



# COUNTY OF YOLO

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 24, 2013

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## **Increased Bypass Flooding for Fish Could Cost Yolo County Economy \$9 Million Annually**

**(Woodland, CA)** – Proposals to increase the duration and frequency of flooding in the Yolo Bypass for fish habitat could cost the Yolo County economy almost \$9 million annually from agricultural impacts alone, according to a report released by Yolo County.

The report, entitled “Agricultural and Economic Impacts of Yolo Bypass Fish Habitat Proposals,” was primarily authored by researchers at the University of California, Davis. It analyzes 12 scenarios of potential Yolo Bypass flooding that were developed based on existing language in the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (the proposal to construct twin water supply tunnels around the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta) and the National Marine Fisheries Service’s “Biological Opinion and Conference Opinion on the Long-Term Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project” (June 4, 2009). Neither planning process has yet identified a specific project, but instead has proposed a range of potential options that served as the basis for the analysis.

The impacts of the scenarios range from an expected total annual loss to the Yolo County economy of \$148,000 to almost \$9 million. The report also indicates state and federal agencies could minimize impacts on agriculture and the local economy by limiting flooding to the winter months (November through February), only extending additional flooding when Sacramento River floodwaters fill the Yolo Bypass as part of the regional flood protection system, or by constraining flooding to a limited portion of the eastern Yolo Bypass.

“Yolo County and its residents have sacrificed financially to protect agriculture and open space because it is the right thing to do,” said Yolo County Supervisor Jim Provenza. “We are working with the state to explore opportunities to expand fish habitat, but any project must minimize impacts on existing agriculture and waterfowl habitat.”

“We think it is possible to develop a project that is compatible with the farms and wetlands in the Yolo Bypass, but we are not there yet.” said Yolo County Supervisor Mike McGowan.”

The “Agricultural and Economic Impacts of Yolo Bypass Fish Habitat Proposals” report can be found here: <http://www.yolocounty.org/Index.aspx?page=2421>.

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