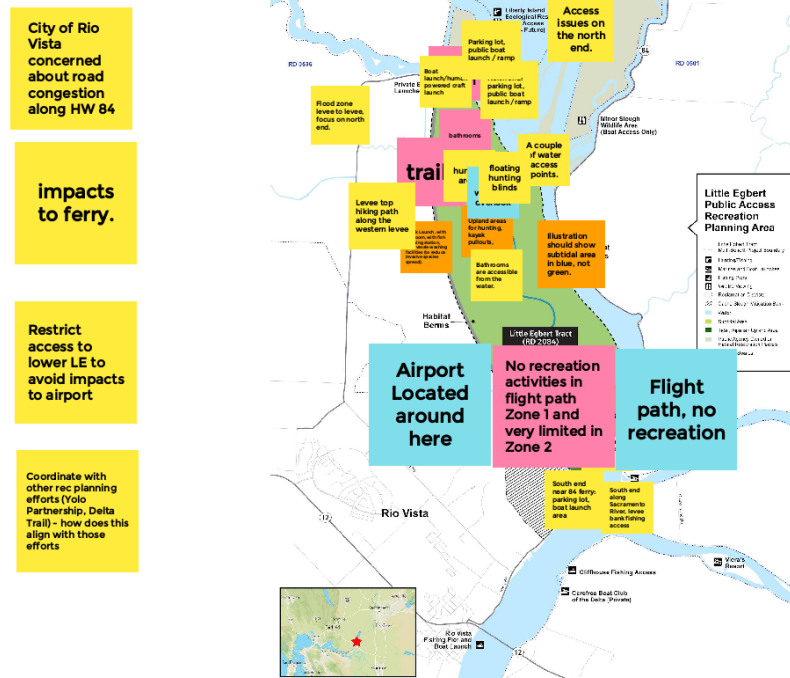


	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Picnic tables</li> <li>• Trash cans</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Paved public access &amp; parking</li> <li>5. Fish cleaning station</li> <li>6. Fishing line receptacles</li> <li>7. Drinking water access</li> <li>8. Install signage about proximity to airport</li> </ol>
<b>Recreation Criteria</b>	<b>Planning Considerations</b>
<i>What criteria should be considered in identifying recreational uses?</i>	<i>What needs to be considered when planning for recreation?</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensure that traditional outdoor recreational uses of the area, like hunting and fishing</li> <li>2. Long-term operation &amp; maintenance to prevent invasive species &amp; other impacts to neighboring land</li> <li>3. At nearby Shag Slough, DWR reported that ~40% of visitors fish for food, so consumptive recreation options should be supported (fishing/ hunting, etc.)</li> <li>4. Proximity to existing airport overflight zones and impacts to airport operations by recreational users or airplane crash</li> <li>5. Quality of recreation activity potential</li> <li>6. Ensure maintenance, cleanup, and law enforcement by providing dedicated, continuous funding</li> <li>7. Provide beneficial use to the widest audience; de-prioritize costly and seasonal opportunities</li> <li>8. Ensure flood-resiliency of specific recreation opportunities</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prevent this from becoming a homeless camp and result in increased crime. Is this going to be state property or private property? Homelessness and crime are already becoming an issue out there</li> <li>2. How to manage hunting pressure and use vs. a “free for all” open access in a highly pressured area, which will undoubtedly result in conflict</li> <li>3. Creating hunting blinds in suitable places</li> <li>4. Be mindful of surrounding private property and a mitigation strategy for trespassing (which is already a major issue)</li> <li>5. Public safety (brought up by Supervisor Vasquez during the discussion)</li> <li>6. Increased traffic conditions through Rio Vista. How will traffic be mitigated? Upgrades to River Road/HWY84?</li> <li>7. Design recreational or public facilities, such as parking lots, boat launches, restrooms, building and areas which encourage outdoor recreational uses away from the airport (toward the northern end of the Tract?)</li> <li>8. Areas for Parking (i.e. is there enough space to support the public use? enough parking at a kayak launch?)</li> <li>9. Overlapping jurisdictions (e.g. USACE, Rio Vista Municipal Airport, FFA, legal mandates of the operation of the ferry, interaction with other intended uses including flood mitigation (public safety), mitigation banking, some sustained</li> </ol>

	<p>farming or other uses (which I believe are yet to be determined)); consideration of bird migration patterns brought to the area and the effect on air traffic; include Airport Land Use Commission – County of Solano</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. Prohibit large groups of recreational uses nearby the airport and prevent major public recreation events</li> <li>11. Vessel cleaning station</li> <li>12. Competing interests of patrons (hunters, boaters, hikers) – no hunting in the flight path (maps should clearly show airport zones with restrictive uses)</li> <li>13. Interpretive signage</li> <li>14. Expansion of recreation opportunities will equate to more visitors from a broader geographic area</li> <li>15. Parking for longer vehicles, aka cars with trailers; some kayaks / canoes are too long for rooftop carry</li> <li>16. The impacts of increased human (and dog) presence on habitats and wildlife</li> <li>17. Influence of floods on recreational access and usage</li> <li>18. Notation of waterfowl hunting needs to take into consideration habitat features; brief map shows the entire area is subtidal and deeper subtidal swales; this does not promote quality waterfowl hunting opportunity, i.e. no food resource for ducks and geese</li> <li>19. Fishing line entanglement and increased impact on the environment through litter.</li> <li>20. Vandalism</li> <li>21. Limit access to of the general public to the lower half, such as a fence adjacent to airport property.</li> <li>22. Recommendation to create a subcommittee to address airport issues</li> </ol>
<p><b>Accessibility</b></p> <p><i>How can future recreational uses of LE be accessible and affordable for all patrons? Even for patrons who don't use it yet.</i></p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Create bank boat launches for small and non-motorized boats that can't access a large boat launch</li> </ol>	

2. No entrance, parking, hunting, or boating fee at the site
3. Limit access in proximity to the nearby airport (fencing?)
4. Delineate parking spaces explicitly in parking lots; in unmarked gravel / dirt lots, parking spots are often wasted / used inefficiently; with markings / delineations, more cars will fit in parking lot
5. Trash cans and dog waste bags
6. Post signage in languages that reflect patronage
7. Lighted or semi-lighted pathways and launches (not within flight path – lighting shows pilots where to land)
8. Communicate with Tribal entities prior to CEQA process

## Attachment C2: Mapping Exercise Feedback



## Attachment C3: Meeting Attendance

Organization	First Name	Last Name
<b>Participants</b>		
Bay Area Sea Kayakers	Penny	Wells
California Waterfowl	Mark	Hennelly
City of Rio Vista	Krystine	Ball
City of Rio Vista	Robin	Borre
City of Rio Vista	Phil	Carter
Delta Kayak Adventures	Kathy	Bunton
Ducks Unlimited	Aaron	Will
Ducks Unlimited, local farmer	Billy	Gascoigne
LEJPA	Madeline	Baker
LEJPA	Derek	Larsen
Liberty Island Access	Taylor	Dahlke
Mayor of Rio Vista	Ron	Kott
Solano County	Misty	Kaltreider
Solano County Supervisor	Mitch	Mashburn
Solano County Supervisor	John	Vasquez
Solano County, Airport Commission	Nedzlene	Ferrario
Willow Springs Ag, local farmer	Neil	Anderson
<b>Project Team</b>		
DWR	Megan	LeRoy
Jacobs	Matt	Franck
Jacobs	Melissa	Hassler
Jacobs	Jeremy	Thomas
Kearns & West	Amanda	Ford
Kearns & West	Matt	Marvin
Kearns & West	Marlys	Jeane

## **Appendix D**

### **Mobile Workshop Summary**



## Pop-up Event Summary

### Little Egbert Multi-benefit Project Public Access and Recreation

<b>Event Location</b>
Rio Vista Bait & Tackle, 510 CA-12, Rio Vista, CA 94571
<b>Date of Event</b>
April 29, 2023, 8 a.m.–10:00 a.m.
<b>Recorder of Event (Name)</b>
DWR Staff: Megan LeRoy, David Pesavento Jacobs Staff: Matt Franck K&W Staff: Jennifer Vazconcelo
<b>Attendees</b>
20
<b>Actions</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• K&amp;W to translate the factsheet into Spanish</li> <li>• K&amp;W to look into whether the project website automatically translates into Spanish <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Update:</i> K&amp;W has looked into this and the website does not automatically translate into Spanish</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Summary of Event and Input Received</b>
<p>DWR, Jacobs, and Kearns &amp; West (project team) arranged an information table at the Rio Vista Bait &amp; Tackle Shop to engage members of the public on recreation opportunities associated with the Little Egbert Multi-benefit Project.</p> <p>Members of the public were invited to share how/where they currently recreate in the Little Egbert Tract (LET) and the types/locations of desired future recreation. What follows is a summary of the input provided by those that visited the information table.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Participants' place of residence:</b> while the majority of those that visited the information table live adjacent to the LET, others came from San Jose, Vallejo, and Bakersfield given the recreation opportunities the LET provides.</li> <li>• <b>Current recreational uses:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fishing was the primary recreation use type indicated. Participants noted they fish for bass and catfish via line fishing from boats, kayaks, or riverbanks.</li> <li>○ Participants also noted they use the LET to recreate in the following ways:</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



- Hunting, primarily for ducks, deer, and turkeys
- Boating
- Kayaking
- Picnicking
- Bird watching

- **Future recreational uses and needs:**

- Public amenities, such as accessible sandbanks, restrooms with running water, picnic tables, and grills in that area.
- Widening the canal to make it more accessible for power boats and kayaks.
- Recommendations were made for the project proponents to partner with local recreational organizations to increase recreation in the area, for example, partnering up with the duck-watching club of Rio Vista and other birdwatching organizations/clubs.

- **Miscellaneous feedback:**

- Concerns were raised about the current issues with littering in the LET. As such, recommendations were made for more trash cans as well as signage to mitigate littering.
- The importance of levees improvements to prevent flooding and erosion in the LET was raised.

## **Appendix E**

### **Mobile Workshop Summary**



## Pop-up Event Summary

### Little Egbert Multi-benefit Project Public Access and Recreation

Event Location
Sandy Beach County Park, 2333 Beach Dr, Rio Vista, CA 94571
Date of Event
May 20, 2023, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Recorder of Event (Name)
DWR Staff: Megan LeRoy Jacobs Staff: Matt Franck K&W Staff: Jennifer Vazconcelo
Attendees
10
Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include sign-ups in the newsletter</li> </ul>
Summary of Event and Input Received
<p>DWR, Jacobs, and Kearns &amp; West (project team) arranged an information table at the Sandy Beach County Park to engage members of the public on recreation opportunities associated with the Little Egbert Multi-benefit Project.</p> <p>Members of the public were invited to share how/where they currently recreate in the general project area and the types/locations of desired future recreation. What follows is a summary of the input provided by those that visited the information table.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Participants’ place of residence:</b> while the majority of those that visited the information table live near Rio Vista (for example, Antioch and Stockton), others came from further away (for example, Reno and Sacramento).</li> <li>• <b>Current recreational uses:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fishing and beach time were the primary recreation use type indicated. Participants noted they fish for bass and catfish via line fishing from boats, kayaks, or riverbanks.</li> <li>○ Participants also noted they travel to the area to recreate in the following ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Camping</li> <li>▪ Hunting, primarily for ducks, deer, and turkeys</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

- Boating
- Kayaking
- Picnicking
- Bird watching

- **Future recreational uses and needs:**

- Public amenities, such as a children's play structure, accessible sandbanks, restrooms with running water, and areas with running water to clean fish.
- A recommendation was made to team up with local schools to conduct educational activities.
- Areas for camping.
- Play structure for children.

- **Miscellaneous feedback:**

- Concerns were raised about the current issues with littering in park areas. As such, recommendations were made for more trash cans as well as signage to mitigate littering.
- The importance of levees improvements to prevent flooding and erosion in the LET was raised.

- **Project team's observations of recreation activities Sandy Beach County Park**

- Barbequing
- Swimming
- Sitting at the beach
- Boating
- Fishing