

SAN FRANCISCO BAY RESTORATION AUTHORITY

Staff Recommendation

June 6, 2025

**AMERICAN CANYON WETLANDS RESTORATION
AND PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECT PHASE II**

Project No. RA-018

Project Manager: Diana Fu

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to disburse up to \$1,200,000 to the City of American Canyon to complete technical studies, 60% design, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation, and draft permit applications, and to conduct public outreach for the American Canyon Wetlands Restoration and Public Access Project Phase II, which will restore or enhance over 60 acres of wetlands and associated transitional habitat along the lower Napa River, improve fish passage, improve water quality, raise 1.2 miles of existing Bay Trail out of the floodplain and increase its resilience to future sea level rise, improve public safety for the trail, and build a new Bay Water Trail trailhead and associated facilities, in American Canyon, Napa County.

LOCATION: City of American Canyon, Napa County; Measure AA Region: North Bay

MEASURE AA PROGRAM CATEGORY: Safe, Clean Water and Pollution Prevention Program; Vital Fish, Bird and Wildlife Habitat Program; Integrated Flood Protection Program; Shoreline Public Access Program.

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: [Project Location and Site Map](#)

Exhibit 2: [Project Designs and Photographs](#)

Exhibit 3: [Project Letters](#)

Exhibit 4: [July 17, 2020 Staff Recommendation with Certification of Adopted Resolutions](#)

RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS:

Staff recommends that the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority adopt the following resolution pursuant to The San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Act, Gov. Code Sections 66700-66706:

The San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed one million two hundred thousand dollars (\$1,200,000) to the City of American Canyon to complete technical studies, 60% design, California Environmental Quality Act documentation, and draft permit applications, and to conduct public outreach for the American Canyon Wetlands Restoration and Public Access Project Phase II, which will restore or enhance

***AMERICAN CANYON WETLANDS RESTORATION
AND PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECT PHASE II***

over 60 acres of wetlands and associated transitional habitat along the lower Napa River, improve fish passage, improve water quality, raise 1.2 miles of existing Bay Trail out of the floodplain and increase its resilience to future sea level rise, improve public safety for the trail, and build a new Bay Water Trail trailhead and associated facilities. Prior to commencement of the project, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Authority the following:

1. A detailed work program, schedule, and budget.
2. Names and qualifications of any contractors to be employed in carrying out the project.
3. A plan for acknowledgement of Authority funding.

Findings:

Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority hereby finds that:

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with The San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Act, Gov. Code Sections 66700-66706.
2. The proposed authorization is consistent with The San Francisco Bay Clean Water, Pollution Prevention and Habitat Restoration Measure (Measure AA).

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Staff recommends that the Authority authorize a grant up to \$1,200,000 to the City of American Canyon (City) to complete technical studies, 60% design, CEQA documentation, draft permit applications, and conduct public outreach (collectively “the project”) for the American Canyon Wetlands Restoration and Public Access Project Phase II, which will restore or enhance over 60 acres of wetlands and associated transitional habitat along the lower Napa River, improve fish passage, improve water quality, raise 1.2 miles of existing Bay Trail out of the floodplain and increase its resilience to future sea level rise, improve public safety for the trail, and build a new Bay Water Trail trailhead and associated facilities. The project area consists of the North Slough, Lower Napa River wetlands, and upland habitats bordering the American Canyon community.

The City identified five main issues within the project area, including habitat degradation, seasonal flooding, wastewater contamination, limited public access, and susceptibility to rising sea level. The wetlands surrounding the North Slough are divided by an eroding levee road and culvert system, which impedes the natural flow of water, fish and mammals (Figure 1, Exhibit 2). The stretch of levee road (Eucalyptus Drive) over the culverts has been decommissioned and now functions as a part of the San Francisco Bay Trail. Seasonal flooding of the Bay Trail at the levee road limits safe trail access and threatens nearby infrastructure located approximately 700 yards away. Alternative flood management strategies are needed to improve habitat and reduce flood risk. In the upland habitat within the southern region of the project area, the wastewater overflow pond sits adjacent to the Corporation Yard (Corp Yard), which was historically used for wastewater treatment. The wastewater overflow pond poses a contamination threat to the adjacent wetlands and uplands; and therefore, new strategies are needed to manage wastewater overflow for improved water quality.

**AMERICAN CANYON WETLANDS RESTORATION
AND PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECT PHASE II**

Throughout the entire project area, there are limited education and recreation opportunities due to minimal public access to the water and wetlands. The project will evaluate opportunities to provide both education and recreation opportunities within the project area. Lastly, the project area and nearby homes and other infrastructure are threatened by projected sea level rise. Resilience strategies are needed to lessen the impacts on the habitats and structures along the shoreline. The project is needed to help inform future restoration actions within the project area.

The project includes the following elements:

1. **Complete technical studies.** The City will complete technical studies to document the project's baseline conditions through Geotechnical Investigation, Utility Survey and Base Map Development, Aquatic Resources Delineation, Botanical Surveys, and Wildlife Habitat Assessment.
2. **Complete 30% and 60% Design Documents:** The project will complete restoration and public access designs to 30% and 60%, including grading, planting, structural, and public access design, with an opinion of probable construction costs and basis of design report.
3. **Prepare CEQA Documentation:** The City will serve as the CEQA lead agency and anticipates preparing an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND).
4. **Prepare Draft Permit Applications:** Draft permit applications will be prepared. The City proposes to integrate best management measures for avoiding and reducing impacts into the design, and future construction methods, and to conduct early coordination with the permitting agencies. The City intends to continue consultation with the Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team during this phase (30% and 60% design).
5. **Conduct Community and Tribal Engagement:**
 - a) **Community Engagement:** The City will engage the community on the project via newsletters, city council meetings, community events, and signage.
 - b) **Tribal Engagement:** The City also has initiated preliminary outreach to share information about the project concept and its goals. The City has invited Tribal representatives to provide early meaningful input on the design and participate in public outreach events. The City will be conducting additional tribal cultural outreach for the project, pursuant to AB 52 and CEQA, as part of the CEQA Initial Study and pursuant to Section 106 of the Historic Resources Preservation Act.

The City's project team and partners are well qualified to carry out the project. The project team has significant direct experience in successfully delivering grant-funded projects of this magnitude and has an extensive Capital Improvement Program for designing, permitting, securing funding, and building capital improvement projects like the Eco Center, Wetlands Edge Park, the American Canyon Water Reclamation Facility, roadways, and schools. City staff has also recently completed planning and construction for Newell Open Space Preserve, a 620-acre grant-funded open space with constructed wetlands, riparian areas, and trails. The City delivered that project on-time and within available funds. They have demonstrated full competency to bring this grant-funded project to a successful conclusion.

To carry out the project, the City will supplement its in-house capabilities with a qualified environmental services consultant with experience in successfully supporting permitting, environmental compliance, design, and construction of projects that integrate habitat restoration,

***AMERICAN CANYON WETLANDS RESTORATION
AND PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECT PHASE II***

flood improvement, and public access. Also, the City has received input from a Technical Advisory Committee comprised of representatives of partner organizations and agencies, including: American Canyon Community & Parks Foundation (Foundation), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), American Canyon Open Space Advisory Committee, Napa County Flood Control & Water Conservation District, Napa County Regional Park & Open Space District, City of American Canyon Open Space & Parks Commission, Napa County Resource Conservation District, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the California Coastal Conservancy.

The project has also received widespread support from community members, local non-profits, and elected officials, as demonstrated through many letters of support (Exhibit 3) from: Congressman Mike Thompson, California Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, California State Senator Bill Dodd, Napa County District 5 Supervisor Belia Ramos, Chair of the Napa County Board of Supervisors Joelle Gallagher, Friends of the Napa River, Napa Solano Audubon Society, Napa Sierra Club, Land Trust of Napa County, American Canyon Chamber of Commerce, Boys & Girls Clubs of Napa Valley, Napa County Bicycle Coalition, Bay Area Sea Kayakers, and American Canyon Middle School. In the project's previous phase, local community members were encouraged to provide feedback on the proposed design project, which led to the incorporation of a kayak launch into design and other public access amenities.

Lastly, the City has a productive working relationship with the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation (Tribe), which has been active in the American Canyon area. Public Works has initiated outreach to the Tribe to present the project concept and goals and request initial input. It is anticipated that input from the Tribe on the design and its various elements such as the plant palette will greatly enhance opportunities for meaningful use of the site. The City will continue to engage in consultation with the Tribe as part of the tribal cultural outreach process pursuant to AB-52, tribal cultural resources evaluation under CEQA, and will include the Tribe in project events.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The project area consists of wetlands and upland transition habitats along the lower Napa River between the American Canyon Water Reclamation Facility (151 Mezzetta Court) and the City's Corporation Yard (205 Wetlands Edge Road). The project area consists of diked baylands north of the levee road (Eucalyptus Drive) and mudflats and tidal marsh south of the levee road, with a shallow channel running through the North Slough. A seasonal tributary, originating in the hills east of American Canyon, feeds into the North Slough. Just north of Highway 29 and Napa Junction Road, the North Slough runs westerly along vineyards and warehouses before turning south, flowing through the culvert system under the levee road (Eucalyptus Drive). It then continues through the Lower Napa River wetlands, open waters of the Napa River, and out towards San Pablo Bay. These wetlands are tidally influenced by the Napa River and experience an approximately 5 ft daily tidal exchange. The wetlands transition to upland habitat along the eastern edge of the planning area.

The North Slough wetlands provide diverse food resources for migratory birds along the Pacific Flyway and provide habitat for the endangered salt marsh harvest mouse. They also provide habitat for a myriad of other birds, mammals, reptiles, and insects, including the North American beaver, the North American river otter, garter snake, western fence lizard, great blue heron, least sandpiper, and monarch butterfly, among others. Although the wetland habitat is functioning, portions of the upland habitat are degraded, such as the Corp Yard site.

**AMERICAN CANYON WETLANDS RESTORATION
AND PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECT PHASE II**

The project area involves the wetlands and uplands areas along the North Slough in the Lower Napa River wetlands, including the North Slough levee and Corp Yard site (Exhibit I). At the northern end of the project site, the Bay Trail follows the levee road (Eucalyptus drive), which divides the North Slough wetlands. A pipe culvert system allows water to pass through underneath the levee road. South of the levee road, the Bay Trail runs parallel to Wetlands Edge Road along the eastern edge of the project area. At the southern end of the project site, the Corp Yard sits directly adjacent to the Bay Trail within the upland habitat. The Corp Yard contains several maintenance buildings and parking areas. The project area is owned in part by the City of American Canyon and in part by CDFW (Exhibit I).

PROJECT FINANCING

San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority	\$1,200,000
Project Total	\$1,200,000

CONSISTENCY WITH AUTHORITY’S ENABLING LEGISLATION, THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY RESTORATION AUTHORITY ACT:

Government Code Section 66704.5(a) authorizes the Authority to award grants to public entities for eligible projects within the Authority’s jurisdiction. The Authority’s jurisdiction extends throughout the San Francisco Bay Area (Gov Code section 66702). Eligible projects must meet at least one of three elements: 1) be a project to restore, protect, or enhance tidal wetlands or managed ponds in the San Francisco Bay but outside the Delta primary zone, 2) build or enhance shoreline levees for such a project, or 3) provide or improve public access for such a project. (Gov Code section 66704.5(b). Section 66704.5(e) authorizes the Authority to award grants for “all phases of planning, construction, monitoring, operation, and maintenance” of eligible projects.

Consistent with these sections, the City is a public entity, and the project area, which includes wetlands and uplands adjacent to the City of American Canyon in Napa County, is within a shoreline parcel in the San Francisco Bay area and is outside of the Delta primary zone. Consistent with Government Code Section 66704.5(b), the project involves planning for the restoration of tidal wetlands and managed ponds; enhancement of a shoreline levee; and improvement of public access and recreation by adding a trailhead on the San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail and expanding educational opportunities.

CONSISTENCY WITH MEASURE AA PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES:

The proposed project is consistent with the programs and activities of Measure AA, as outlined below:

The *Safe, Clean Water and Pollution Prevention Program*’s purpose is to provide clean water for fish, birds, wildlife and people. Consistent with that purpose, this project would develop wastewater overflow management strategies and plan for the restoration of wetlands that provide natural filters and remove pollution from the Bay’s water.

**AMERICAN CANYON WETLANDS RESTORATION
AND PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECT PHASE II**

The *Vital Fish, Bird and Wildlife Habitat Program*'s purpose is to significantly improve wildlife habitat to support and increase vital populations of fish, birds, and other wildlife in and around the Bay. Consistent with that purpose, this project will enhance tidal flows, and a more pronounced tidal channel will naturally scour North Slough Pond, creating more topographic variation and deeper water habitat suitable for native fish species. Full tidal exchange will improve water quality in North Slough Pond (dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature, and nutrients) which will benefit aquatic organisms and the larger food chain and reduce algae blooms. Special status species such as California Ridgeway's rail, salt marsh harvest mouse, Central California Coast steelhead, North American green sturgeon southern DPS, and longfin smelt are a few of the wildlife species expected to benefit from the wetland, marsh, and upland habitat restoration.

The *Integrated Flood Protection Program*'s purpose is to protect communities from coastal flooding. This project is consistent with that purpose because it will plan to restore full tidal exchange and will also improve the ability of North Slough Pond habitats to adapt to sea level rise (SLR) by increasing sediment supply and allowing for more rapid expansion of tidal marsh vegetation. North Slough Pond marshes will require high sedimentation, and possibly high organic materials, to sustain its marsh through the end of the century in a high SLR scenario (+ 6.9 feet).

The *Shoreline Public Access Program*'s purpose is to enhance the quality of life of Bay Area residents, including those with disabilities, through safer and improved public access, as part of and compatible with wildlife habitat restoration projects in and around the Bay. This project includes planning for building a kayak launch that, per agreement with CDFW, will be owned, operated, and maintained by the City. The proposed kayak launch will be located at the end of the trail leading west from the soon-to-be-built Napa River Ecology Center, providing shared parking, easy access, and a strong visual and physical connection to the Eco Center's recreational and educational programs.

CONSISTENCY WITH MEASURE AA PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA:

- 1. Greatest positive impact.** The project, once implemented, will restore tidal wetlands and enhance habitat for special status species while improving water quality and public access. The restoration of hydrology at North Slough Pond and grading near the Corporation Yard will increase the extent of tidal marsh and improve habitat for special status species such as California Ridgeway's rail, salt marsh harvest mouse, longfin smelt, Central California Coast steelhead, and North American green sturgeon southern DPS and contribute to essential fish habitat for salmonids. Replacement of an undersized culvert with an appropriately-sized, larger opening will provide fish passage enhancement and expanded fish rearing habitat in the upstream reach of North Slough. It will also improve tidal exchange and water quality in the North Slough Pond and vicinity. The project, once implemented, will provide 0.5 miles of new and 1.2 miles of improved trails, and will enhance water recreation opportunities through a new ADA-compliant kayak launch facility providing access to the San Francisco Bay Water Trail. Currently, there is an 11-mile gap in water access points between Cuttings Wharf and Vallejo.
- 2. Greatest long-term impact.** The project designs will provide for lasting ecological benefits to wetlands and tidal waters by replacing a muted tidal wetland with a more resilient full tidal

**AMERICAN CANYON WETLANDS RESTORATION
AND PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECT PHASE II**

wetland that maximizes sediment delivery to the wetland. The project designs will provide for higher elevation marshes and include regionally rare natural transition slopes for tidal marsh migration as sea levels rise. Future generations will benefit from improved wildlife-oriented public access, ecological education, and recreational opportunities within walking distance of the City. The proposed Bay Trail Spine improvements will be designed to be resilient through 2080 under the intermediate-high SLR scenario. The Bay Trail Spur and other public access trails will be designed to be resilient through 2080 under a low SLR scenario. Particular attention has been paid to providing an appropriate balance between raising the trails to improve SLR resilience and minimizing fill in adjacent marsh areas (Exhibit II).

- 3. Leveraging resources and partnerships.** The project leverages anticipated in-kind City staff time, builds on project feasibility studies developed through a prior Measure AA grant, and saves on surveying costs by using an in-kind site survey of the Corporation Yard provided by the Foundation. Though the proposed Eco Center adjacent to the project’s proposed wetland restoration and trails is a separate (and separately funded) project, construction of the two projects together will amplify the benefits of the wetland restoration project by offering stewardship opportunities; ecological education (See *Criterion 6. Engage youth and young adults*); and shared trail access routes, driveway access, and utility infrastructure.
- 4.** The project is collaborative in nature with an array of agencies and partners engaged in and benefiting from the effort. The Foundation, which is engaged in planning for the Eco Center, is a key partner. Members of multiple agencies participated in early planning through a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) established to provide input into feasibility studies that culminated in the Plan (completed in May 2024). These agencies include the Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Napa County Resource Conservation District, Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District, and resource agencies. CDFW is a cooperating agency with resource jurisdiction and permitting authority for fish and wildlife species. Portions of the site are also under CDFW ownership. The project is widely supported by a variety of other community groups with an interest in advancing beneficial uses of the site. Community entities such as 4H, Spirit Horse, and Napa Junction Magnet Elementary School are actively engaged at the project site.
- 5. Economically disadvantaged communities.** A neighborhood 0.2 miles from a project site is designated as a low-income community block group based on the 2017 SFBRA 80% median income map. This community will benefit directly from the project’s improved SLR resilience, clean water benefits, public access opportunities, and environmental education opportunities. The City has initiated meaningful engagement with community groups – Friends of the Napa River, Napa Solano Audubon Society, Napa Sierra Club, Land Trust of Napa County, American Canyon Chamber of Commerce, Boys & Girls Clubs of Napa Valley, Napa County Bicycle Coalition, Bay Area Sea Kayakers, and American Canyon Middle School – and will adhere to the guiding principles of environmental justice and social equity on all aspects of project development.
- 6. Benefits to economy.** Direct benefits to the local community and the economy include protection of critical infrastructure like the Bay Trail Spine from flooding. Investing in SLR

**AMERICAN CANYON WETLANDS RESTORATION
AND PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECT PHASE II**

resilience projects can yield economic benefits through preservation of property in at risk communities. Wildlife-oriented recreational use of the kayak launch is expected to indirectly support the City's economy and improve the quality of life for residents and visitors. The new kayak launch will be a major regional draw. Wetlands Edge Park already draws approximately 64,000 visitors annually from the region.

- 7. Engage youth and young adults.** The project is ideally located, within walking distance to neighborhoods, 2 local elementary schools, a middle school, and 2 facilities used for Boys & Girls Clubs of Napa Valley after-school programming. The project's wetland restoration will provide opportunities for ecological learning, cultural interpretation, and outdoor recreation. Additionally, Wetland Edge Park, where the project would be located, is across the street from Clarke Ranch, which is currently used for 4H activities and Spirit Horse therapeutic trail riding and is the future home of a proposed 26-acre park with trail connections to the project site. The project, once implemented, will enhance and augment such opportunities.
- 8. Monitoring, maintenance, and stewardship.** The project designs will minimize the need for active operations and ongoing maintenance. Restoring tidal marsh will avoid the monitoring and maintenance currently associated with maintaining water control structures. Raising existing trails and access roads to current Bay Trail standard heights will minimize long-term maintenance obligations by reducing erosion and damage caused by trail inundation. The City, potentially with the support of contractors, will conduct on-going maintenance and monitoring activities necessary to ensure the restoration meets its success criteria and regulatory compliance requirements. There will be opportunities for stewardship activities such as removal of invasive species as part of local ecological learning and skills development for youth. Collaboration with partners including the Foundation, the Tribe, the Napa County Resource Conservation District, Napa Solano Audubon Society, and the Napa Sierra Club will support the achievement of these benefits.
- 9. Coastal Conservancy's San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program.** The project will provide multiple benefits for habitat enhancement, notably including fish passage and wetland tidal restoration. In addition to benefits for biological resources and their habitats, as a direct community benefit, the project will facilitate improved public access in support of the San Francisco Bay Trail through trail development and enhancement. The proposed kayak launch will also directly support the Conservancy Program's initiative to add a new trailhead for the San Francisco Bay Water Trail. The proposed location is a notable gap in public water access and will connect via the San Francisco Bay Trail from Wetlands Edge Park.
- 10. San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission's Coastal Management Program.** The project supports the San Francisco Bay Plan (as amended October 2019) by planning opportunities for land and water-based recreation to the Bay Area community of American Canyon. Water recreation and wildlife refugia are recognized as priority uses under the Bay Plan. The project's wetland restoration will provide habitat enhancement for fish and wildlife, improve function through filtration supporting water quality of the Napa River, an important tributary to San Francisco Bay. Consistent with the BCDC *Adapting to Rising Tides* guidance (BCDC, 2010), SLR resilience measures (wetland expansion and trail

**AMERICAN CANYON WETLANDS RESTORATION
AND PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECT PHASE II**

embankment enhancement) are proposed as part of the project as a direct climate adaptation benefit of the project. Specific policies associated with the BCDC Coastal Management Assessment Strategy and San Francisco Bay Plan that the project would support are provided as follows:

Fish, Other Aquatic Organisms and Wildlife Policy 1: The project will restore tidal marshes and tidal flats and remove barriers to fish migration to the benefit of fish, aquatic organisms, and wildlife for future generations. The projects replacement of undersized culverts with a box culvert or bridge would improve fish passage, consistent with this policy.

Fish, Other Aquatic Organisms and Wildlife Policy 2: The project will restore habitat for state and federally protected species including California Ridgeway's rail, salt marsh harvest mouse, soft bird's beak, and longfin smelt (proposed for federal listing in spring of 2024).

Water Quality Policies 1 and 2: The project's restoration of tidal marshes and tidal flats will improve inflow of freshwater aquatic habitats, reducing pollution (total dissolved solids, nutrients, and harmful algae), which will improve water quality to the benefit of aquatic species.

Tidal Marshes and Tidal Flats Policy 5: The project will support implementation of restoring tidal flows beneath the North Slough levee road and will preserve tidal marshland and wetlands. USFWS stated that the project's restoration plan is well aligned with the *Recovery Plan for Tidal Marsh Ecosystems of Northern and Central California* (USFWS, 2023).

Recreation Policy 1 and Policy 4: The project would connect to Wetland Edge Park via the Bay Trail and provide a new access point (kayak launch facility) for the San Francisco Bay Water Trail, which meets an identified need for public access recreation and public water launching facilities, consistent with these policies.

Public Access Policy 3: The project will implement recommendations of the technical advisory committee to advance public access to the San Francisco Bay Trail and San Francisco Bay Water Trail through the project's kayak launch.

Public Access Policy 8: The project's public access facilities, once implemented, will be free of charge and accessible to persons with disabilities, consistent with this policy. Trail enhancements will directly benefit the local community including those described in Section II that utilize Wetland Edge Park for therapeutic and recreational purposes.

Environmental Justice and Social Equity Policy 3: The project advances environmental justice by planning a new San Francisco Bay Water Trail kayak launch within walking distance of communities in need of public access recreational opportunities. The project also generally will reduce the community's vulnerability to SLR and will make 1.2 miles of existing Bay Trail resilient to sea level rise by planning to raise the Bay Trail out of the floodplain.

- 11. San Francisco Bay Joint Venture's Implementation Strategy.** The project directly supports the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture's Implementation Strategy through planning tidal marsh, wetland restoration and enhancement. The American Canyon Wetlands Restoration and Public Access Project Phase II is currently included in the Joint Venture's project list. The project involves the planning tasks necessary to implement the American Canyon Wetlands Restoration and Public Access Project Phase II. This project also

**AMERICAN CANYON WETLANDS RESTORATION
AND PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECT PHASE II**

contributes to larger habitat restoration efforts including California's Pathways to 30x30 among other state and federal plans.

12. Tribal engagement. The City of American Canyon has a positive working relationship with the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation (Tribe), a federally recognized Native American Tribe with Patwin ancestral ties to the project location. The City has initiated preliminary outreach to share information about the project concept and its goals. The City has invited Tribal representatives to provide early meaningful input on the design and participate in public outreach events. The Cultural Resources Constraints Report prepared for the project recommended consultation with potentially interested Native American Tribes. The City will be conducting additional tribal cultural outreach for the project, pursuant to AB 52 and CEQA, as part of the CEQA Initial Study and pursuant to Section 106 of the Historic Resources Preservation Act. Based on other similar projects in the region, it is anticipated that the Tribe is likely to express interest in the project and contribute to its success. The City will work with the Tribe to identify opportunities to share in stewardship and interpretive education on the cultural and historic relevance of the project location to place the site in context for visitors. Additionally, the City has earmarked funds to compensate the Tribe for their time supporting the project at initial project meetings. Other opportunities for Tribal engagement with the project include participation in biological monitoring and input about Tribal access priorities at the project site.

COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA:

The proposed project is statutorily exempt from the requirement to prepare an environmental document under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines, 14 California Code of Regulations section 15262, which exempts projects consisting only of feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions which the agency has not yet approved, but does require consideration of environmental factors. The project is also categorically exempt from CEQA review under 14 CCR section 15306, which exempts basic data collection or research activities which do not result in a serious disturbance to an environmental resource.

Consistent with these sections, this project only involves preparation of feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions that have not yet been approved, adopted or funded, and basic data collection, research and resource evaluation activities that will not result in serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. The planning studies will consider environmental factors. Staff will file a Notice of Exemption upon approval of the proposed project.