

**TOPIC:** The Hamilton City Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Project

The Project, located approximately 10 miles west of Chico, is the first in the nation authorized for construction under the Corps' guidelines to develop multipurpose projects that include both flood risk reduction and ecosystem restoration. It consists of (1) construction of 6.8 miles of setback levee to provide a more reliable form of flood protection for the community and agricultural areas by expanding the floodway, (2) degradation of the existing "J" levee, and (3) restoring approximately 1,400 acres of riparian habitat in the expanded floodway along the Sacramento River. Once constructed, the new levee will provide Hamilton City with protection against a 75-year flood event, a dramatic improvement over the level of protection afforded by the existing "J" Levee.

Reclamation District 2140 is partnering with both the Corps and California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to deliver the Project. The Corps provides planning, engineering, project management, environmental restoration and construction services for the Project. DWR is funding most of the local share of the Project's cost through a Flood Corridor Program Grant to Reclamation District 2140. Reclamation District 2140 is the non-federal sponsor of the Project, and will own, operate and maintain the levee once construction has been completed. The Nature Conservancy is providing real estate, funding, and technical assistance.

**SPEAKERS:**

**Ryan Luster** – Project Director at The Nature Conservancy. Ryan Luster is an ecologist by training with extensive experience in riparian and grassland ecology, management, and restoration, large-scale conservation planning, and developing ecological river flows methodologies. Ryan's work experience includes developing partnerships with state, federal, and non-profit organizations to produce tangible, on-the-ground conservation outcomes for both people and nature. Ryan received his Bachelor of Arts in Ecology from Beloit College and his Master of Science in Range Ecology from Utah State University.

**Eric Nagy** – Principal at Larsen, Wurzel, and Associates, Inc. Since 1997, Eric Nagy has experience working in the planning, design, and construction of water resource projects. During this time, he served in both the public and private sectors with a focus on California's Central Valley. He has extensive experience leading multidisciplinary teams of technical professionals through the development and implementation of flood risk reduction and environmental restoration projects. Eric's experience includes 13 years of service with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in Sacramento.

In his last USACE assignment, he served for three years as the Chief of the Design Branch in Engineering Division. Eric received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from Pennsylvania State University and is a licensed Civil Engineer in the State of California.