

# ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS AND DEVELOPING PROJECTS WITH MULTIPLE BENEFITS

Sustaining Colorado Watersheds 2021  
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# OUTLINE

- Overview
- Why
- Project Examples
  - Colorado
  - Utah
  - California



# COMPLEX PROJECTS = OPPORTUNITY

## Many Variables Interact

- Land ownership
- Land uses (onsite and adjacent)
- Cultural resources
- Biological resources
- Funding (private and public)
- Changing climate (local/regional conditions)
- Water resources
- Population growth/expansion/migration
- Social disparity
- Education
- Recreation



# WHY WORK SO HARD? EVERYONE/THING CAN BENEFIT...

<p><b>Land Managers</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Higher quality resources</li> <li>• Mitigation for future projects</li> <li>• Revenue from bank sales</li> <li>• Potential public offering or multi-use</li> <li>• Long term management \$\$\$</li> </ul>
<p><b>Project Proponents</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compensatory mitigation for projects</li> <li>• Facilitation of restoration downstream</li> <li>• Cost effective</li> <li>• Additional opportunities</li> </ul>
<p><b>Agencies</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Higher quality resources</li> <li>• Compliance with regulatory objectives</li> <li>• Quicker permitting times</li> <li>• Facilitate watershed plan priorities</li> </ul>
<p><b>General Public</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Influx of funding</li> <li>• Improved natural resources</li> <li>• Additional resources or opportunities             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreation, education, water quality benefits</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

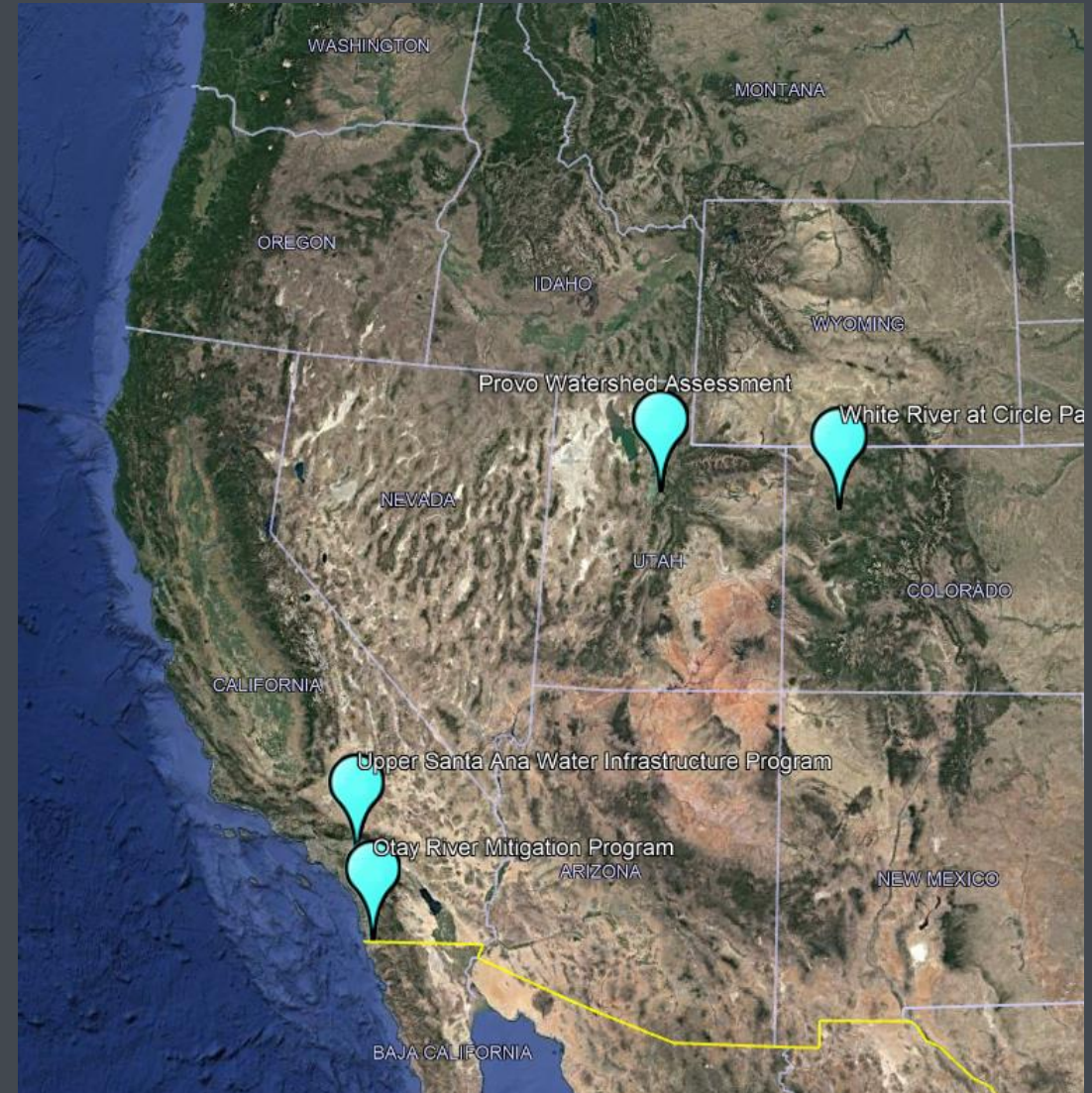
**+The Resources Themselves**



**Everyone gets something from the relationship**

# PROJECT EXAMPLES

- White River, Circle Park-Meekeer
  - Rio Blanco CO
- Provo Watershed Assessment
  - Provo UT
- Otay River Mitigation Program
  - San Diego County CA
- Upper Santa Ana Water Infrastructure Program
  - Orange County CA



# WHITE RIVER AT CIRCLE PARK-MEEKER

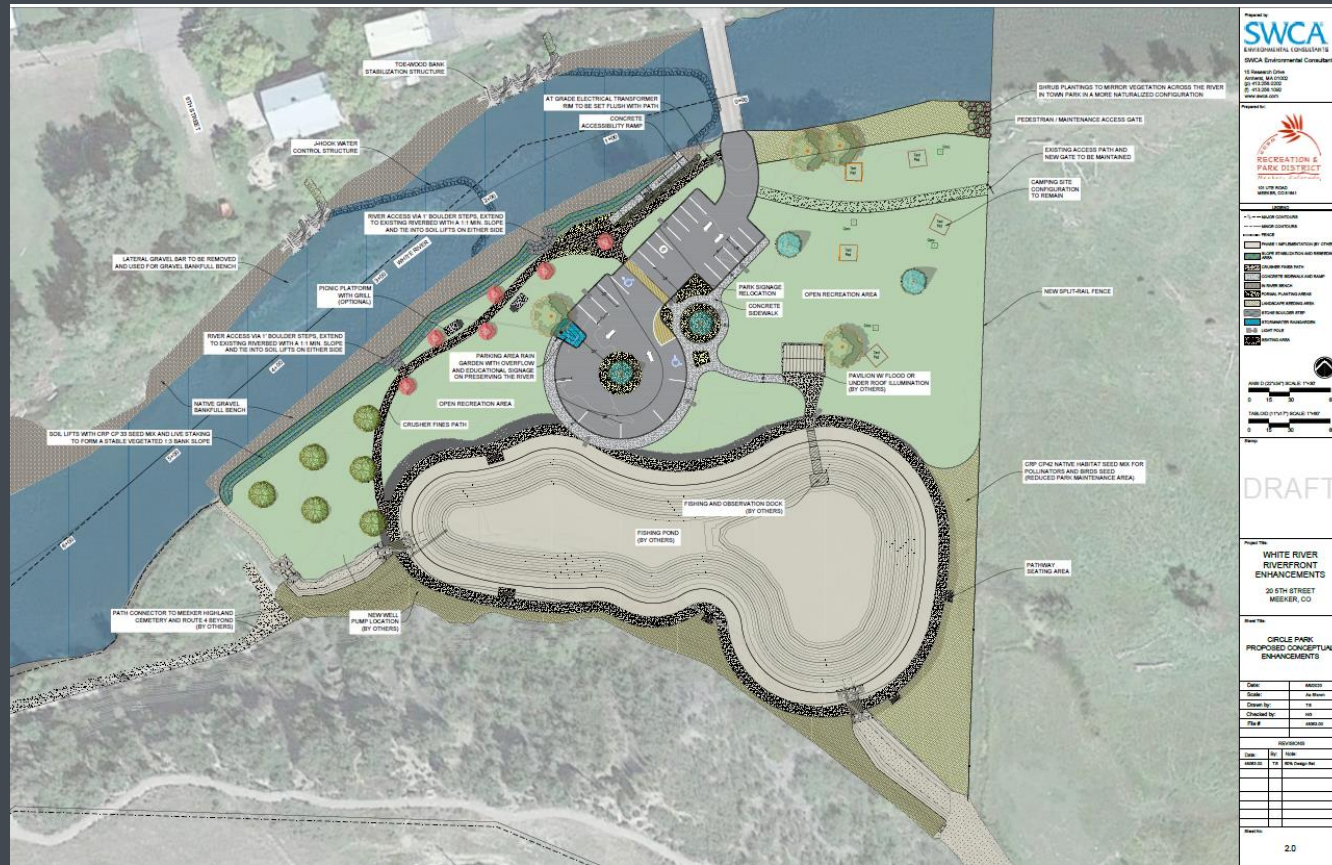
MEEKER, COLORADO



# PROJECT DESIGN

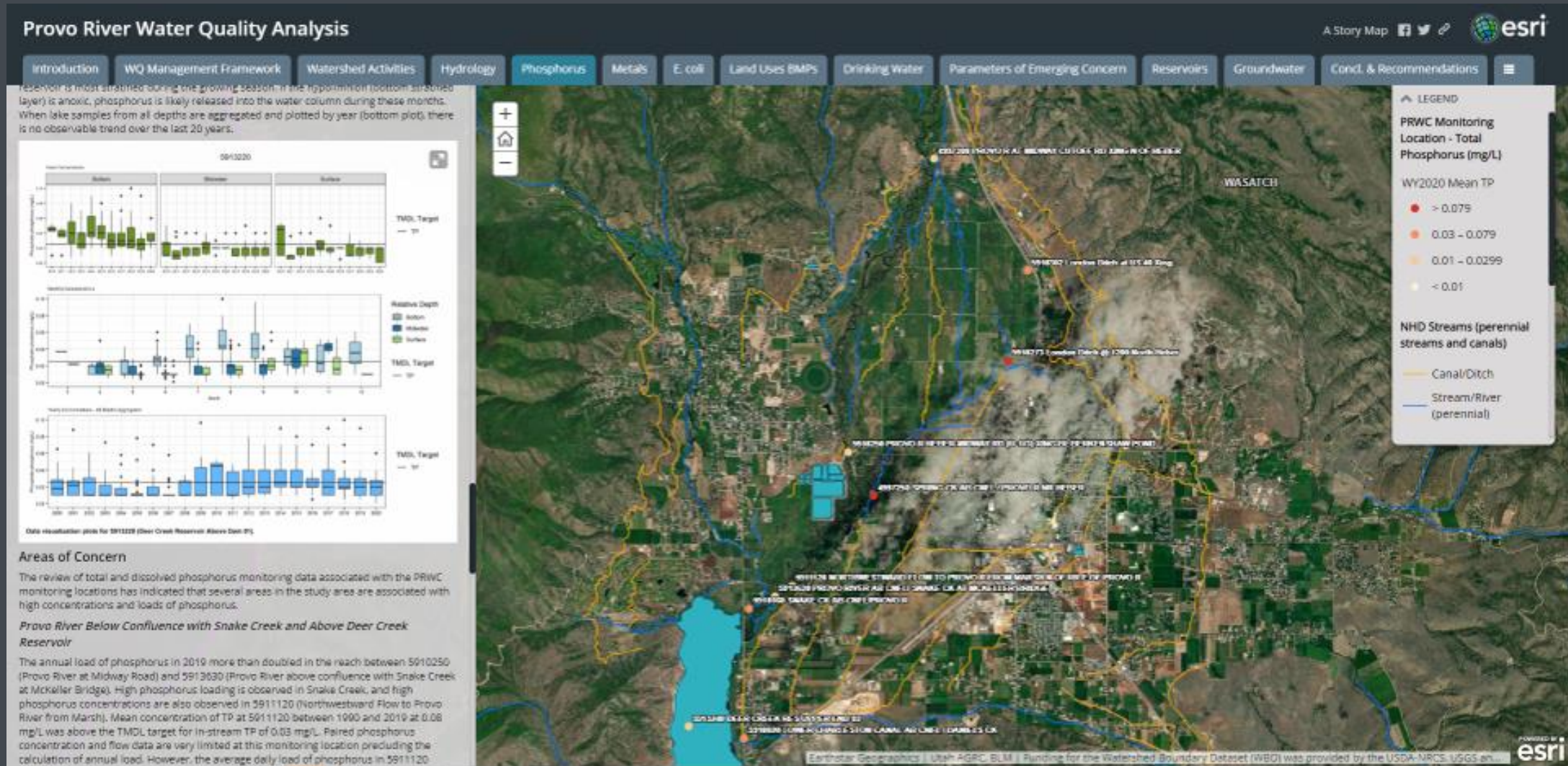
## Stakeholders/Goals

- Protection of Town Park infrastructure
- Restoration of river ecosystem
- Mitigation of existing ice-jam flooding
- Accessible recreation opportunities
- Preservation of local culture/character



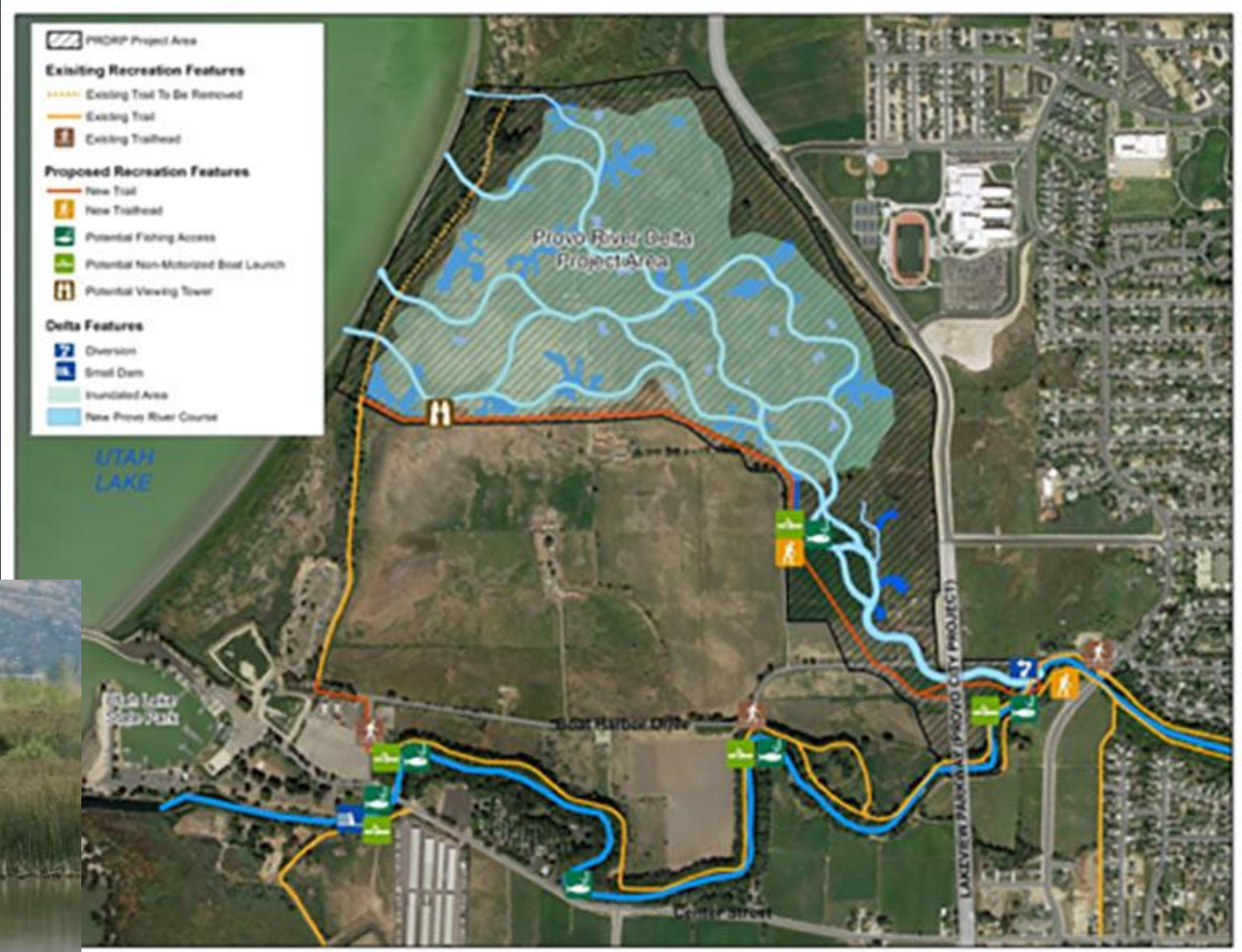
# PROVO RIVER WATERSHED WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT

## PROVO, UTAH



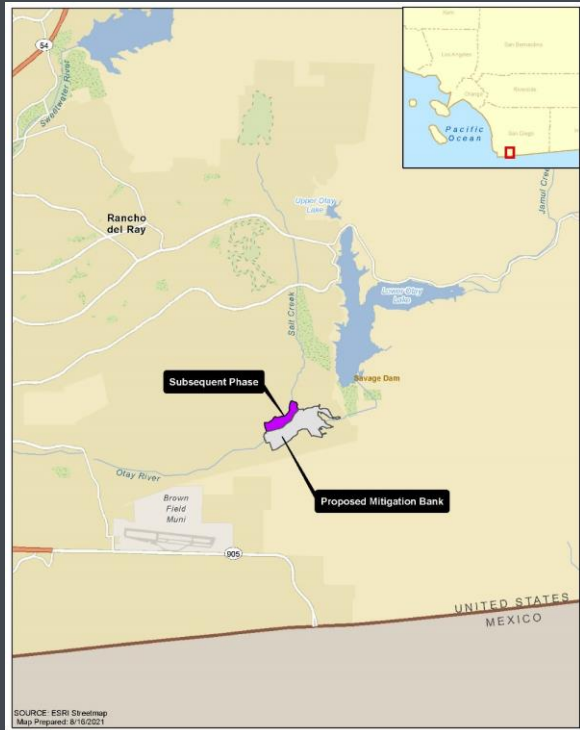


IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITY,  
SEEK FUNDING,  
CONTINUE TO  
COLLABORATE

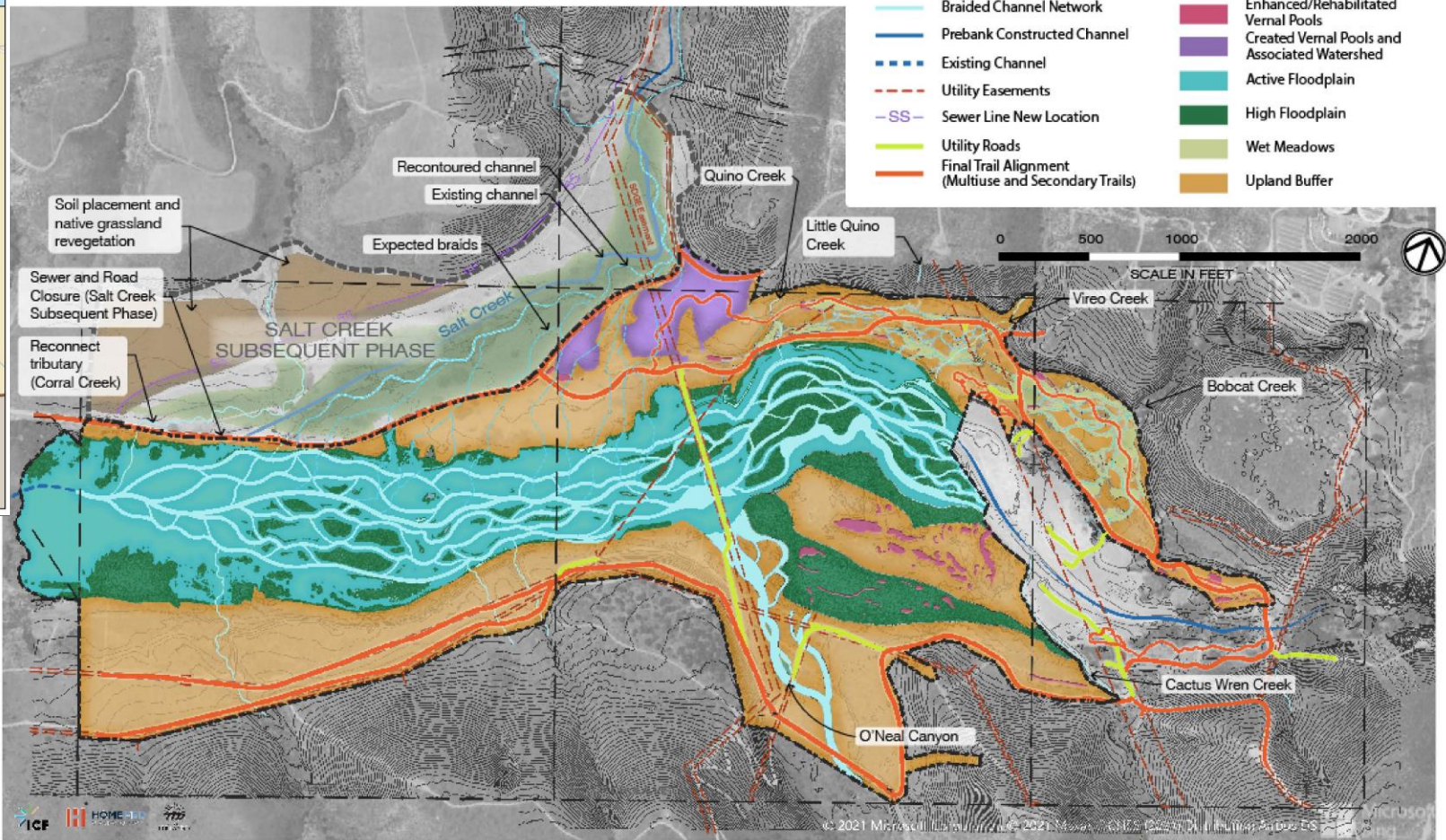


# OTAY RIVER MITIGATION PROGRAM

## SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

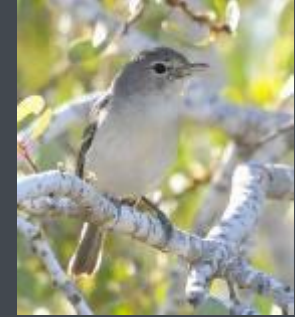


### Otay River Restoration Expansion Area Concept Plan 08/17/2021

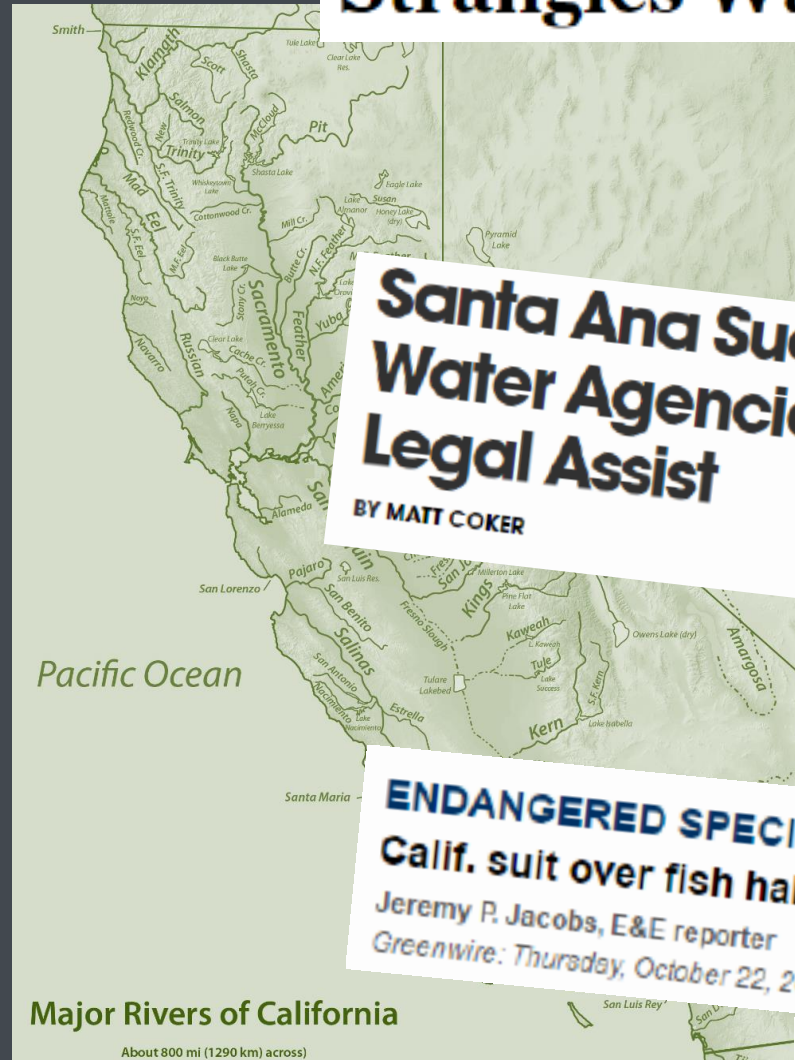


## Multiple Site Uses and Objectives

- Public Land
- Within Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) Preserve
- Onsite Threatened and Endangered Species
- Border Patrol Use
- Water lines
- Sewer lines
- Gas and Electric (above and below ground)
- Overlap With Two Trail Planning Areas
- Mix of future Trail Users
  - Pedestrians, Mountain Bike, Equestrian



# Threatened Sucker Fish, Strangles Water Supplies



**Santa Ana Sucker Fish Critical Habitat Designation  
Challenged in Court**  
Southern California water agencies file lawsuit  
August 24, 2011

- Over 6 million people

**Santa Ana Sucker, Little Fish at Center of  
Water Agencies' Suit Against Feds, Gets a  
Legal Assist**  
BY MATT COKER

**Lawsuit Appeals Expanded Critical Habitat  
for Santa Ana Sucker**

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:  
Calif. suit over fish habitat baits hook for Supreme Court**  
Jeremy P. Jacobs, E&E reporter  
Greenwire: Thursday, October 22, 2015

due to many threats/stressors  
the water supply projects with  
eds of a riverine ecosystem?

**Supreme Court keeps protections for  
Santa Ana sucker fish**

Major Rivers of California  
About 800 mi (1290 km) across

# NEW STRATEGY: COLLABORATION

## WIN-WIN FOR ALL

- ✓ Facilitate water infrastructure
- ✓ Build aquatic resource and species mitigation credits
- ✓ Influx of \$\$ onto public lands for implementation and management
- ✓ Taxpayers benefit from maximum use of tax money, water resources, land resources
- ✓ Leverage invested money for grant applications
- ✓ Fund long term scientific studies
- ✓ Allows less funded public agency participation through contribution of land and staff time
- ✓ Benefit listed flora and fauna
- ✓ Implement regional conservation strategies
- ✓ Implement significant watershed restoration projects
- ✓ Education opportunities

### Inland Empire water agencies pool resources to save Santa Ana sucker



Brett Mills (L), Tawny Hoemke (C), both of Southwest Resource Management Association and Heather Dyer (R), water resources project manager for San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, look to remove non-native predators that are threatening the Santa Ana sucker fish, in the Rialto Channel portion of the Santa Ana River, Tuesday, March 3, 2015. The goal is to ...



# So... What Does it Take to Make This Happen?

- Don't be scared of speed bumps
- Communication
- Shared vision development
- Build trust and commonality
- Use neutral facilitators
- Use multiple collaboration techniques
- Know regional and national trends
- Check egos
- Understand the community
- Lots of site visits
- Lots of meetings(ssssss) with all stakeholders
- Know when to give and take (compromise)
- Decision making power can change hands

