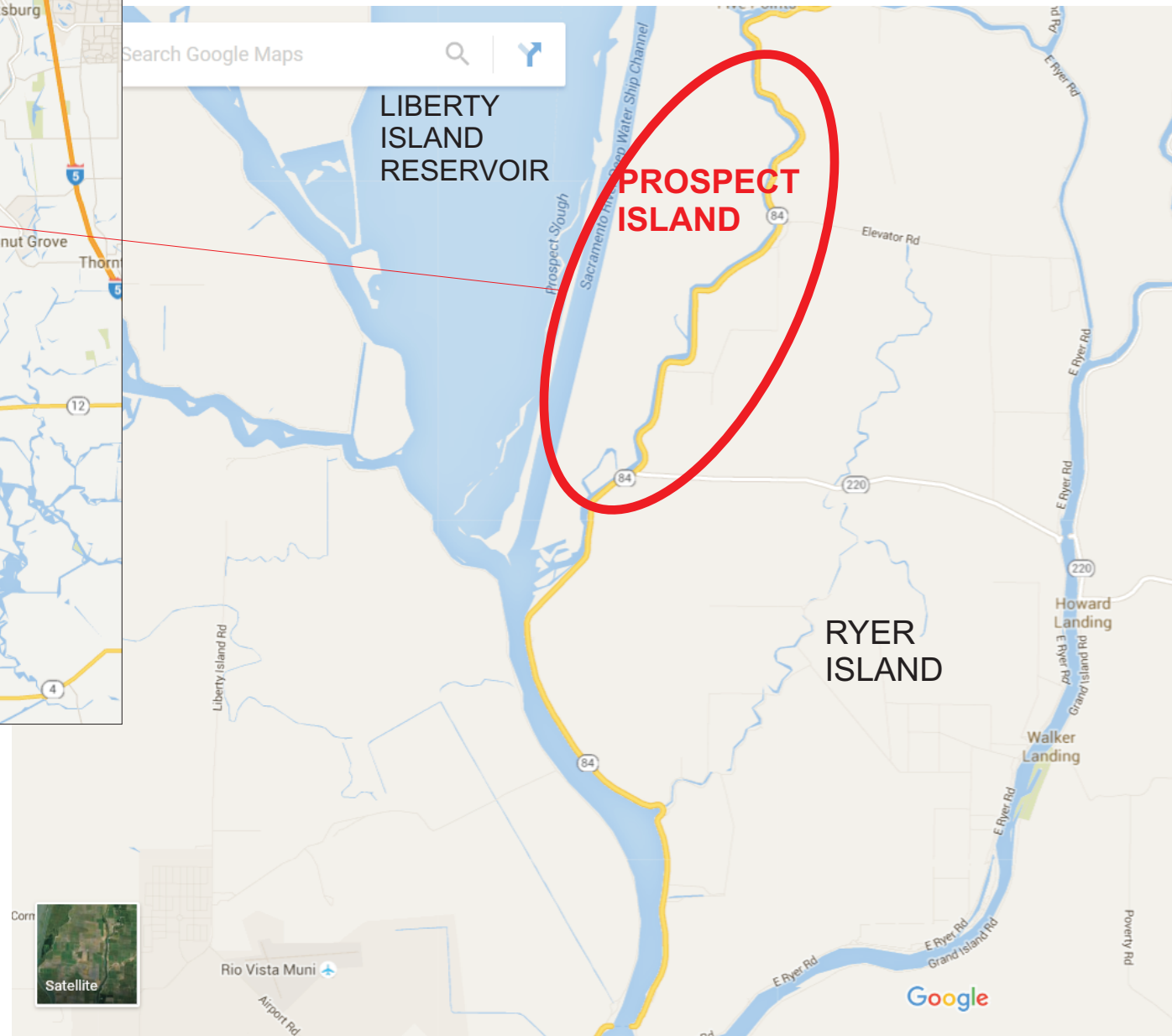
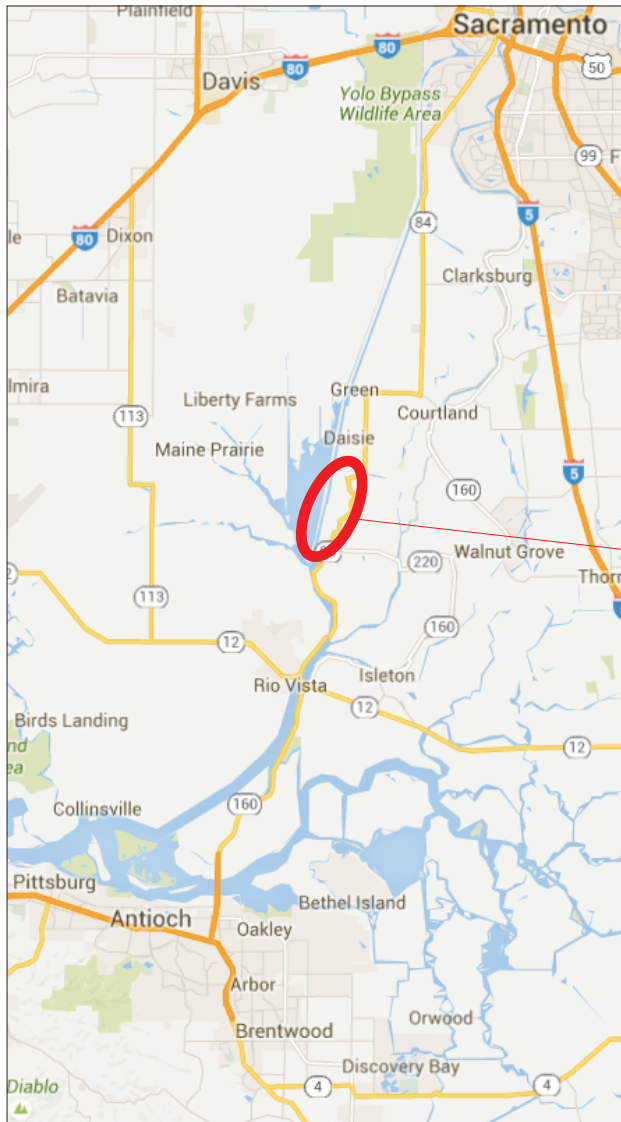


UNANSWERED QUESTION:

How does DWR think spraying for non-native invasive water weeds will be effective if the breeding ground for the water weeds, like water hyacinth, is not also treated?

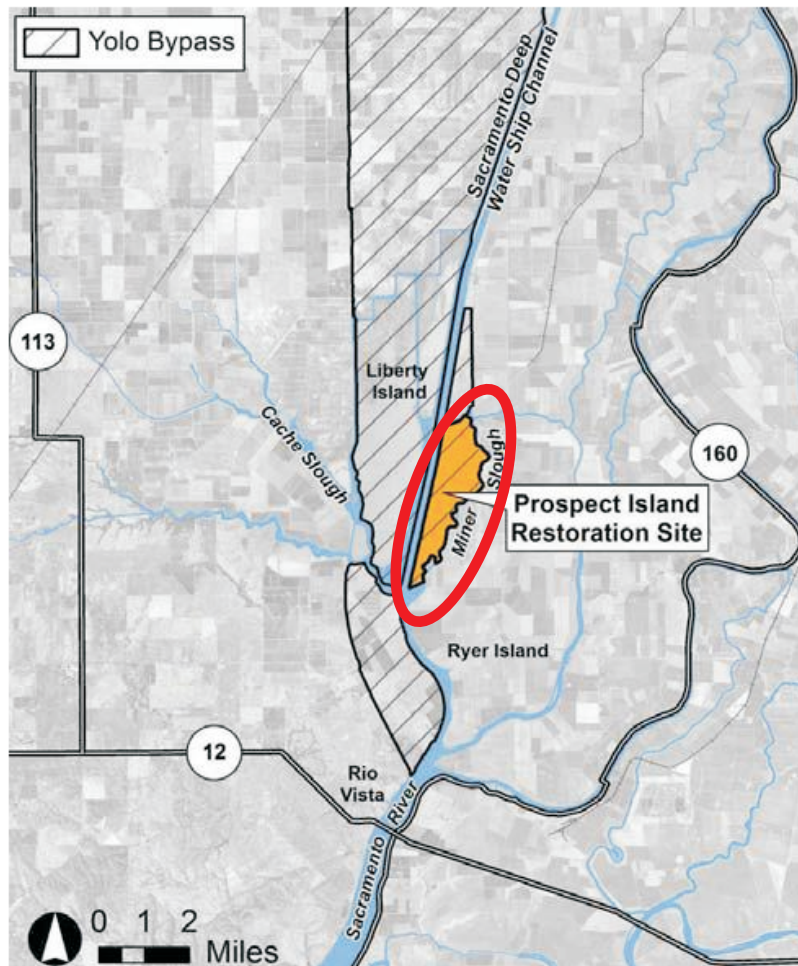


PROSPECT ISLAND TIDAL HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT

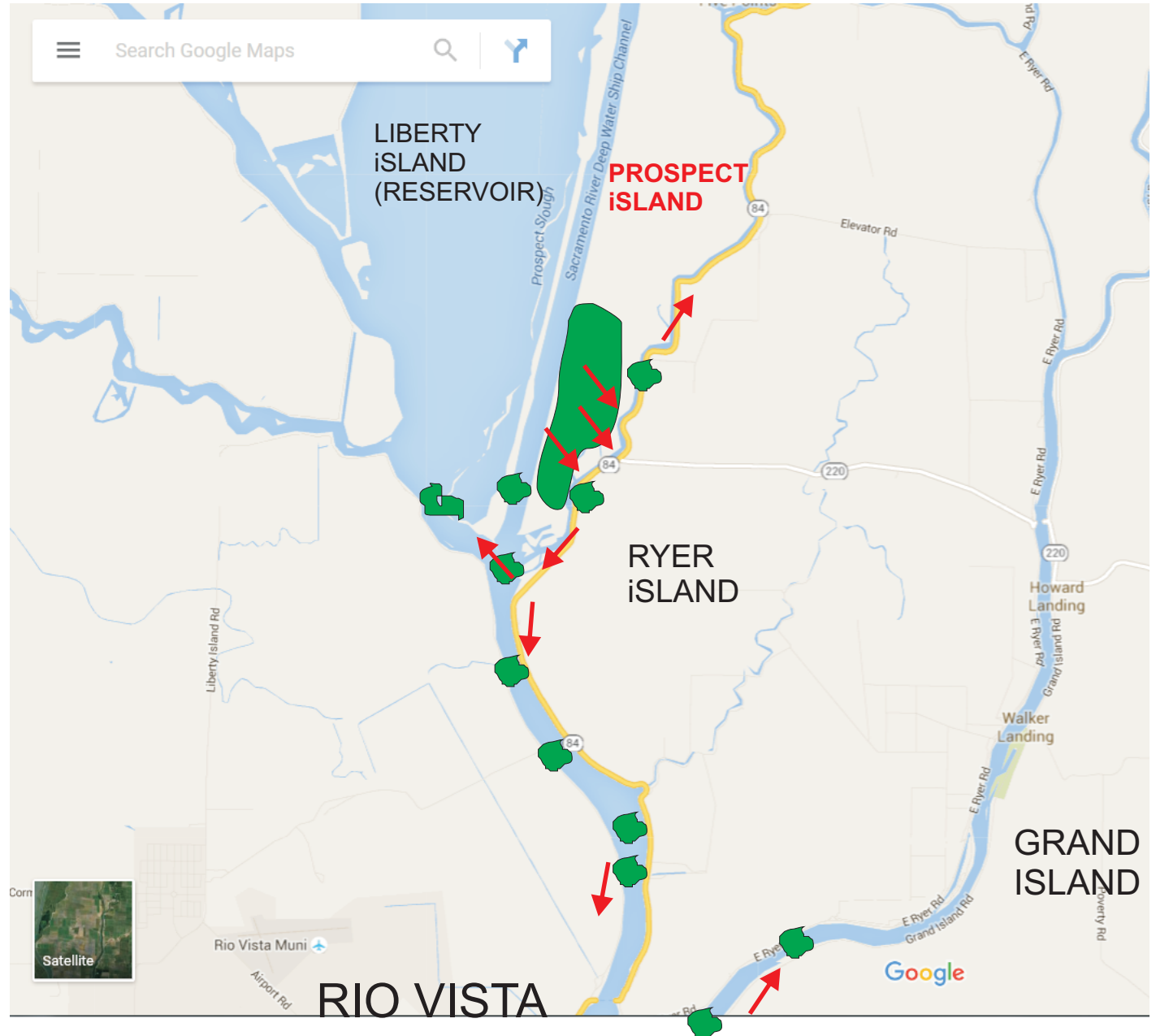
Component of the Fish Restoration Program Agreement (FRPA)

The Prospect Island Tidal Habitat Restoration Project is a joint effort by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW). Together they are developing the plan to restore the property to freshwater tidal wetland and open water (subtidal) habitats to benefit native fish and improve aquatic ecosystem functions. Restoration will entail interior grading, vegetation management, possible clean fill import for subsidence reversal, possible weir installation, breaching of exterior levees, and addressing various property considerations. Monitoring will take place as part of a science-based adaptive management plan. The design of future restoration projects will incorporate knowledge gained through the implementation and monitoring of this project.

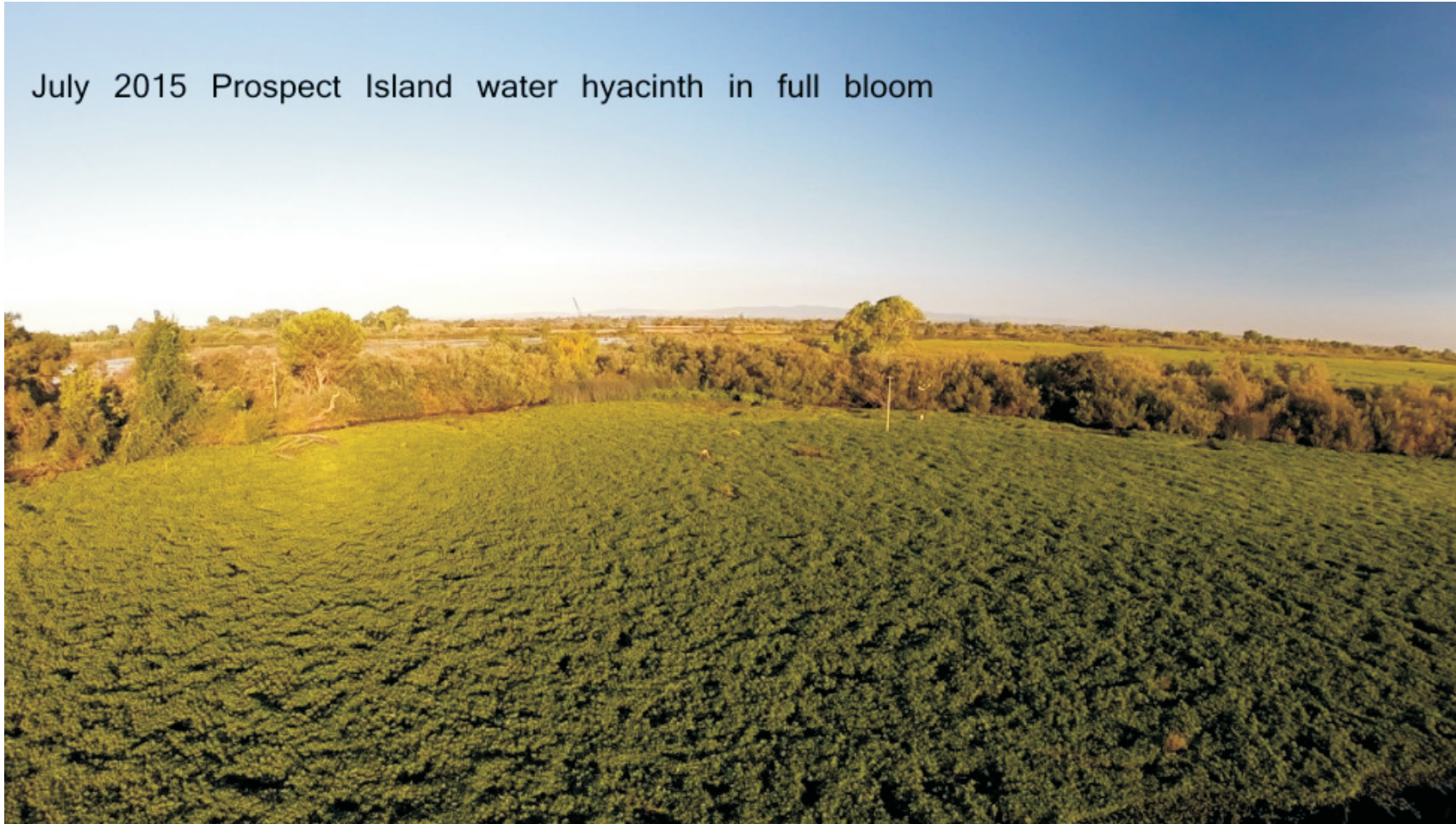
The project is a component of DWR's and CDFW's Fish Restoration Program Agreement (FRPA). FRPA implements the fish habitat restoration actions for the following requirements: US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service biological opinions on the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project coordinated long-term operations and CDFW Incidental Take Permit for SWP Delta operations. The project is in concordance with DWR's Environmental Stewardship Policy, which states that DWR has a responsibility to protect and restore the environment and should implement projects that contribute to the recovery of listed species.



For the last 3-4 years in a row, right before the Rio Vista fishing derby, huge quantities of water hyacinth floating islands are shoved out into Miner's Slough and the Sacramento Ship Channel. The water hyacinth floats out with the outgoing tides, and then floats in to other Delta waterways on incoming tides, to further spread the non-native water weeds. In addition, the floating water weeds create hazards to navigation, and take away oxygen in the water that would be used by fish in the area. Does it make any sense for DWR to spray for water weeds and ignore the source of the water weeds, leaving those weeds untreated?



July 2015 Prospect Island water hyacinth in full bloom



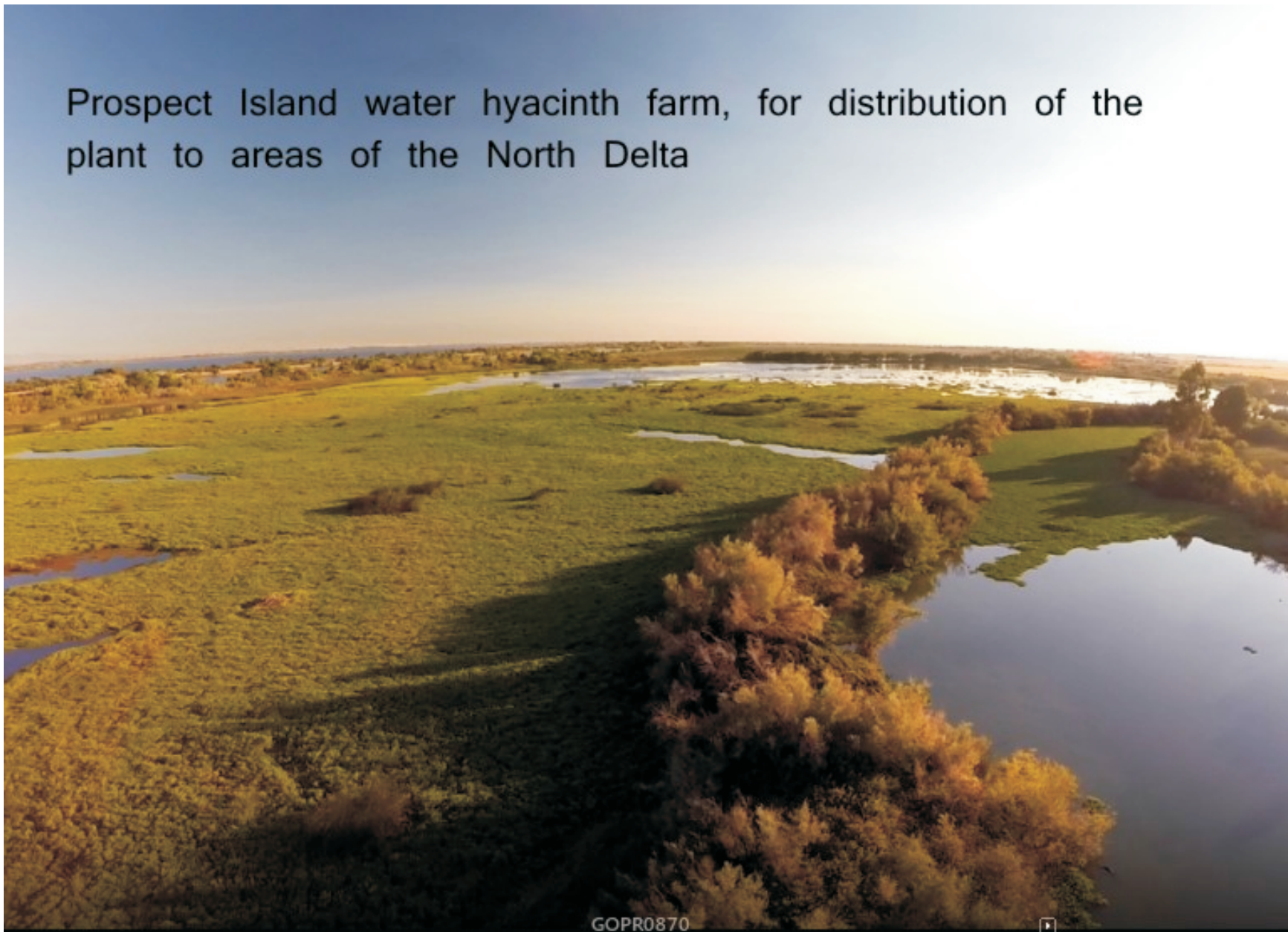
July 2015 Prospect Island "restoration" marred by infestation of water hyacinth. Solution? Shove the water hyacinth into Cache Slough around the time of fall salmon fishing.





9/19/2013 water weeds of Prospect Island

Prospect Island water hyacinth farm, for distribution of the plant to areas of the North Delta



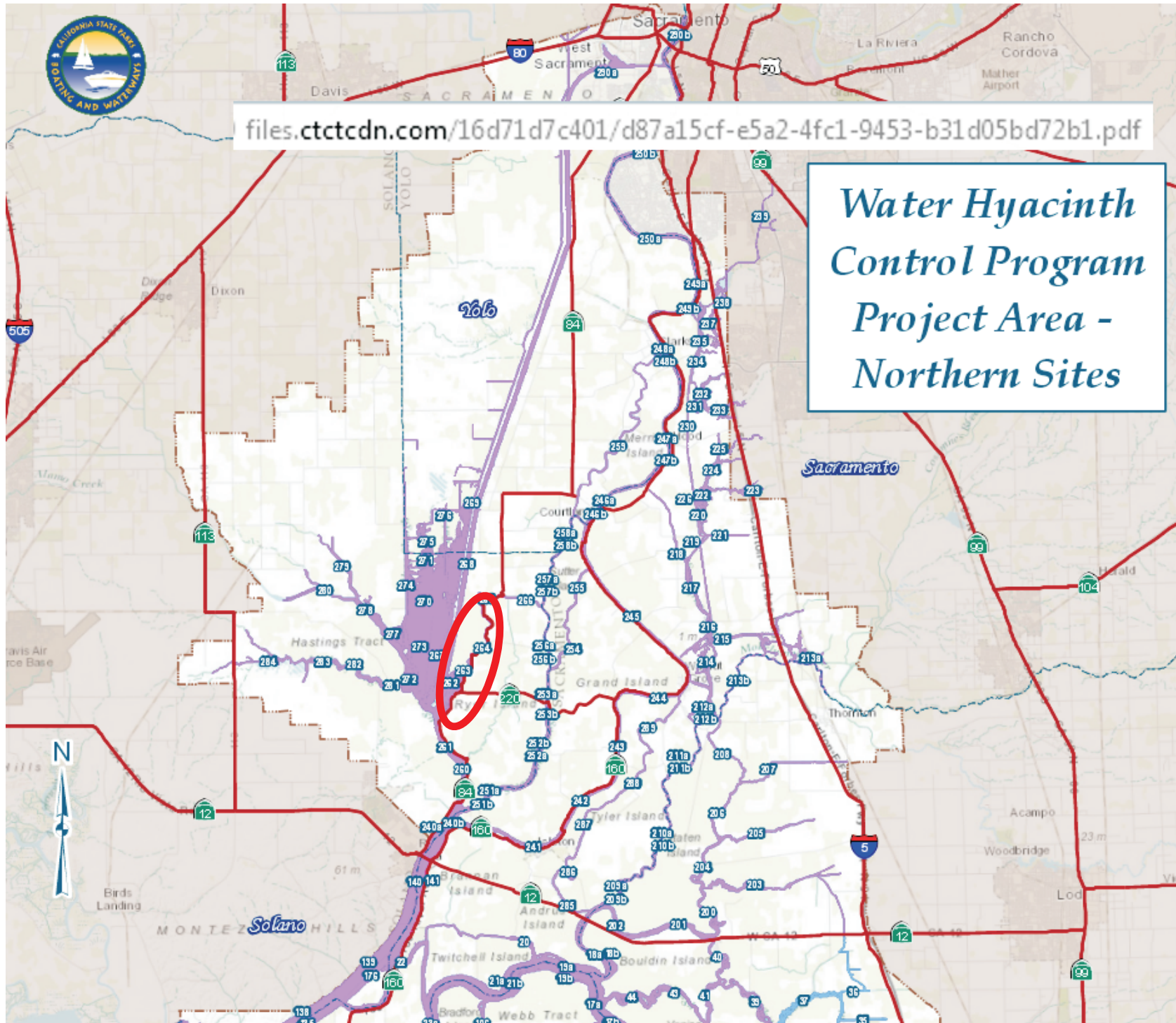
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*Water Hyacinth
Control Program
Project Area -
Northern Sites*



Fish Passage Protocol

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One of the many conservation measures of the Water Hyacinth and Spongeplant Control Programs is the Fish Passage Protocol. This protocol is implemented to reduce potential for low dissolved oxygen levels resulting from decaying water hyacinth and/or spongeplant. It is also intended to provide a zone of passage for fish through areas of low dissolved oxygen. Herbicide labels include requirements regarding dissolved oxygen effects and timing of follow-up treatments, should they be required. Depending on the herbicide, these requirements include treating in strips, and specific wait times between treatments.

For each treatment site, herbicide application, and follow-up herbicide applications, DBW staff shall follow fish passage protocol and herbicide label requirements, as specified, to reduce the potential for low dissolved oxygen.

1. In slow-moving and back-end sloughs infested with water hyacinth, DBW will treat up to 30 percent of the water hyacinth mat at one time. Mats will be treated in up to 3 acre strips, leaving at least 100 foot buffer strips between treated areas. The untreated buffer strips and remaining 70 percent of the water hyacinth mat will be treated at least three more times following the initial treatment (in 30 percent increments). These follow-up treatments will take place at three week intervals.
2. In Delta tidal waters, DBW will treat up to 50 percent of the water hyacinth mat at one time. Mats will be treated in up to 3 acre strips, leaving at least 100 foot buffer strips between treated areas. The untreated buffer strips and remaining 50 percent of the mat will be treated three weeks following the initial treatment for 2,4-D treatments, and one week following initial treatment for other herbicides.
3. If DO levels in an area to be treated are at a level considered to be detrimental to fish species prior to treatment (below 3 mg/liter), the DBW may treat the entire area (without the 3 acre strips or buffer strips), therefore allowing the DO levels to increase to beneficial use levels once the water hyacinth is controlled.

Video of current status of water weeds on Miner's Slough and Prospect Island was filmed on **Friday morning, Sept 18, 2015**

You will see bright green layer of vegetation on the waters of Prospect Island. Note also the *lack* of floating weed islands on Miner's Slough.

This breeding ground for water hyacinth has still not been treated by DWR or DBW or the Sacramento Port Authority.

Will they be allowed to shove the water weeds into the waterways again in 2015?

Video and photos provided at the request of Edward Hard, via email of Hard, Edward@Parks" <Edward.Hard@parks.ca.gov by N. Suard, Esq

