



EXPANDING FLOODWAYS PROVIDES KEY WATER SUPPLY BENEFITS

Multibenefit flood projects that include setback levees and expanded floodways can provide critical water supply benefits..

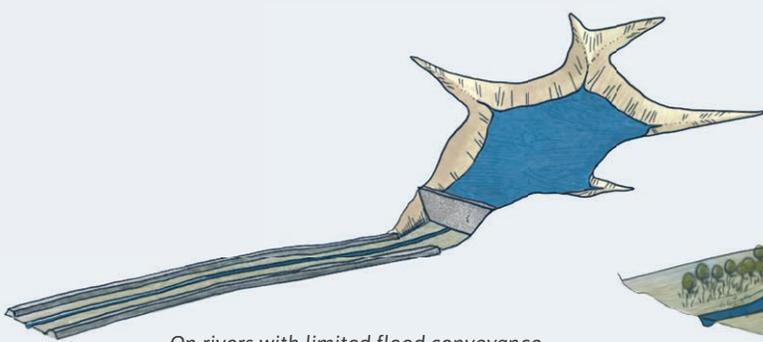
RECHARGED GROUNDWATER

Many parts of the Central Valley suffer from high levels of groundwater overpumping, which can result in reduced water supply reliability, higher pumping costs, ground level subsidence and damage to infrastructure. By reconnecting rivers with historic floodplains in strategic places, floodwaters can percolate into groundwater aquifers, improving water supply while reducing flood risk.

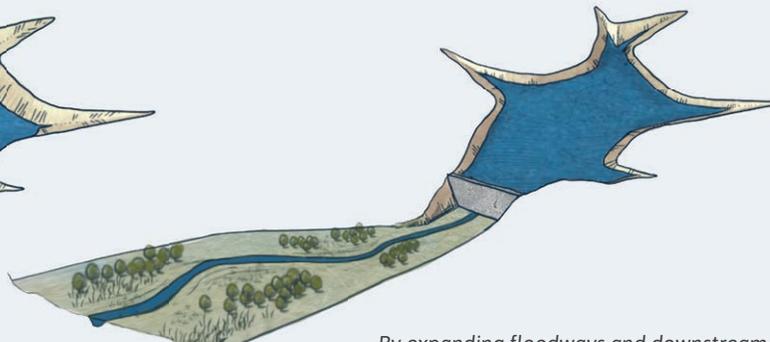
IMPROVED RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT

Expanded floodways give dam and water managers increased flexibility to safely release larger amounts of water from upstream reservoirs. When levees are set back, rivers can handle higher flows safely. This potential to release more water rapidly allows dam managers to capture more winter and spring peak flows instead of lowering levels "just in case" more rain comes later in the season.

FLOODPLAIN PROJECTS CAN CREATE MORE SUPPLY IN UPSTREAM RESERVOIRS



On rivers with limited flood conveyance capacity, upstream reservoirs provide flood protection by storing less water during the wet season in order to capture storm runoff.



By expanding floodways and downstream conveyance capacity, upstream reservoirs can operate with more flexibility during the wet season, storing more water to meet summer needs.



REDUCED RISK OF LEVEE FAILURE

Levee failures put people and property at risk. In the Delta, levee failures can also draw salty bay water into the Delta, forcing the State Water Project and Central Valley Project water intakes to be shut down and reducing supplies for much of the state. Multibenefit flood projects can reduce this risk.



REDUCED REGULATORY RESTRICTIONS

Expanding floodways can provide habitat for threatened and endangered species and improve their chances of recovery, ultimately reducing regulatory restrictions facing water managers.



IMPROVED WATER QUALITY

By reducing unplanned levee failures, which can mobilize poorly managed contaminants, expanded floodways can improve the quality of downstream supplies. Restored floodplains alongside rivers also provide natural filtration that helps eliminate contaminants from water supplies.

