

# AMERICAN RIVER COMMON FEATURES

WRDA 16

# SACRAMENTO WEIR WIDENING

Environmental Impact Statement Scoping Meeting

April 2020



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®



*Sacramento Weir 2017*



# NEPA SCOPING MEETING



- Overview of Project Purpose and Context for Regional Flood Management
- Summary of Project Description
- Overview of NEPA process and Supplemental EIS/EIR contents
- Summary of Project Schedule and Opportunities for Public Input



# AMERICAN RIVER COMMON FEATURES



- Authorized by Congress for construction in Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (WRDA 16).
- ARCF WRDA 16 project is funded by the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018.
- Corps is Federal lead agency, CVFPB is state lead agency. Local partners also include DWR and SAFCA.
- Sacramento Weir is operated by DWR. Bypass is managed by CDFW.





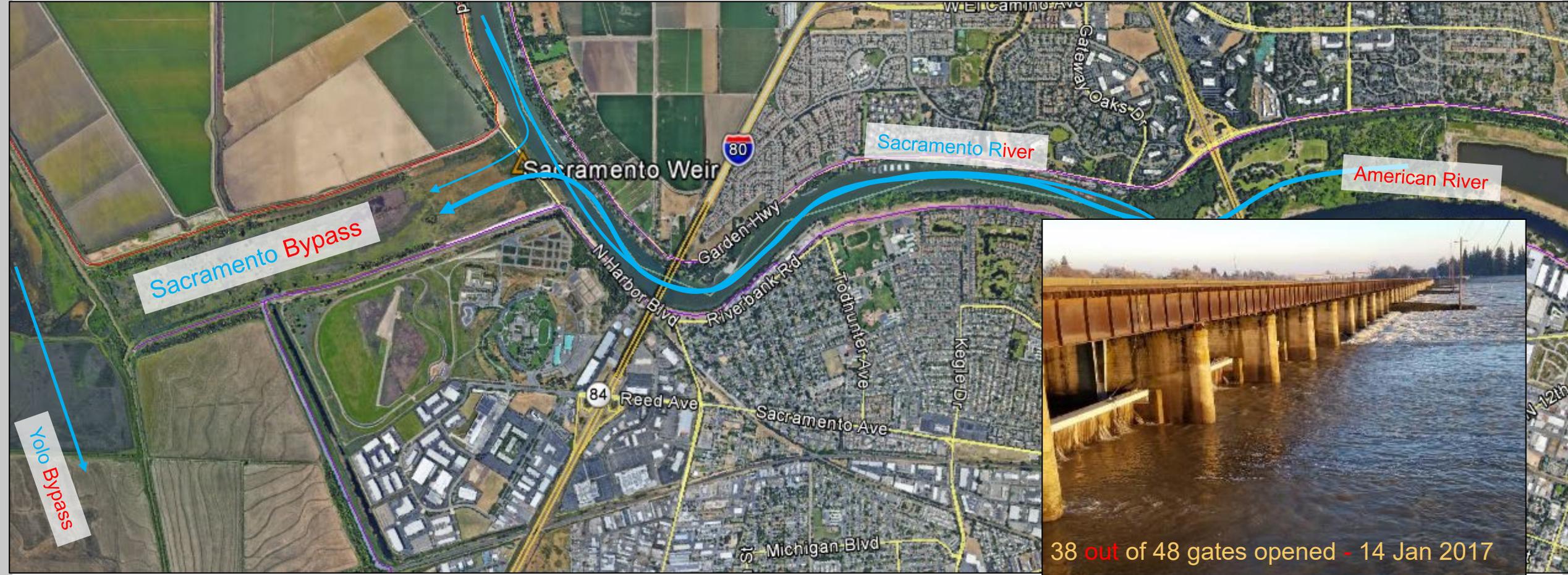
# SACRAMENTO WEIR WIDENING



- Together with DWR's Lower Elkhorn Basin Levee Setback (LEBLS) Project, the Project would widen Sacramento Weir and expand Sacramento Bypass to reduce regional flood risk.
- New fish passage structure would avoid stranding Federal and state-listed species in the Sacramento and Yolo Bypasses after flood events.
- New fixed weir would match frequency of Fremont Weir inundation of the Yolo and Sacramento Bypasses.



# SACRAMENTO WEIR WIDENING



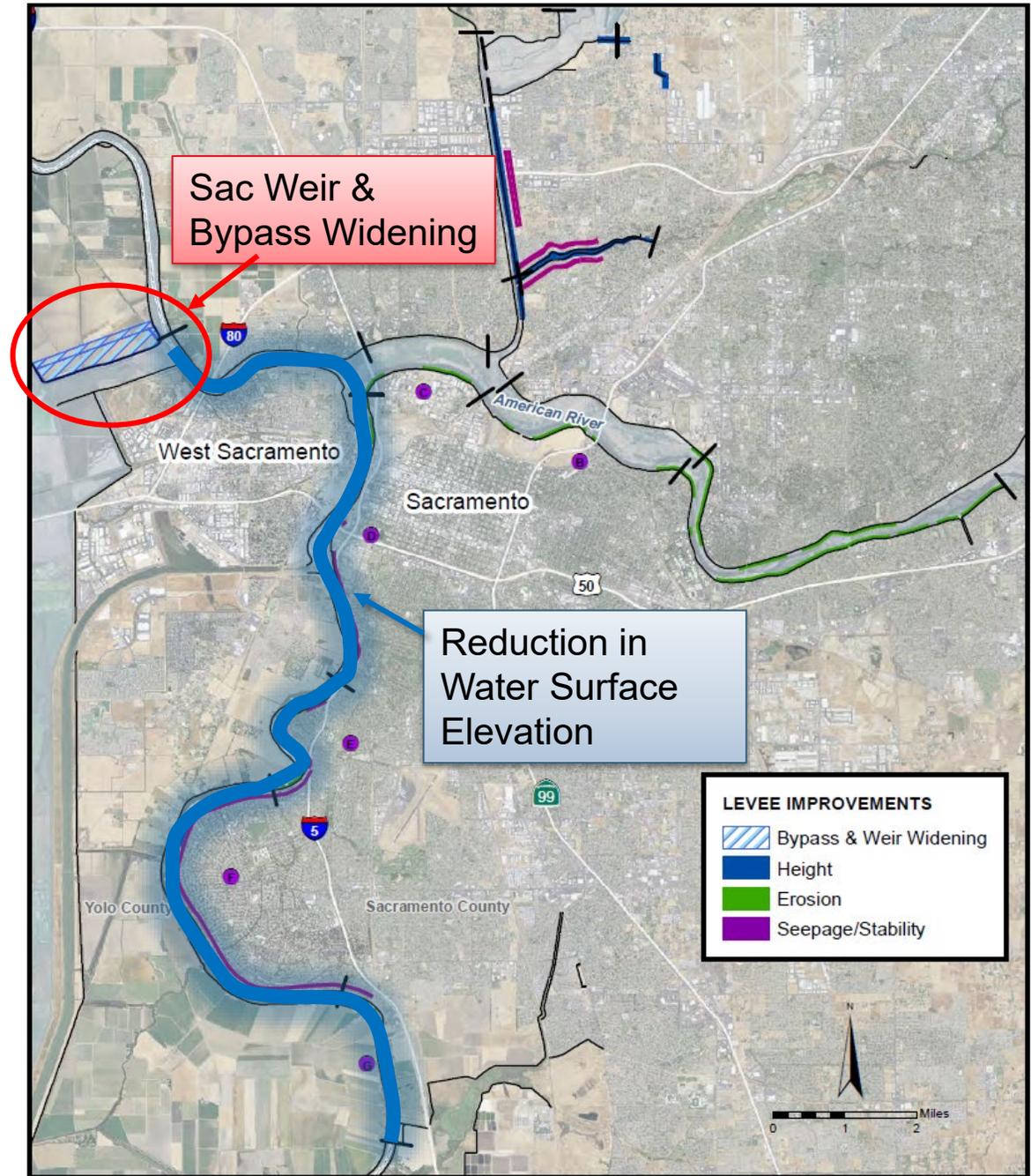
38 out of 48 gates opened - 14 Jan 2017



# PERFORMANCE ASSUMPTIONS

- Reduce flood stage in Sacramento River by 1 foot between the Sacramento Weir and Freeport for the 1/200 ACE\* flood
- Reduces flood stages in the Sacramento River for a full range of events (1/10 ACE – 1/200 ACE)
- Reducing flood stage reduces the need for levee raises in certain urban areas

Note: \*Annual Chance of Exceedance





# DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

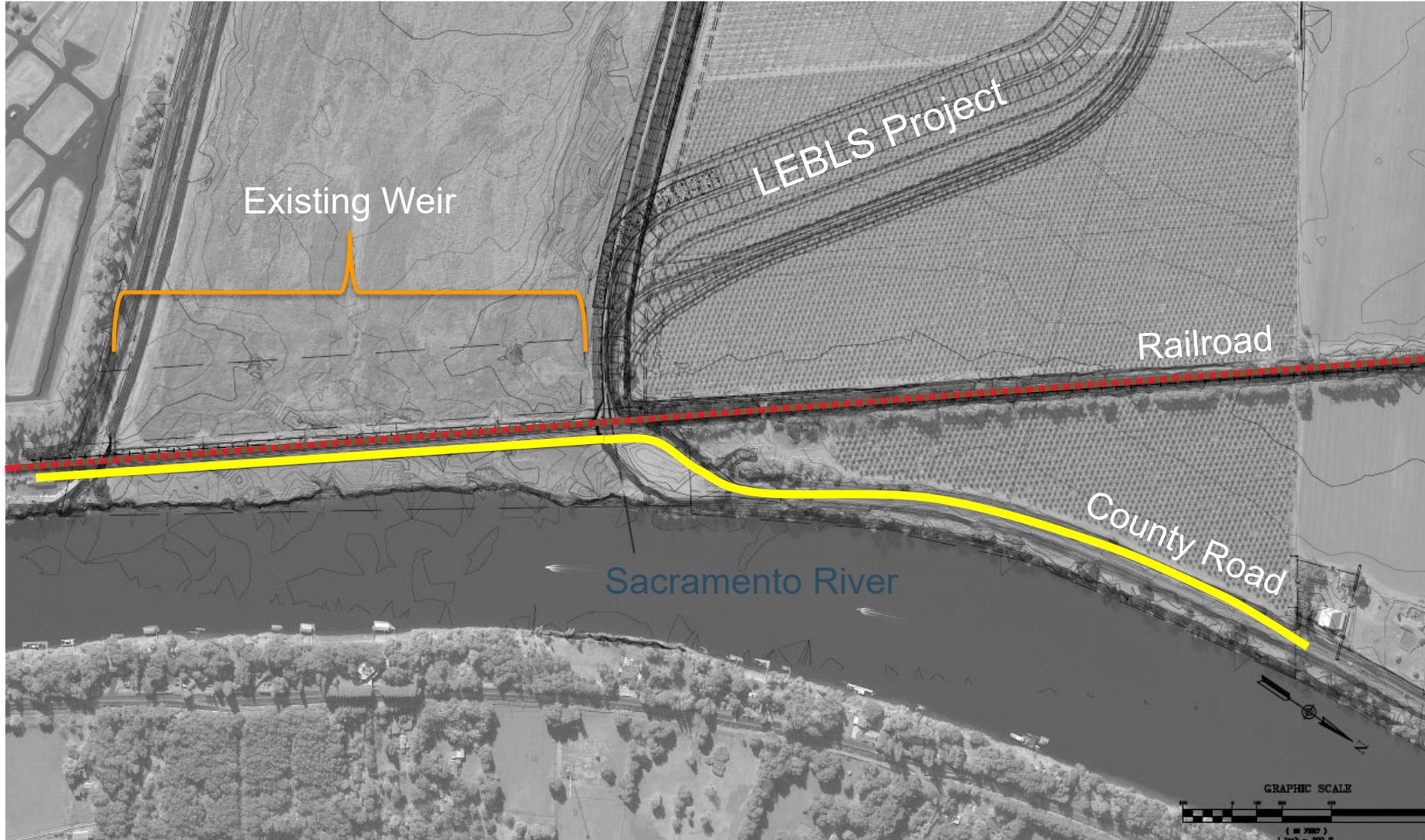


- Widen Sacramento Weir & Bypass by 1,500 to reduce water surface elevation in the Sacramento River
- Construction of the new weir would not impact operation of the old weir
- Existing infrastructure would be relocated and reconstructed (roads, canals, pumping stations)



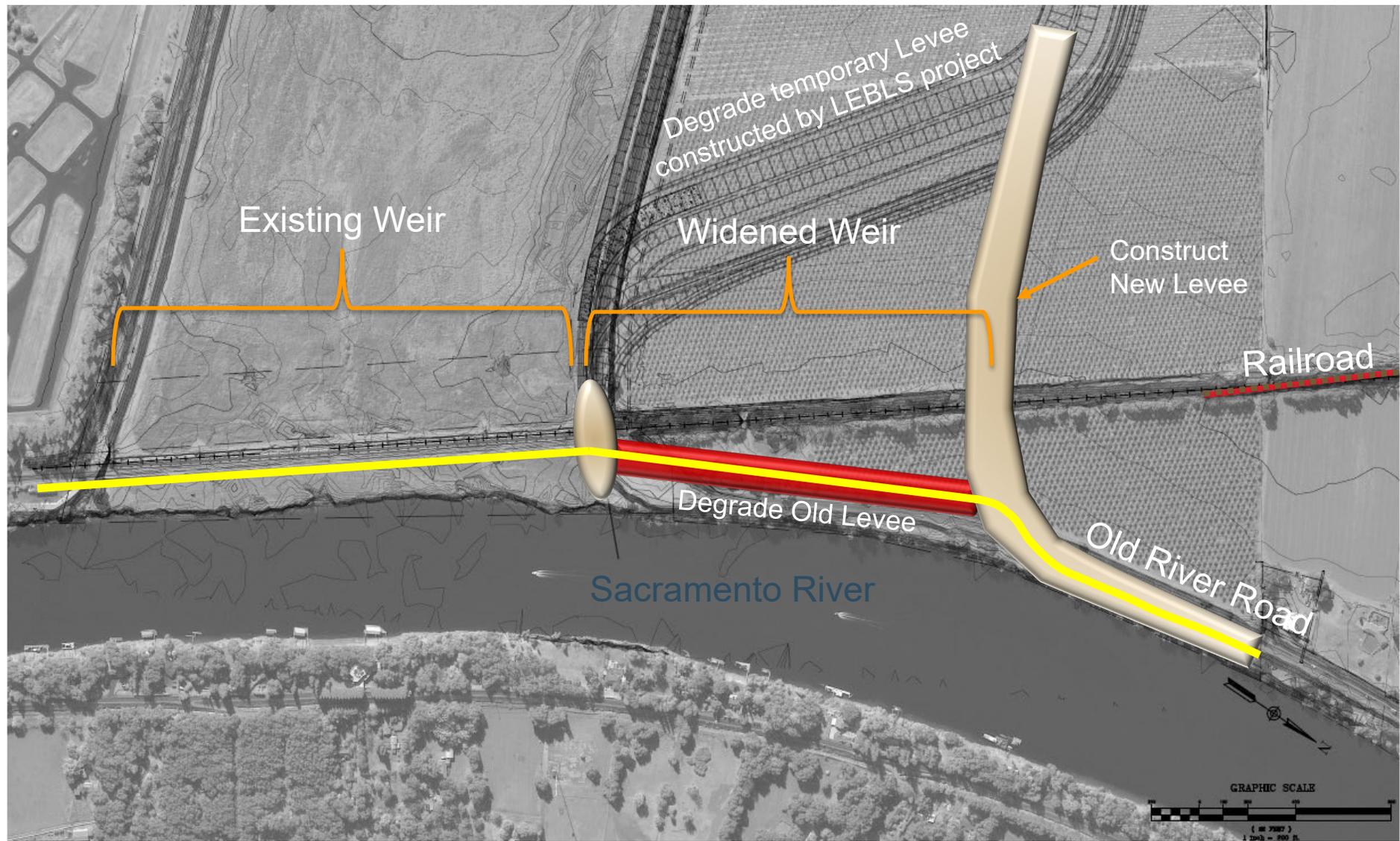


# SACRAMENTO WEIR WIDENING EXISTING CONDITIONS





# SACRAMENTO WEIR WIDENING CONCEPTUAL DESIGN





# SACRAMENTO WEIR WIDENING FISH PASSAGE



- ARCF GRR Biological Opinion (BiOp) requires compensation for possible increased fish stranding by including adult fish passage facility associated with flood operations
- Conceptual design:
  - double gated structure and
  - channel connecting Sacramento River to Tule Canal and Yolo Bypass
- Fish passage facility designed by local and regional experts, including state, county, and Federal agencies
- Fish passage is a specific mitigation feature:
  - opens during flood stage events
  - alleviates fish standing within the new bypass and provides passage between Yolo Bypass and Sacramento River





# SACRAMENTO WEIR WIDENING SUPPLEMENTAL EIS/EIR



- ARCF GRR Final EIS/EIR completed in 2016
- USACE is preparing a Supplement to the ARCF GRR EIS/EIR to address project refinements from detailed design
- Analysis would focus on changes from original project description
- Updates would address the following topic areas:
  - Geological Resources
  - Land Use
  - Hydrology and Hydraulics
  - Water Quality & Groundwater
  - Vegetation and Wildlife
  - Fisheries
  - Special-Status Species
  - Cultural Resources
  - Transportation
  - Air Quality
  - Climate Change
  - Noise
  - Recreation
  - Visual Resources
  - Utilities
  - Hazardous Wastes & Materials



# SACRAMENTO WEIR WIDENING SUPPLEMENTAL EIS/EIR



- Two project alternatives:
  - Fixed Weir at 26 foot elevation
  - Fixed Weir at 29.2 foot elevation (same as top of needle gates on existing weir)
- Key analyses:
  - Widened weir would flow more often. Potential downstream effects on stage (in Yolo Bypass and Sacramento River) and frequency of Bypass inundation evaluated based on historical record from 1970-present
  - Effects on fish from construction and operation of weir and fish passage structure
  - Effects on agricultural resources and overlap with Lower Elkhorn levee setback



# SACRAMENTO WEIR WIDENING

## NEPA PUBLIC PROCESS



- During Meeting: Scoping Comments and questions may be communicated verbally on the phone or via chat function in WebEx
- After meeting, comments may be provided to Robert Chase, [Robert.D.Chase@usace.army.mil](mailto:Robert.D.Chase@usace.army.mil)
  - Electronic comments are requested. USACE staff are working remotely to reduce coronavirus transmission potential.
  - Please refer to [www.sacleveeupgrades.com](http://www.sacleveeupgrades.com) for additional communication options.
- Next Steps:
  - May-June 2020: Draft Supplemental EIS/EIR Public Review
  - October 2020: Final Supplemental EIS/EIR Public Review



# SACRAMENTO WEIR WIDENING QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS



- Questions or comments may be added in the WebEx “chat” function
- You can also press \*6 to unmute your telephone line for a verbal question or comment.
- Please remember that you can provide comments or questions via email to Robert Chase at [Robert.D.Chase@usace.army.mil](mailto:Robert.D.Chase@usace.army.mil), including during this meeting.
- Thank you for your participation and flexibility. Stay home and stay healthy!