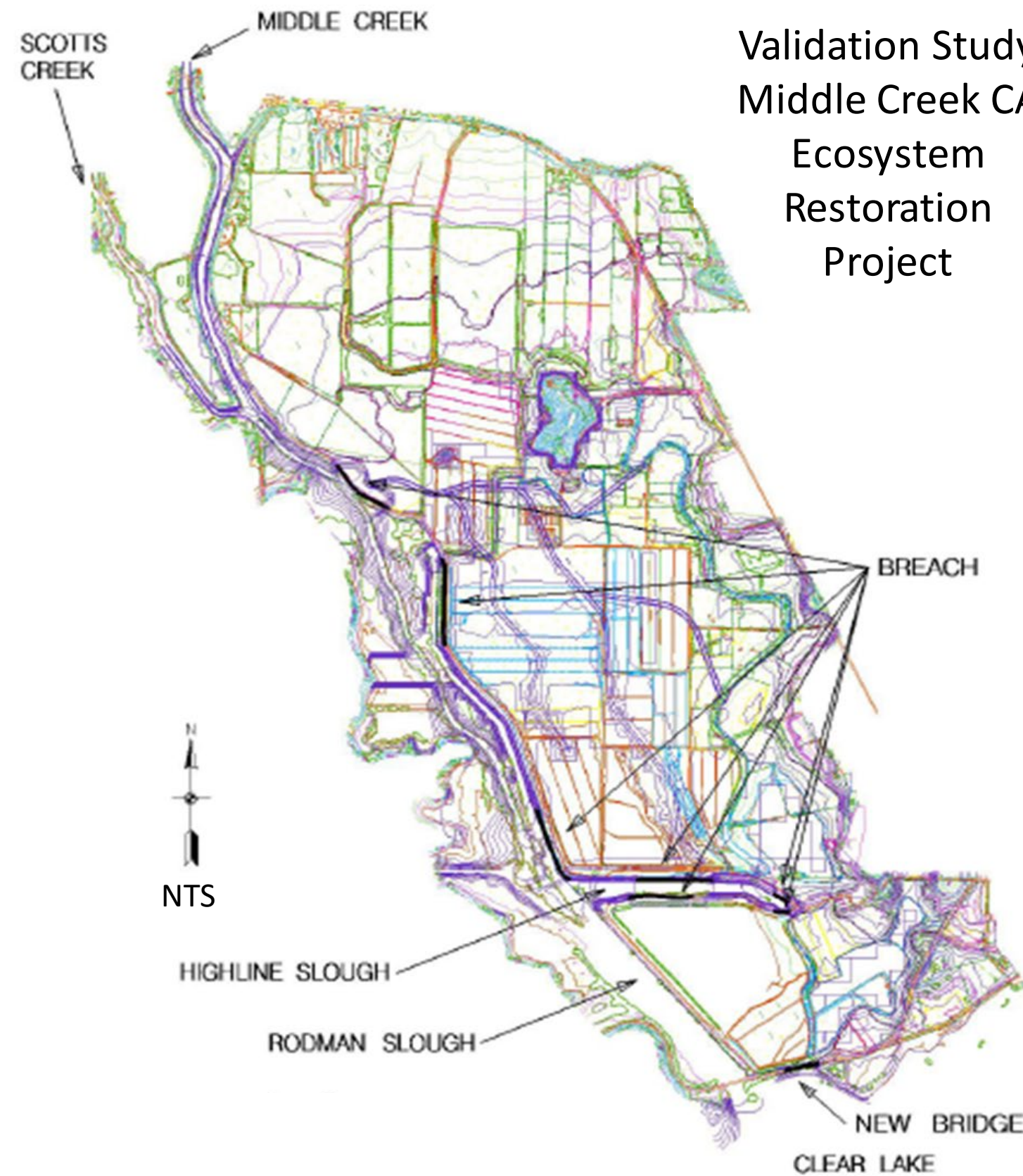




- **Project Name:** Validation Study-Middle Creek CA Ecosystem Restoration Project
- **Congressional District:** Representative Mike Thompson (CA-4)
- **Business Line:** Ecosystem Restoration
- **Authorization:** Flood Control Act of 1962 (P.L. 87-874), Sec. 209; Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-114), Sec. 1001(11).
- **Phase:** Pre-Construction Engineering and Design (PED)
- **Problem Statement:** The loss of the natural floodplain due to levees and flood control channels construction has resulted in the transport of substantial quantities of nutrient rich sediments to Clear Lake, degrading the water quality. Construction effectively isolated the historic Robinson Lake floodplain. In addition, issues with levee subsidence have forced Lake County (sponsor) to flood-fight to maintain the levees and prevent flooding of homes and the reclaimed agricultural lands. Rather than continue flood-fighting, the local sponsors expressed interest in returning the reclaimed acreage to lakeshore wetlands. Historically, this area was a significant lakeshore wetland that provided natural biological values including waterfowl habitat and enhanced water quality through filtering and trapping of sediments. Sponsor has a reinvigorated interest in the project due to the River and Ranch Fires in 2018, and that anticipated sediment laden runoff is being associated with future storm events.
- **Project Description:** The Chief's Report recommended an ecosystem restoration plan for the entire Robinson Lake floodplain. The project would restore about 1,600 acres by reconnecting the floodplain of Middle Creek to the historic Robinson Lake wetland area. This plan called for breaching the existing levee system to create inlets that direct flows through the study area. It seeks to reduce potential flood damages by relocating structures out of the floodplain and restore ecosystem functions and values by restoring fish and wildlife habitat.
- **Economics:** NA
- **Study Cost:** Total Estimated - \$63,100,000 (2017 price levels)
- **Cost Share:** 65% Federal / 35% Non-Federal
- **Schedule:** TBD; Chief's Report March 2004, Design Agreement November 2004



Validation Study Middle Creek CA Ecosystem Restoration Project



- **Non-Federal Sponsor:** Lake County Watershed Protection District
- **Current issues:** Given that 20 years have passed since the study was completed, there is a need to understand the current conditions, update costs, and recirculate the environmental compliance document. USACE is meeting with the Sponsor and the vertical team to ensure alignment on a post-authorization change report. Coordination is required with the Robinson Rancheria to allow for other hydraulic mitigation measures in lieu of constructing a ring levee around tribal lands held in trust. Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2007 authorized the project for construction.
- **Proposed FY23/FY24 Activities:** FY23 Omnibus Appropriation Bill appropriated \$750K to initiate a Validation Study (VS), update Project Management Plan (PMP), update project costs, and resume work to complete the cultural resource and environmental compliance requirements.
- **Proposed FY24/FY25 Schedule:**
 - Project Cost Update (Mar 2024)
 - Vertical Team Alignment Memorandum Signed (May 2024)

