

Important Info

February 2018

Franks Tract Proposed Project Key Points

1. CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife is just completing a Feasibility Study
2. Policymakers will need to decide whether to allocate money to make this a real project.
3. Once it would become a real project, then all the permits, design reviews, public comment periods would come into play.
4. So this is NOT a funded current project and could die if funding is not provided.
5. The proposed project is referenced in the Delta Smelt Resiliency Strategy document. Google it for info.
6. Attachment A – Shows original proposed design – Several Major Problems
 - a. Wipes out Little Franks as a natural habitat area today
 - b. Wipes out boating routes and will reduce property values and kill businesses
7. Attachment B – Locally proposed alternative – could actually have several benefits for the area
 - a. Avenue to maintain levees around these areas
 - b. Park area
 - c. Anchorage
 - d. Beaches
 - e. Increased depth of boating areas and our sloughs
 - f. Delta destination in Franks Tract
8. Can go online and provide input via questionnaire at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd37ogOrisN-6dc_Dv1qZguMoa1dbpLLkwOwKG1LzFQVG7oJA/viewform

Dutch Slough Tidal Marsh Restoration Project

1. An Active Project being run by CA DWR
2. Part of the Levees Program and a mandate to provide for “net long-term habitat improvement”
3. Attachment C – Shows the 1187 acres north of Cypress Road along Dutch Slough already procured and permitted.
4. Apparently, several public meetings back in 2004-2006
5. Work going on starting this May to position the land to be restored.
6. Current schedule has levees breached in 2021.
7. Seems well thought out and laid out. Looks to be a promising asset for the area.

Some Important References

EcoRestore – <http://resources.ca.gov/ecorestore> – An amazing list of projects funded for restoration of the delta, including the Dutch Slough Project.

A Delta Renewed - <http://www.sfei.org/documents/delta-renewed-guide-science-based-ecological-restoration-sacramento-san-joaquin-delta> - An excellent doc on the science of the delta and the strategies for renewal.

Delta Smelt Resiliency Strategy - <http://resources.ca.gov/delta-smelt-resiliency-strategy/> - This mentions the Franks Tract Possible Project as a possible part of the strategy

If you want to learn more about what we know, please reach out.

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Franks Tract Feasibility Study

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is working on a feasibility study for a project that would fill certain portions of Frank and Little Franks Tract to create tidal wetlands and control salinity intrusion into the inner Delta. Modifications would occur on the western side of Franks Tract, above Piper slough and between Bethel Island and Webb Tract, and in the confluence of False River and Fishermen's cut. Much of this area is currently dominated by shallow water and snags, and is a known boating hazard.

Preliminary biological objectives for the project include enhancing habitat for Delta Smelt and other (native) fish species, minimizing habitat for invasive plant species, and the establishment of 1000 acres of tidal marsh and tidal sloughs. Preliminary physical objectives include changing tidal circulation to more closely resemble historic conditions, eliminating tidal flow and limiting salinity movement through Franks into Old River, and enhancing turbidity and residence time in False River and areas west of Franks. Navigability through Fishermen's cut, False River, and Piper slough will not be affected, however, hydrodynamic modelling predicts increased tidal action in Fishermen's cut although not to the extent seen with the emergency drought barrier. This proposed project differs from previous projects in its attention to the concerns of boaters and the Bethel Island community.

