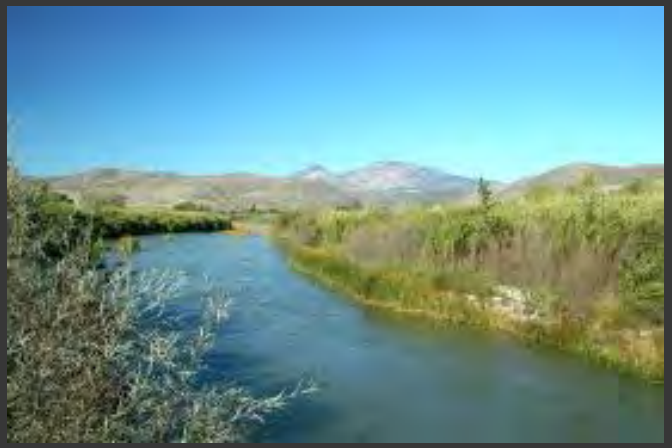
Salinas River Management



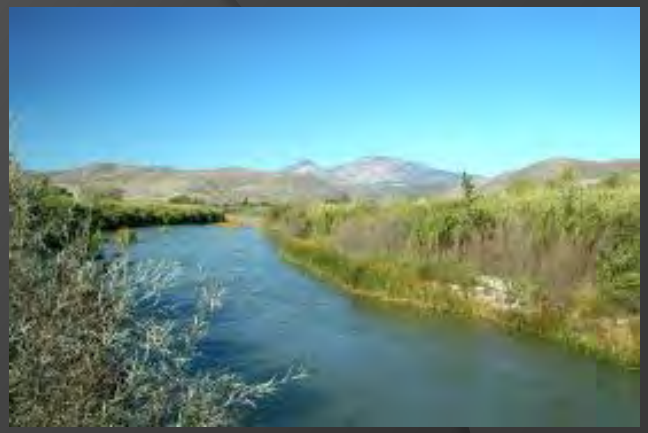
Sources: MCFB, MCWRA, Salinas Californian

How did we get here?

Nancy Isakson, Salinas Valley Water Coalition

- Channel maintenance work halted in 2008
- Accumulations of:
  - Trash
  - Sediment
  - Non-native vegetation
  - Bank de-stabilization
- Increased loss of water resources due to evapotranspiration

1995 Flood (Source: MCWRA)



Norm Groot, Monterey County Farm Bureau

SALINAS RIVER SHORT-TERM CHANNEL SUSTAINABILITY PROPOSAL

Salinas River Short-term Channel Sustainability Project

- Developed by:
  - Grower-Shipper Association of Central California
  - Monterey County Farm Bureau
  - Salinas River Channel Coalition
  - Salinas Valley Water Coalition

1995 Flood

(source: MCWRA) at Spreckels

Mutual Benefit Goals

- Achieve flood risk reduction
- Increase water recharge capabilities
- Improve stream bank stabilization and erosion control
- Enhance water quality
- Control invasive vegetation species
- Ensure channel flow capacity
- Manage habitat effectively

Project Area

- River channel length of 94 linear miles
- Mile marker 2 to mile marker 94
- Constrained reaches
- Unconstrained reaches
- Private property
- Municipal facilities
- Public infrastructure

2011 Flood
(source: MCFB) near Gonzales

Overview of Project

- Landowners to identify specific reaches of the river channel to be maintained
- Each landowner would select river channel activities and year of work
- Specific assessment of impacts within EIR
- Master 401 & 404 permits held by Agency
- Permitted for 5 years
- Renewable if long-term river management program is not completed and adopted
- Incorporated into vision for long-term program

Channel Activities

- Vegetation management: non-native removal and native control
- Sediment management
- Stream bank stabilization and erosion control
- Channel enhancement
- Trash removal
- Other activities, as requested by landowner

Flexibility

- Allow landowners to enter into program as leaseholds change – or exit
- Ability to modify activities performed as hydro events modify river channel
- Vegetation management could be reduced during term of project due to on-going efforts
- Trash removal activities will vary from year to year

Collaborative Approach

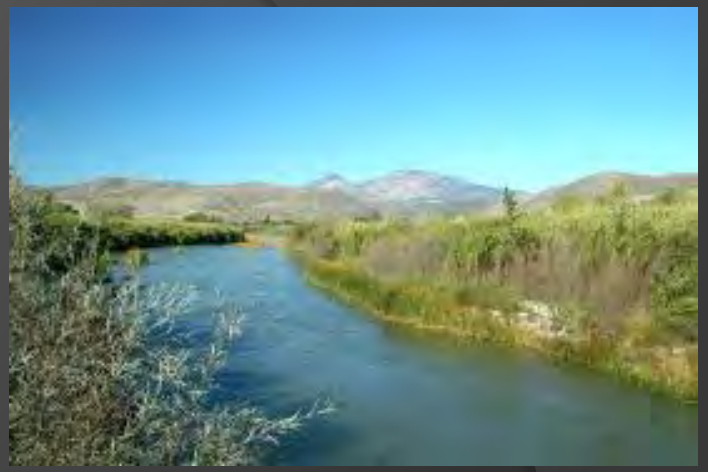
- All proposed projects coordinate river channel activities and provide positive results:
  - RCD exotic vegetation removal project
  - The Nature Conservancy pilot project
  - Individual landowner projects
  - NRCS stream bank stabilization project
  - Short-term channel sustainability project

Project Areas Identified

- Growers surveyed for intent to participate
- To date, total of 77 parcels intend to perform one or more activities
- From mile marker 5 to mile marker 90
- Range of activities identified in single, alternating, or multiple years
- Landowners to be further surveyed as response time has been limited

Benefits of Short-term Project

- Landowners willing to complete activities at their own expense
- Master permits are held by Agency
- Impacts can be managed year-to-year
- Non-native vegetation prioritized for removal
- Area of work activities is site specific, modeled for flood risk potential
- Certain mitigations are no longer needed due to short-term duration



Wayne Gularte, Rincon Farms

A GROWER'S PERSPECTIVE

Gonzales Bridge, 1937

Gonzales Bridge, 1956

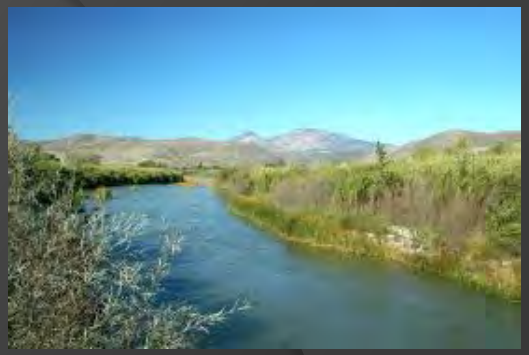
Chualar Bridge, 1937

Chualar Bridge, 1956

1940’s Land River Work

2012 River Overgrowth

October 2007 Channel Maintenance



Abby Taylor-Silva, Grower-Shipper Association of Central California
David Costa, Costa Farms

PERMITTING ELIGIBILITY

Setting Up A Process

Each project area must first go through the site screening process to determine its eligibility to perform work; the process steps include documentation of the following information, as applicable and feasible to the projects.

Baseline Flood Conditions

Flood conditions to be modeled by MCWRA, using appropriate historical and current data, for the proposed project areas.

1995 Flood
(Source: MCWRA)
Flooding at Spreckels, Highway 68 Bridge – March 1995

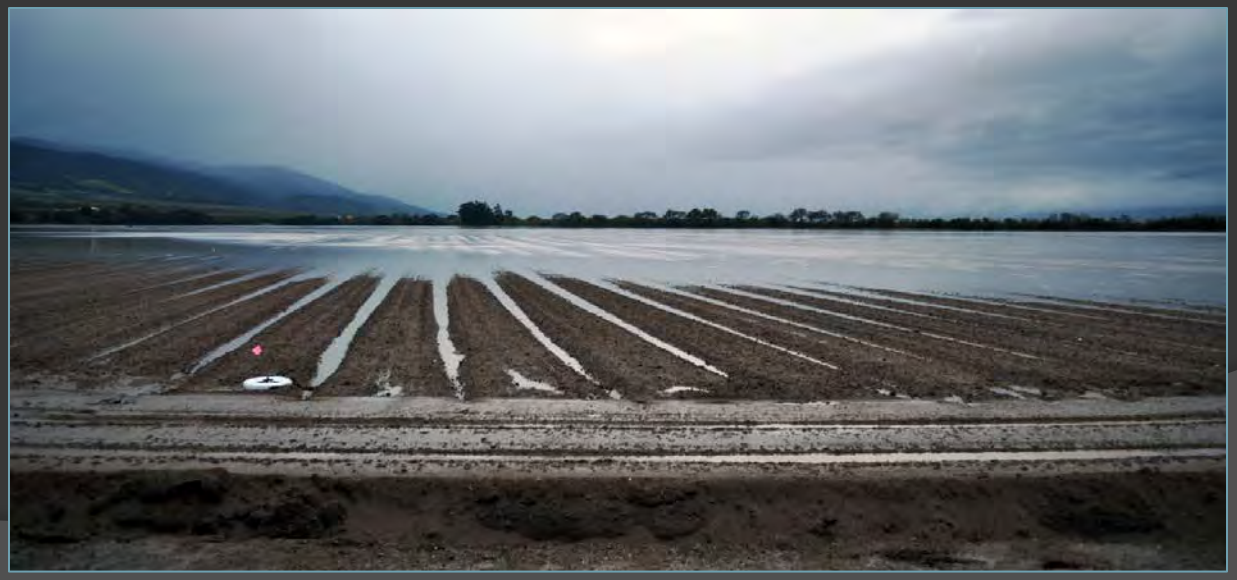
Baseline Vegetation Conditions

Vegetation conditions to be mapped using the MCWRA draft EIR (or final EIR) and species data from the California Fish & Wildlife database and similar, appropriate sources.

1995 Flood
(Source: NOAA)
"Water and sediment flowing into the Monterey Bay from the Salinas River in the 1995 flood." - NOAA

Proposed Project Areas

Proposed areas will change annually as river conditions change; landowners will determine the area of the channel they propose to perform maintenance activities in.



2011 Flood
(Source: LGMA)
Flooded Ag Fields
in Salinas Valley

Maintenance Areas

A map will be provided showing site-specific work areas and describing the extent of maintenance activity (i.e. length, width, depth, etc.) or other activity such as trash or invasive species control.

2011 Flood
(Source: Salinas Californian)
Levee Break

Monitoring Plan

MCWRA will provide a basis for monitoring project benefits to document baseline conditions and environmental conditions and address flood risk reduction.

Common Language = Common Agreement

- Stakeholder group by MCWRA has been productive.
- We’re focused on finding common language, clarification, and areas of agreement.

Questions?

- Panel Participants:
  - Nancy Isakson, Salinas Valley Water Coalition
  - Norm Groot, Monterey County Farm Bureau
  - Wayne Gularte, Rincon Farms
  - Abby Taylor-Silva, Grower-Shipper Association
  - David Costa, Costa Farms