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CHAPTER 3. COVERED ACTIVITIES

The NHP Plan is designed to provide regulatory coverage under the ESA and the NCCPA for a broad range of ongoing and anticipated public and private activities that occur within the NHP Plan Area. This chapter identifies those activities addressed by the NHP and covered under the associated regulatory permits. The potential effects of these activities on covered species, their habitats, and natural communities have been evaluated as part of an overall assessment of the effects of the NHP, as described in Chapter 4, *Impact Assessment and Estimated Level of Take*. Because the specific location, design, and actions necessary to implement many of the covered activities will be determined over the term of the NHP as planning for each activity progresses, Chapter 4 also describes specific assumptions used to evaluate the impacts of the activities and to define the level of impacts requested under the NHP permits (see Table 4-). In addition to the general categories of covered activities outlined in this chapter, each subsection, where applicable, concludes with a brief discussion of any specific projects that are proposed for coverage as covered activities under the NHP at this time. Inclusion of these projects under the NHP is merely an indication that the proposed projects have reached a level of development in the planning process to be considered for inclusion under the NHP. During the term of the Permit, additional projects will be considered for coverage as covered activities. Projects proposed for coverage during the term of the Permit must meet the description of covered activities in the following sections and will be evaluated by the Permittees for consistency with these descriptions and the results of the analysis of the impacts of covered activities on natural communities and covered species (see Chapter 4, *Impact Assessment and Estimated Level of Take*).

3.1 PERMANENT DEVELOPMENT

The following activities are likely to occur within the NHP Plan Area, and may adversely affect covered species, their habitat, or the natural communities covered by the Plan. Subject to the terms and conditions of the NHP, take of covered species associated with these activities will be authorized by the incidental take permits issued pursuant to the Plan.

3.1.1 Residential, Industrial, and Commercial Development

The NHP permits will provide incidental take coverage for all covered activities associated with locally approved public and private development, including residential, commercial, and industrial projects. Local government projections indicate that growth through 2030 will be concentrated within the incorporated cities of Yolo County, in expansion of adopted unincorporated community growth boundaries such as Clarksburg and Knight's Landing, and in a new town to be established in the Dunnigan Hills area of the unincorporated County. Development in these areas will include urban redevelopment and large-scale residential and associated commercial development. The NHP Plan Area includes the lands where this growth is expected to occur. Figure 3-1 depicts generalized General Plan land use designations for Yolo

1 County and the cities of Woodland, Winters, Davis and West Sacramento in the Plan Area as
 2 they relate to trends in future growth and development. Table 3–1 presents the extent of land
 3 area within the incorporated and unincorporated areas of Yolo County.

4 **Table 3-1. Land Area by Jurisdiction**

<i>Jurisdiction</i>	<i>Land Area (acres)</i>
City of Davis	6,355
City of West Sacramento	14,723
City of Winters	1,629
City of Woodland	9,618
Subtotal Incorporated Area	32,325
Unincorporated Area	621,224
Yolo County Total	653,549¹

5
 6 **3.1.1.1 County General Plan**

7 The Yolo County 2030 Countywide General Plan was adopted in November 2009. All lands
 8 within the land use designations for development identified in the County’s General Plan (Figure
 9 3–1) are available for development for all covered activities described in the General Plan. Other
 10 than specified avoidance measures (e.g., avoidance of riparian habitat) identified in Chapter 5,
 11 *Conservation Strategy*, all lands within the County’s 2030 General Plan identified for
 12 development in Figure 3–1 are assumed developable under the NHP covered activities. The area
 13 addressed by the Dunnigan Specific Plan Land Use Plan (October 2009) is within the Yolo
 14 County 2030 Countywide General Plan area and all activities related to implementing this
 15 Specific Plan that are described in this Chapter are covered activities (Figure 3–1). Development
 16 within incorporated areas will include urban redevelopment and large-scale residential and
 17 associated commercial development. Existing urban development comprises 20,053 acres, or
 18 about 3 percent, of the 621,224 acres in the unincorporated County. Build-out of the 2030
 19 County General Plan would result in the conversion of approximately 4,807 additional acres to
 20 urban development (including roadways), bringing the urbanized total to 24,860 acres or about 4
 21 percent. Land uses allowed under the 2030 County General Plan are provided in Table 3–2.

22
¹ The NHP acreage for the Plan Area (i.e., Yolo County) differs from the 653,549 acres of land within Yolo County stated in the Yolo County 2030 Countywide General Plan (2009). The 269 acre difference in the area of the County is attributable to the use of different data sets to prepare the NHP and General Plan.

1 **Table 3-2. 2030 Yolo County General Plan Designated Land Uses for Unincorporated**
 2 **Areas of Yolo County**

<i>Land Use Categories</i>	<i>2030 Yolo County General Plan (acres)</i>
Open Space	51,455
Agriculture	544,909
Recreation	890
Residential	3,136
Commercial	647
Industrial	658
Public	7,334
Specific Plan	3,606
Other (roadways, railroads, highways)	8,589
TOTAL	621,224

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Figure 3-1. Yolo County 2030 General Land Use Designations

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1 **3.1.1.2 City General Plans and NHP City Planning Units**

2 Permanent development covered activities are described in the general plans for the Cities of
3 West Sacramento, Woodland, Davis, and Winters. All lands within the NHP Planning Units
4 identified for the cities of West Sacramento, Woodland, Davis, and Winters (Planning Units 19,
5 20, 21, and 22; Figure 3–2) are available for development for all covered activities described in
6 the city general plans. Other than specified avoidance measures (e.g., avoidance of riparian
7 habitat) identified in Chapter 5, *Conservation Strategy*, all lands within the city Planning Units
8 identified in Figure 3–2 are assumed developable under the NHP covered activities, except for
9 UC Davis lands (Figure 3–2). Activities within UC Davis-owned lands within the City of Davis
10 Planning Unit (Planning Unit 20) are covered separately; see Section 3.1.1.3, *University of*
11 *California, Davis*. The following briefly describes the permanent development activities
12 associated with each of these general plans.

13 **3.1.1.2.1 City of West Sacramento**

14 The City of West Sacramento is in the process of updating its General Plan. A General Plan
15 Issues and Opportunities Report was completed in June 2008, an Alternatives Report was
16 completed in October 2009, and a Background Report was completed in September 2009 (City
17 of West Sacramento 2009). A General Plan Policy Document is in preparation. The NHP
18 assumes that future development and redevelopment associated with the Updated General Plan
19 will occur within the limits of the city’s current Sphere of Influence.

20 **3.1.1.2.2 City of Woodland**

21 The City of Woodland 2020 General Plan was adopted in December 2001 (City of Woodland
22 2002). The General Plan area is approximately 56,000 acres, extending from the existing
23 corporate limits to Cache Creek on the north, Yolo Bypass to the east, County Road 27 to the
24 south and County Road 93 on the west, encompassing the existing city limits and the
25 unincorporated communities of Willow Oak and Monument Hills. Of this area, 12,000 acres are
26 designated for or considered for future urban development, including all of the land in the City’s
27 adopted Urban Limit Line (ULL), an Urban Reserve, a city wastewater treatment plant, and a
28 regional park site located east of the ULL.

29 **3.1.1.2.3 City of Davis**

30 The City of Davis 2010 General Plan was adopted in May 2001 and updated in January 2007
31 (City of Davis 2007). The General Plan area is approximately 10,800 acres and focuses future
32 growth inward by encouraging infill development; and it maintains open space, natural habitat
33 preserves, and agriculture. Of this area, approximately 8,400 acres are developed or designated
34 for future urban development.

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Figure 3-2. City Planning Units and UC Davis Lands

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1 In addition to development focused within the City of Davis (Planning Unit 20), an additional
2 500 acres (location undetermined, but adjacent to Planning Unit 20) would be required for
3 renewable energy projects, a community sports park, and a future business park. These projects
4 are likely to be located near or adjacent to the City of Davis in Planning Unit 11 on lands
5 currently in agricultural production or other non-residential uses.

6 **3.1.1.2.4 City of Winters**

7 The City of Winters 1998 General Plan and Policy Document, adopted in 1992 (City of Winters
8 1992), provides for the following land uses: residential, rural residential, open space, parks and
9 recreation, commercial, industrial and public/quasi-public. The Draft Winters Municipal
10 Services Review and Sphere of Influence Study (City of Winters 2008) serves as a review of
11 municipal services under the 2000 Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act and a Sphere of Influence (SOI)
12 plan for the City of Winters. The study projects that General Plan build-out through 2018 will be
13 accommodated within existing city limits. Assuming current residential land use designations,
14 the proposed 20-year SOI (approximately 2,122 acres, including 347 new acres and one city-
15 owned property where the wastewater treatment facility is located) will be adequate to
16 accommodate projected growth through 2028.

17 **3.1.1.3 University of California, Davis**

18 Although UCD is not a permit applicant under the NHP, development identified in the UCD
19 campus master plan (UCD 2003, updated 2006) not covered by the University's single species
20 HCP could be covered under the NHP through a Certificate of Inclusion at the request of the
21 University. The extent of new development within the UCD campus planning areas that could
22 be covered under the NHP is limited to 400 acres for all project footprints combined (Figure 3-
23 2).

24 **3.1.2 Public and Private Infrastructure**

25 Public and private infrastructure development not associated with specific development projects
26 are also covered under the Plan. This type of development typically involves public works
27 projects or projects that serve the broader community. These projects include, but are not limited
28 to, construction of roadways, bridges, and public buildings; natural gas, electric and alternative
29 energy production (e.g., solar and wind power generation facilities), storage, and conveyance
30 facilities; aviation, railway, bus, and other transportation-related facilities; landfill, recycling and
31 composting facilities; underground and aerial telecommunications lines; cell phone/wireless
32 communication facilities; lighting; cable television lines; stormwater, wastewater, flood control
33 (e.g., levee construction; only projects under the control of the permit holders are covered),
34 detention/retention basins, and water collection, storage, treatment, and conveyance facilities;
35 and bank stabilization. New water monitoring-related facilities covered by the NHP include
36 installation of water measurement devices, scientific measuring devices, and water quality
37 monitoring stations.

1 In addition to the land uses described above, the NHP also covers the development of
2 infrastructure and improvements related to public and private development, including
3 landscaping; leach fields, roads and bridges; trails and parks; lighting; underground and aerial
4 utility and telecommunications lines; and stormwater, wastewater, and water collection, storage,
5 treatment, and conveyance structures and facilities, including new water wells. Stormwater
6 facilities include ponds and basins constructed to detain or retain stormwater; channels/canals,
7 pipes, and culverts designed to route stormwater, including inflow and outflow structures; and
8 facilities or structures constructed solely for the purpose of stormwater treatment or
9 management. Wastewater facilities include pollution control facilities, effluent irrigation
10 disposal and trunk lines.

11 The general locations of public and private infrastructure development are provided in Figure 3–
12 3. The locations identified in Figure 3–3 reflect the expected locations of infrastructure facilities,
13 but coverage of these activities under the NHP is not limited to the locations depicted in the
14 figure.

15 **3.1.2.1 Transportation Projects**

16 This section describes transportation-related projects covered under the NHP.

17 **3.1.2.1.1 The Dunnigan Specific Plan**

- 18 • **12A Frontage Road.** Widening improvements and extension of the Frontage Road from
19 the existing Interstate 505/Road 12A interchange, along the western boundary of
20 Interstate 505 and Interstate 5 terminating at Bird Creek.
- 21 • **Bird Creek Bridge.** Construction of a bridge across Bird Creek connecting the Road
22 12A Frontage Road and the circulation.
- 23 • **Road 5.** Widening improvements and water, sewer and dry utility construction within,
24 under and adjacent to Road 5 from the edge of the Dunnigan Specific Plan boundary and
25 the proposed water treatment plant and sewage treatment plant facilities located
26 approximately 2 miles east of the Dunnigan Specific Plan boundary.
- 27 • **Interchange 6.** Reconfiguration of Interstate 5 and Road 6 interchange including
28 improvements within and adjacent to the current right-of-way.
- 29 • **Interchange 8.** Reconfiguration of Interstate 5 and Road 8 interchange including
30 improvements within and adjacent to the current right-of-way.
- 31 • **Interstate 5.** Construction of additional travel lanes on Interstate 5 from or near the Road
32 6/Interstate 5 interchange to approximately 1000 feet south of the Road 8/Interstate 5
33 interchange.

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Figure 3-3. Public and Private Infrastructure within the NHP Plan Area

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1 3.1.2.1.2 Roadway Improvements

2 Portions of the following roadway segments are expected to be improved with intersection
3 control and lane configuration improvements, passing lanes, and wider travel lanes and
4 shoulders:

- 5 • County Road 89 between State Route 16 and County Road 29A.
- 6 • County Road 102 between County Road 13 and Woodland City Limit.
- 7 • County Road 102 between Woodland City Limit and Davis City Limit.
- 8 • State Route 16 between County Road 78 and County Road 85B.
- 9 • State Route 16 between Interstate 505 and County Road 98.

10 3.1.2.1.3 State Freeways and Highways

11 Caltrans has completed transportation or route concept reports for a number of State freeways
12 and highways in Yolo County. Yolo County freeways and highways that have concept reports
13 are Interstate 5, Interstate 80, Interstate 505, State Route 16, State Route 45, State Route 84,
14 State Route 113 and State Route 128.

15 The Interstate 5 Transportation Concept Report (Caltrans April 1997) identifies the 20-year
16 concept for the corridor (through 2016) as maintaining the existing four-lane freeway from the
17 Yolo/Sacramento County line to the Yolo/Colusa County line. The ultimate facility concept for
18 the corridor (beyond 2016) is a six-lane freeway through Yolo County (Caltrans 1997). The
19 concept report for Interstate 5 is currently being updated.

20 The Interstate 80 Transportation Concept Report (Caltrans January 2001) identifies the 20-year
21 concept and ultimate facility for the corridor as widening the existing six lanes through Yolo
22 County (including the Yolo Causeway) to include high-occupancy vehicle lanes in both
23 directions. The concept also includes increasing transit service and implementing traffic
24 operation systems such as ramp metering and changeable message signs along the corridor.

25 In addition to the concept report, a Corridor System Management Plan (CSMP) is currently
26 being developed for Interstate 80, which identifies the addition of HOV lanes between Mace
27 Boulevard (in Davis) and Enterprise Drive (in West Sacramento) along Interstate 80 in both
28 directions.

29 The State Route 16 Transportation Concept Report (Caltrans 2004) identifies the 20-year concept
30 and ultimate facility for State Route 16 as maintaining the existing two-lane conventional
31 highway with the addition of passing lanes, left-turn lanes and bicycle facilities in some sections
32 where feasible.

1 Caltrans has also prepared the State Route 16 Safety Improvement Project Draft Environmental
2 Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (December 2005) that identifies safety improvements
3 for State Route 16 from near the town of Brooks to Interstate 505 (excluding the towns of Capay
4 and Esparto). The project would generally provide 12-foot-wide lanes, 8-foot-wide shoulders
5 and left-turn lanes at appropriate locations. The Safety Improvement Project is not anticipated to
6 provide capacity enhancing improvements.

7 The State Route 113 Transportation Concept Report (Caltrans, May 2000) contains the 20-year
8 improvement concept for State Route 113. The concept facility for the section between
9 Interstate 80 and Interstate 5 is to maintain the existing four-lane freeway, with the ultimate
10 facility identified as a six-lane freeway. The concept and ultimate facility for the section
11 between Interstate 5 and the Yolo/Sutter County line is to maintain the existing two-lane
12 conventional highway. The concept report identifies County Road 102 between Woodland and
13 Knights Landing as a more direct route than the existing State Route 113 alignment. The report
14 notes that improvements would be required for both State Route 113 and County Road 102
15 before an exchange between Caltrans and Yolo County would occur.

16 *3.1.2.1.4 Yolo County Bicycle Transportation Plan*

17 The NHP will provide coverage for activities associated with the implementation of the Yolo
18 County Bicycle Transportation Plan (Yolo County Transportation Advisory Committee 2006).
19 Activities would include widening existing roadways to accommodate 4- to 6-foot bike lanes and
20 the development of new bike paths along existing levee tops or abandoned railway beds (Yolo
21 County Transportation Advisory Committee 2006).

22 *3.1.2.1.5 Yolo County Public Airports*

23 Caltrans has recommended enhancements for public airports in Yolo County, including
24 extending and widening both the Watts-Woodland and University Airport runways and
25 providing 24-hour on-site field-automated weather service at these two airports and the Yolo
26 County Airport.

27 **3.1.2.2 Utility Projects**

28 This Section describes utility-related projects that are covered under the NHP.

29 *3.1.2.2.1 Utilities within Dunnigan Specific Plan*

30 The following utility construction projects are proposed for implementation within the Dunnigan
31 Specific Plan boundary:

- 32 • **Water Treatment Plant.** Construction of a potable water treatment plant with water
33 transmission lines.

- 1 • **Sewage Treatment Plant.** Construction of a sewage treatment plant and sewage
2 transmission lines.
- 3 • **Solar Farm.** Construction of transmission lines associated with development of a solar
4 energy farm (see Section 3.1.2.3, *Energy Development Projects*), providing energy
5 resources for and within the Dunnigan Specific Plan growth area as well as others within
6 the energy grid.
- 7 • **Electrical Transmission Lines.** Construction of, and connection to, electrical
8 transmission lines.

9 3.1.2.2.2 *Natural Gas Pipelines*

10 Construction of the portion of two new gas lines that are proposed to run from Esparto to Yolo
11 and across Sacramento County located in the Plan Area are covered under the NHP. The right-
12 of-way within which all installation-related work will occur will not exceed █ acres.

13 3.1.2.2.3 *Integrated Regional Water Management Plan*

14 The Water Resources Association of Yolo County adopted an Integrated Regional Water
15 Management Plan (IRWMP) in April 2007. The NHP covers the terrestrial components of
16 construction, operation and maintenance of the subsequent IRWMP's Davis-Woodland Water
17 Supply Project. The NHP does not cover the construction of in-river facilities on the Sacramento
18 River or the operation of the diversion facility. Coverage for construction and operation of the
19 diversion facility on the Sacramento River that could affect ESA and CESA listed fish species
20 would be addressed through separate ESA compliance with NMFS, USFWS, and DFG for
21 potential effects on fish species.² The Project Partners (Woodland Davis Clean Water Agency
22 JPA) are proposing to jointly construct and operate a new water diversion facility on the
23 Sacramento River that would include associated conveyance facilities and a new water treatment
24 plant. Engineering feasibility studies have evaluated various water diversion/intake sites along
25 the Sacramento River, water treatment plant locations, and pipeline conveyance routes. Specific
26 project components include the following:

- 27 • Untreated water conveyance pipeline from the diversion facility on the Sacramento River
28 to the regional water treatment plant;
- 29 • Regional water treatment plant within the City of Woodland Planning Unit (Planning
30 Unit 19);
- 31 • Treated water conveyance pipeline water treatment plant;
- 32 • Local storage and distribution facilities; and
- 33 • New groundwater wells in the water sellers' service areas.

² Compliance for construction and operation of diversion facilities for the Davis-Woodland Water Supply Project could be provided through the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) ESA permitting process with NMFS, FWS, and DFG as is currently under consideration in the BDCP planning process.

1 **3.1.2.3 Energy Development Projects**

2 The following describes energy development-related projects that are covered under the NHP.

3 **3.1.2.3.1 Solar Energy**

4 The NHP covers the construction, operation, and maintenance activities associated with solar
5 energy projects. The solar energy projects covered under the Plan involve the technologies used
6 today in the conversion of sunlight into electricity: the direct conversion of sunlight using
7 photovoltaics (PV), or the indirect use of sunlight by concentrated solar power (CSP), which
8 focuses the sun's energy to boil water, which is then used to drive turbines for the production of
9 power. PV projects involve the construction of arrays of photovoltaic cells for the direct
10 conversion of sunlight or the use of mirrors or lenses to concentrate the solar radiation onto a
11 photovoltaic module that would in turn convert the radiation into electricity. CSP projects
12 involve the use of mirrors or lenses as part of a collection system that converts the solar energy
13 to heat, and a power block that converts the heat energy to electricity. Possible CSP technologies
14 include parabolic trough, parabolic dish, power tower, or Compact Linear Fresnel Reflector
15 (CLFR). The covered activities associated with these types of projects are similar. Covered
16 activities for solar energy development include the following categories:

- 17 • **Site monitoring and testing.** Prior to the final selection of a site for the development of
18 solar energy projects, sites will need to be monitored and tested for their suitability as a
19 solar site. This monitoring and testing may include the construction of meteorological
20 towers, ground boring or drilling, and the installation of site monitoring devices. The
21 construction of temporary access roads may be required.
- 22 • **Construction.** The construction phase of the projects may include the following:
23 grading, clearing and construction of permanent and temporary roads to establish site
24 access; site grading; grading and clearing of construction lay down areas; construction of
25 the power generating facilities; installation of additional permanent meteorological
26 towers; and construction of project operation facilities and storage areas. The
27 construction of poles, towers, transmission lines, and additional substations necessary for
28 the transmission of the electricity from the solar project to the grid are also a covered
29 activity under the Plan.

30 **3.1.2.3.2 Wind Energy**

31 The NHP covers the construction and maintenance associated with installation of wind energy
32 turbine towers, including the installation of test towers/poles and testing/monitoring equipment
33 to assess the economic feasibility of build-out. The NHP does not cover mortality or injury of
34 covered bird and bat species resulting from striking guy wires or wind turbine rotor blades
35 during flight. Wind energy towers will be located within the areas shown in Figure 3–4 (to
36 come). Wind energy projects may include up to ■ wind turbine towers. The minimum distance
37 of 350 meters (or 2.5 times the rotor diameter) will be provided between towers. The total area

1 within which wind turbine towers, roads, and associated infrastructure are constructed will not
2 exceed █ acres within the area shown in Figure 3–4 (to come) and the total extent of natural
3 communities and agricultural lands that may be removed will not exceed █ acres. These
4 turbines are currently expected to consist of tubular steel poles assembled in sections or lattice
5 towers on which the turbine rotor and nacelle are mounted. The poles or towers are mounted on
6 concrete footings. The design of wind energy towers could change depending on advancement
7 of wind energy technology over the term of implantation. In addition to the turbines and tower
8 assemblies, a collector cable system is constructed to connect the individual turbines to a
9 centrally located collector cable. The electricity gathered is transmitted to the collector
10 substation before it is transferred to the grid. Covered activities for wind energy development
11 projects include the following categories:

- 12 • **Site monitoring and testing.** Prior to the final selection of a site for the development of
13 wind energy projects, sites will need to be monitored and tested for their suitability as a
14 wind energy development site. This monitoring and testing may include the construction
15 of meteorological towers, ground boring or drilling, and the installation of site monitoring
16 devices. The construction of temporary access roads may be required.
- 17 • **Construction.** The construction phase of the projects may include the following:
18 grading, clearing and construction of permanent and temporary roads to establish site
19 access; site grading; grading and clearing of construction lay down areas; construction of
20 power generating facilities; installation of additional permanent meteorological towers;
21 and construction of project operation facilities and storage areas. The construction of
22 poles, towers, transmission lines, and additional substations necessary for the
23 transmission of the electricity from the wind project to the grid are also a covered activity
24 under the Plan.

25 **3.1.2.4 Other Infrastructure Projects**

26 This section describes other types of infrastructure projects that are covered under the NHP.

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Figure 3-4. Potential Wind Energy Development Area

[Figure to come.]

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1 3.1.2.4.1 Flood Control and Water Conservation Activities

2 A number of flood control and water districts serve Yolo County and the NHP covers the water
3 and water supply conveyance improvements that may be implemented by the districts (see
4 Figure 3–5 [to come]). Water district water supply and conveyance improvements will be
5 covered through issuance of Certificates of Inclusion to districts choosing to participate. Flood
6 control and water conveyance infrastructure permanent development projects covered under the
7 NHP include the following improvement activities:

- 8 • Installing geomorphic controls (such as vanes, weirs, walls, step pools, or other features)
9 in conveyance channels to control grade, velocity, or channel migration; such controls
10 would be designed, to the extent feasible, to mimic features of natural channels.
- 11 • Installing gates, checks, culverts, road crossings, or other flow control features in
12 channels.
- 13 • Establishing flood flow corridors to train out-of-bank flows into low impact areas that are
14 designed, to the extent feasible, to sustain shallow water depths and slow velocities.
- 15 • Installation of ponds, retention basins, or micro-reservoirs that provide operational
16 flexibility (i.e., capacity to adjust timing or amount of delivered water) or flood risk
17 reduction.

18 Development of flood pathways would be implemented to improve flood conveyance and
19 minimize periodic damage to infrastructure and agricultural lands. Storm flows in the northwest
20 portion of the County are conveyed to the Colusa Basin, and storm flows over most of the
21 remaining County are conveyed across a series of low-lying alluvial plains (flowing west to east)
22 and the lower Sacramento River and its transition into the Delta (flowing north to south). The
23 Sacramento River flows are managed as part of the State Plan of Flood Control for the
24 Sacramento Valley and constrained by projects under state and federal authorities. Cache Creek
25 and Putah Creek flows (except where they enter the Yolo Bypass) and storm runoff from the
26 other coast range drainages are largely uncontrolled by the state and federal projects. Cache
27 Creek and Putah Creek flows are controlled to a degree by headwater dams.

28 The channels conveying flows west to east are mainly modified channels and irrigation supply
29 water delivery canals. The sloughs and canals have various structures installed on them to
30 distribute and divert irrigation water. In winter, these structures are set to limit north and south
31 flows and direct waters from the western hills into the Yolo Bypass.

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Figure 3-5. Location of Flood Control and Water Districts

[Figure to come.]

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1 The canals and sloughs, and to a lesser extent the creeks, typically can convey small amounts of
2 storm runoff. Storms larger than the 5- to 10-year return frequency often come out-of-bank and
3 flow across the landscape, eventually re-entering the major waterways by way of small channels,
4 ditches, and field drains. This periodic inundation has benefits for groundwater recharge and
5 habitat features but is generally considered undesirable for agricultural lands, because it can both
6 erode and deposit soils, sands, and gravels in fields, which can make farming these areas more
7 difficult.

8 Currently, there is not a coordinated system of storm flow management other than providing for
9 the various irrigation water structures to be set to winter mode. In the future, it is anticipated that
10 canal bank elevations will be adjusted (raised or lowered) to direct out-of-bank flows onto pre-
11 designated flood paths. It is expected that these directed flows will be managed in a manner to
12 avoid any long-term damage to agricultural soils, and flow management will be supported by
13 measures to ensure rapid recovery following flood events. Establishing flood flow pathways
14 could have the added advantage of building regular inundation into specific lands that could then
15 support unique habitats and important species. This type of floodway management would likely
16 be conducted pursuant to an adopted plan articulating the ecological, agricultural, and
17 hydrological goals for the program.

18 A companion strategy likely to be employed on agricultural supply canals is the move from a
19 clean cultivation (herbicide treatment, mowing, and scraping using a grader, land plane, or
20 similar equipment) to a vegetated system. The advantages of a vegetated system are lower
21 erosion, more stable channel forms, more consistent water delivery, opportunities for enhanced
22 farm-friendly vegetation and the aligned animals (e.g., beneficial predatory insects and
23 pollinators), and potentially lower long-term maintenance costs. The vegetated canal system
24 would provide additional riparian and quasi-riparian habitats. Currently, there are approximately
25 160 miles of canal and an equal amount of sloughs (approximately 640 miles of channel banks)
26 in the County outside of the Yolo Bypass that could support systems of designed vegetation
27 communities. Some of these areas currently support desired vegetation while other areas are
28 essentially weed-infested.

29 Management actions covered under the NHP to support the transition and maintenance of
30 channels with vegetated systems include the following:

- 31 • Bank contouring;
- 32 • Grazing;
- 33 • Installation of flow-directing structures;
- 34 • Tilling, ripping, planting of channel vegetation using mechanized planters and hand-
35 planting, and irrigation;
- 36 • Application of irrigation water;
- 37 • Cleanout and removal of obstructions from the channel;

- 1 • Trimming, mowing, burning of bank vegetation; and
- 2 • Repair of banks and structures.

3 3.1.2.4.2 Port of West Sacramento

4 The NHP will cover approximately 400 acres of planned development at the Port of West
5 Sacramento, located within the City of West Sacramento Planning Unit (Figure 3–2).
6 Representative projects currently in the planning stages include a Primafuel biodiesel plant,
7 Sacport Terminal (tank farm), Project Zebra, Project Alpha, and Seaway International Trade
8 Center are anticipated and covered by the Plan. In-water projects, such as docks or dredging,
9 that could affect ESA or CESA listed fish species, are not covered by the NHP.

10 3.1.2.4.3 Spring Lake Fire Station

11 Construction of a fire station in the Spring Lake Specific Plan area will occur on a one-acre site
12 at the northwest corner of Heritage Parkway and Parkland Avenue. This site is wholly within the
13 Woodland Planning Unit (Planning Unit 19).

14 3.1.2.4.4 Woodland Water Pollution Control Facility Expansion

15 Expansion of the Woodland Water Pollution Control Facility adjacent to the existing facility
16 located at 42929 County Road 24 is anticipated. This expansion area is wholly within the
17 Woodland Planning Unit (Planning Unit 19).

18 3.1.3 Land Conversion and New Facilities Used in Agricultural and 19 Livestock Operations

20 New conversion of uncultivated lands to cultivated agricultural uses within the NHP Plan Area is
21 expected to occur during the NHP implementation period. The NHP affords coverage for the
22 conversion of up to 2,560 acres of open space lands to irrigated or cultivated agriculture. The
23 development of new agriculture-related facilities and structures that occur in currently
24 undeveloped areas or that expand the footprint of existing development, and the construction of
25 infrastructure associated with such facilities and structures, are also covered under the NHP.

26 Examples of such facilities, structures, and infrastructure include fences, barns, corrals, stables,
27 storage buildings, other agricultural primary and accessory structures, animal waste facilities,
28 wells, irrigation ditches, water storage and livestock watering facilities, stock ponds, water
29 pipelines, utilities and roads.

30 The NHP also provides for the conversion of up to 1,500 acres of agricultural lands farmed in
31 non-permanent crop types for the establishment of orchards and vineyards.

1 Agricultural practices conducted by the University of California, Davis for researching new
2 agricultural tools and techniques on existing agricultural lands operated by the University are
3 also covered activities under the NHP.

4 **3.1.4 Recreational Facilities and Use**

5 Development of new recreational facilities (both passive and active) is covered under the NHP.
6 Such facilities include athletic fields, child play structures, activity nodes and active play areas,
7 barbeque areas, community gardens, tennis courts, swim facilities, marina facilities, mooring
8 docks, fishing piers, racetracks, golf courses, performance arenas/sports centers, playgrounds,
9 picnic areas, beach areas, nature centers, trails, campsites, overlooks/view platforms, parks,
10 pavilions, restrooms, shade structures, and recreation centers. Infrastructure and amenities
11 associated with these facilities, such as access roads, utilities, signage, landscaping, trash
12 receptacles, lighting, and drinking fountains, are also covered. Many of these new recreational
13 facilities are located within the Woodland, Davis, West Sacramento, and Winters Planning Units
14 (Planning Units 19–22). Development of recreational projects in Planning Units 1–18 affect no
15 more than 101 acres of land.

16 The locations where these activities are covered under the NHP are provided in Figure 3–6.

17 **3.1.5 Aggregate Mining Opportunities**

18 Aggregate mining is the principle mining activity presently undertaken in Yolo County. Mineral
19 resources found in a portion of the Capay Valley are identified, described, and regulated through
20 the Cache Creek Resource Management Plan (CCRMP) (Yolo County 2002) and Off-Channel
21 Mining Plan (OCMP) (Yolo County 1996). Chapters 4 and 5 of the Yolo County Code Title 10
22 regulate off-channel commercial aggregate surface mining within the Cache Creek Area Plan.

23 Mining within the channel of Cache Creek is regulated by Chapter 3, Title 10 of the Yolo County
24 Code, and surface mining within the agricultural lands is regulated under Chapter 8, Title 10 of
25 the Yolo County Code. The NHP covers any off-channel surface mining on existing mine sites
26 or on agricultural lands with authorized ongoing mining activity, as defined in Title 10 of the
27 Yolo County Code.

28 The OCMP encompasses approximately 14.5 miles along Cache Creek that potentially contain
29 sand and gravel resources (i.e., Mineral Resource Zones), minus the in-channel area of the creek
30 system. This area stretches a broad band of varying width along Cache Creek from Capay Dam
31 to the town of Yolo and includes approximately 28,130 acres; however, less than 3,000 acres of
32 the total area are being considered for off-channel mining over the next 50 years (Figure 3–7).

33

34

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Figure 3-6. Recreational Facilities and Use

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2
3

Figure 3-7. Aggregate Mining Opportunity and Existing Mining Areas

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1 Potential aggregate mining opportunity areas are shown on Figure 3–7. Activities associated
2 with these areas are expected to include the mining and processing of sand and gravel (i.e.,
3 construction aggregate) and the reclamation of the mined lands to such uses as agriculture, lake
4 and associated habitat, and open space uses. Mining activities typically follow a phased mining
5 plan and the mined aggregate will likely be processed at new rock processing plants within the
6 mine areas.

7 Typical mining processes begin by clearing vegetation from the surface. Following vegetation
8 removal, the topsoil is typically removed and stored in segregated stockpiles within the project
9 sites for future use in reclamation activities. The stockpiles of topsoil, overburden, and
10 aggregate may be seeded with a vegetative cover to prevent erosion and leaching. Runoff from
11 plant sites is typically collected in retention basins. Following completion of each mining phase,
12 the former mined site is reclaimed as cropland and natural habitat and to provide open space
13 uses. Reclamation activities may involve grading, placement of fill, seeding, planting, irrigation,
14 and maintenance of revegetated areas until the desired habitat is established.

15 **3.2 OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE (O&M) AND OTHER** 16 **ONGOING ACTIVITIES**

17 This section describes O&M activities and other ongoing activities covered by the NHP. These
18 activities are generally related to existing agricultural operations and the operation of new and
19 existing infrastructure and other facilities, which includes maintenance, repair, and replacement
20 of these facilities. Most of these activities occur as a matter of routine, or on a regularly
21 scheduled basis, or in accordance with regulatory requirements. The following discussion
22 defines general categories of O&M activities covered by the NHP.

23 **3.2.1 Operations and Maintenance of Residential, Industrial, and** 24 **Commercial Development Areas**

25 The NHP covers the operation, rehabilitation, replacement, repair and maintenance of structures,
26 landscaping, and improvements that do not increase the development “footprint” (i.e.,
27 development aerial extent or location) of the existing developed sites. These include residences,
28 commercial and industrial structures, driveways, parking areas and garages, outbuildings, bridge
29 crossings, culverts, fences, barns, corrals, sidewalks, curbs, gutters, and other associated
30 infrastructure and improvements. Activities associated with these improvements may include
31 mowing, gardening, tree maintenance and removal, resurfacing, repair, rehabilitation, irrigation,
32 lighting, and signage. The NHP also covers activities related to fire control, including the
33 maintenance of fire breaks and fuel management actions.

34

3.2.2 Operations and Maintenance of Public and Private Infrastructure

The operation, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, and replacement of public and private infrastructure and related facilities that support private development or serve the general public are covered by the NHP. Such infrastructure includes highways, roads, bridges, culverts, bus stops, rail lines, and other transportation infrastructure; water and other service-related facilities, including flood control (e.g., levee maintenance) and stormwater management facilities, and water wells; O&M activities associated with new water monitoring and measuring devices; water and wastewater storage, treatment, conveyance, and disposal facilities; creek bank stabilization, dam modification or removal; natural gas, electrical, alternative energy, and telecommunications infrastructure; landfill, compost, and recycling facilities; and airport infrastructure.

O&M may involve grading and resurfacing of existing developed lands; construction, repair, rehabilitation, and maintenance of guardrails; signage; installation of safety devices/safety barriers; road sweeping, lighting; drainage measures associated with roads; maintenance, repair and rehabilitation, including necessary modification, of ditches/conveyance facilities, back-slopes, and shoulders; vegetation control/removal, seeding, mowing, planting, and non-chemical weed and dust management; fence repair; striping; curbing; and utility line and facilities repair. The Plan also covers activities related to fire control, including the maintenance of fire breaks and fuel management actions.

3.2.2.1 Energy Development

Alternative energy O&M includes solar energy and wind energy facility maintenance activities, such as non-chemical suppression and management of vegetation and operation of equipment to maintain solar panels, wind turbines, and energy distribution lines.

3.2.2.1.1 Solar Energy

During the operation and maintenance of the solar projects during the life of the Plan, additional activities will need to be carried out for the safe and efficient operation of the facilities. These activities will be covered under the Plan and may include the following:

- Periodic grading and clearing of access roads to provide continued site access;
- Washing of various aspects of the facilities (i.e., lenses or mirrors);
- Control of fugitive dust;
- Vegetation clearing;
- Maintenance of project facilities;
- Emergency response; and,
- Fire protection and security.

1 The decommissioning of any solar facilities or related infrastructure constructed under the Plan
2 will have the decommissioning of those facilities and infrastructure included as a covered
3 activity. The restoration of sites used for solar energy projects will also be included as a covered
4 activity under the Plan. Decommissioning and restoration could include any of the following
5 general activities for decommissioned solar projects:

- 6 • Remove all structures from the project site including any foundations that are less than 6
7 feet deep;
- 8 • Remove all physical components of the generation structure;
- 9 • Remove all access roads; rehabilitate access roads by removing asphalt, decompacting
10 soil, and revegetating;
- 11 • Compact and recontour soils associated with project disturbances;
- 12 • Revegetate disturbed areas with native species;
- 13 • Remove all exclusion and security fencing;
- 14 • Monitor revegetated areas for success; and
- 15 • Mechanically control nonnative weeds.

16 3.2.2.1.2 *Wind Energy*

17 During the operation and maintenance of the wind projects during the life of the Plan, additional
18 activities will need to be carried out for the safe and efficient operation of the facilities. These
19 activities will be covered under the Plan and may include the following:

- 20 • Periodic grading and clearing of access roads to provide continued site access;
- 21 • Vegetation clearing;
- 22 • Maintenance of project facilities;
- 23 • Emergency response; and
- 24 • Fire protection and security.

25 The decommissioning of any wind energy facilities or related infrastructure constructed under
26 the Plan will also have the decommissioning of those facilities and infrastructure included as a
27 covered activity. The restoration of sites used for wind energy projects will also be included as a
28 covered activity under the Plan. Decommissioning and restoration could include any of the
29 following general activities:

- 30 • Remove all structures, including any foundations that are less than 6 feet deep;
- 31 • Remove all physical components of the generation structure;

- 1 • Remove all access roads;
- 2 • Rehabilitate access roads by removing asphalt, decompacting soil, and revegetating;
- 3 • Decompact and recontour soils associated with project disturbances;
- 4 • Revegetate disturbed areas with native species;
- 5 • Remove all exclusion and security fencing;
- 6 • Monitor revegetated areas for success; and
- 7 • Mechanically control nonnative weeds.

8 **3.2.2.2 Flood Control and Water Supply Infrastructure**

9 The NHP covers the flood control and water district activities that relate to the O&M of flood
10 water and water supply conveyance facilities. O&M activities include the following:

- 11 • Repairing previous erosion control work, including failed rock, gunnite, sacked concrete,
12 gabions, or bioengineered vegetated sections, and extending up to 50 linear feet from the
13 existing damaged feature.
- 14 • Sloping, planting vegetation, placing earthen fill, installing rocks and gabions and using
15 other bank stabilization methods, and taking other necessary measures to control erosion
16 on previously unrevetted areas. These activities extend up to 50 linear feet beyond
17 erosion sites; where establishment of native plants is exclusively used to provide erosion
18 control, no 50-foot limit is imposed.
- 19 • Cleaning, washing, painting, or conducting minor repairs on structures within a stream
20 zone with implementation of containment measures to prevent deleterious material from
21 entering state waters and to avoid adverse impacts to fish and wildlife resources.
- 22 • Actions necessary to maintain drainage standards such that watershed alterations do not
23 significantly change channel flow patterns (maintain hydrographs);
- 24 • Maintenance and installation of wells.
- 25 • Vegetation control actions. These include the following:
 - 26 ○ Cutting, mowing, discing, and spraying of herbicides on grasses, shrubs, and small
27 woody growth to maintain the hydraulic capacity of channels and maintain native
28 plant communities.
 - 29 ○ Cutting, trimming, and removing the lower branches of large trees to facilitate site
30 inspections, maintain channel capacity, and maintain native plant communities.
 - 31 ○ Removing downed trees and dead or live trees that are in clear danger of falling in or
32 across a channel and that would significantly reduce channel capacity, accelerate
33 erosion, or otherwise cause an emergency.

- 1 ○ Removing dead trees, dying trees, and new trees less than 4 inches in diameter at
2 breast height to maintain channel capacity, prevent erosion, and maintain native plant
3 communities.
- 4 ○ Scraping, scouring, and dredging channels to remove vegetation and/or maintain
5 conveyance capacity and placement of removed material on channel banks or access
6 roads.
- 7 ○ Killing or removing non-native invasive vegetation by mechanical means without
8 restriction.
- 9 ○ Activities to restore native habitats, including adjusting land contours, shaping
10 channel banks, tilling, plowing, discing or otherwise preparing soils of channel banks
11 and adjacent land for planting of native plants; seeding and planting native plants; and
12 placing habitat features such as nest boxes, resting structures (e.g., bat boxes) or
13 breeding structures.

14 **3.2.3 Agricultural and Livestock Operations and Maintenance** 15 **Activities**

16 The NHP covers ongoing agricultural and livestock management activities for enrolled
17 landowners/operators.³ These activities involve practices customary and necessary for the
18 continuation of existing and new agricultural and livestock grazing operations. These activities
19 include animal grazing; crop rotation and conversion (includes conversion from one crop to
20 another, but does not include the conversion of natural habitats to crop land); planting and
21 harvesting, including plowing, seeding, fertilizing, irrigating, and cultivating; fence installation;
22 vegetation management, including burning, mowing, and invasive weed and pest control (via
23 means other than pesticide/herbicide use); minor drainage modification; and inspection of
24 property.

25 Farming activities include ground preparation (pre-planting and post-harvesting), and can
26 include such practices as discing, deep ripping, shallow ripping, grading, leveling, bedding, and
27 plowing. Cultivating and planting practices can include discing/harrowing, drilling/plugging,
28 and seeding. Fertilization may consist of cover cropping, ground application, air application, and
29 water application. Irrigation practices can include furrowing, flooding, and pressure irrigation
30 (sprinkler/drip). Harvesting practices may consist of cutting, picking, digging, and combining.
31 Pruning can be accomplished by hand or mechanical means. Residue management practices can
32 include burning, grinding, chipping, chopping, and baling. Typical types of equipment used
33 could be tractors and other typical farm equipment, including large columbine tractors.
34 Descriptions of agricultural practices for agricultural crop types presently grown in the Plan Area
35 are presented in Appendix F, *Yolo County Agricultural Practices*.

³ The NHP Implementing Entity will establish a process by which landowners/operators may enroll with the NHP to receive coverage for their agricultural and livestock activities under the ESA and NCCPA permits.

1 Fallowing of agricultural fields on a regular or intermittent basis as a customary farming practice
2 is also a covered activity. Class 3 and 4 lands are more likely to be fallowed than Class 1 and 2
3 lands, and wet versus dry/normal water years would be a factor in decisions related to fallowing
4 land as well as seasonal factors related to river flow. Fallowed land may be taken out of
5 production for a season and would not be seeded or otherwise grow a crop for a specified period
6 of time, allowing the land to restore productivity. Fallowed land may be plowed or left
7 unaltered.

8 Common livestock management activities include grazing; haying; harvesting seed for
9 production; grazing for forest land management; grazing for seasonal wetland management;
10 mowing; constructing fire breaks; conducting pre-suppression and rehabilitation activities;
11 maintaining existing livestock watering facilities; restoration of grasses, forbs, and shrubs; and
12 nonnative species management. These activities will only be covered with preparation and
13 implementation of grazing management plans prepared by the enrollee and approved by the
14 Implementing Entity.

15 This category also includes the operation, rehabilitation, replacement, repair and maintenance of
16 the following existing agriculture-related structures and infrastructure: fences; barns; corrals;
17 stables; storage buildings; other agricultural primary and accessory structures; animal waste
18 facilities; wells; irrigation facilities (e.g., stock ponds, ditches, pumps, diversions, and
19 conveyance); road grading; water/wastewater storage, conveyance, treatment, and disposal;
20 utilities; and animal waste treatment and disposal. Maintenance of conveyance facilities includes
21 removal of debris/sediment removal and erosion control to maintain sloughs and other channels
22 that drain or deliver water that are under landowner control.

23 **3.2.4 Recreational Facilities O&M Activities**

24 The NHP Plan covers the use, management, operations, rehabilitation, replacement, repair, and
25 maintenance of recreational facilities. These facilities include, but are not limited to, golf
26 courses, parks, trails, campgrounds, recreation centers, arenas, performance centers, racetracks,
27 fairgrounds, athletic fields, playgrounds, picnic areas, overlooks, marinas, boat docks, equestrian
28 areas, community gardens, tennis courts, swim facilities, fishing piers, beach areas, nature
29 centers, pavilions, restrooms, and shade structures. Repair, maintenance, and replacement of
30 signage, landscaping, trash receptacles, lighting, drinking fountains, and infrastructure necessary
31 to support these facilities are also covered. For example, such activities include maintenance of
32 paved/unpaved surfaces, including parking lots and access roads, landscape maintenance, and
33 vegetation management.

34 The Permittees are covered for incidental take of covered species resulting from appropriate
35 public use of recreational facilities within the Plan Area, inside or outside of NHP conservation
36 lands, provided that usage is consistent with the guidelines in this Plan. The permits do not
37 cover off-trail recreational activities or any type of activity prohibited by this Plan or by state or
38 federal law.

1 3.2.5 Mining Site Operations and Maintenance Activities

2 The NHP covers O&M activities on existing and future mining sites. The OCMP and relevant
3 implementing ordinances (i.e., the Off-Channel Surface Mining Ordinance, the Surface Mining
4 Reclamation Ordinance, and the In-Channel Maintenance Mining Ordinance), currently
5 authorize seven off-channel mining operations (Schwarzgruber, Syar, CEMEX-Solano, Teichert-
6 Woodland, Teichert-Esparto, Granite-Capay, and Granite-Woodland) along Cache Creek.
7 Existing mining areas and potential future mining areas are shown in Figure 3–7.

8 Facilities include sand and gravel processing plants, asphalt-concrete hot mix plants, concrete
9 batch plants, material stockpiles, settling ponds, water wells, stationary and mobile equipment,
10 and haul roads. Mining of this reach is expected to continue for 30 years. Additional surface
11 mining operations within the OCMP area are likely in the future, although no specific sites are
12 currently known.

13 The Plan covers any off-channel surface mining on existing mine sites or on agricultural lands
14 with authorized ongoing mining activity, as defined in Title 10 of the Yolo County Code.
15 Activities associated with off-channel and agricultural surface mining will include the production
16 and disposal of mining waste; prospecting and exploratory activities; excavation of benches; use
17 of conveyor systems; dust control; equipment maintenance; site maintenance; and paved and
18 unpaved road maintenance. Site reclamation and restoration activities within approved mine
19 sites are also covered activities, and may include affected lands surrounding mined lands. These
20 activities may include backfilled excavation improvements (the construction of buildings,
21 roadways, or other public facilities proposed for construction in reclaimed mining pits); bank
22 stabilization maintenance (grading, revegetation, and biotechnical/bioengineered stabilization);
23 fencing; grading for field drainage and releveling; resoiling; revegetation; soil compaction; and
24 erosion control.

25 The Plan also covers in-channel maintenance mining of approximately 2,324 acres of Cache
26 Creek within the creek channel boundary (pursuant to Section 10–3 of the Yolo County Code).
27 In-channel commercial mining is no longer permitted in the County. These activities are
28 undertaken for the sole and/or primary purpose of stream and bank stabilization, flood
29 protection, and riparian restoration under the Cache Creek Improvement Program (CCIP).

30 A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) guides stream monitoring and maintenance activities
31 and identifies initial high priority projects for stream stabilization. Specific maintenance
32 activities are recommended by TAC based on annual monitoring information. This includes
33 erosion control, flood control, bank protection, riparian restoration, and other in-channel
34 activities and/or in-channel modifications consistent with the CCRMP and CCIP to protect
35 structures, infrastructure, and land uses along the creek and downstream from damage from
36 natural creek forces (e.g., flooding, erosion, deposition, and washout).

37 The general types of in-channel activities include the following:

- 1 • Gravel bar skimming to maintain hydraulic capacity or reduce the probability of bank
2 erosion;
- 3 • Vegetation removal from the center of the stream channel to maintain hydraulic capacity
4 or reduce the probability of bank erosion;
- 5 • Minor bank protection by reducing near-bank velocity and protecting banks with
6 vegetation or biotechnical erosion control methods;
- 7 • Removal of debris at bridges or upstream of bridges susceptible to debris accumulation,
8 and maintenance of a defined low-flow channel; and
- 9 • Internal levee repair for flood control. (Note that Cache Creek flood control levees are
10 the responsibility of DWR; however, the repair of many internal levees is necessary to
11 prevent stream destabilization.)

12 The footprint for the activities described above encompasses approximately 30,000 acres and is
13 shown on Figure 3–7.

14 **3.3 IMPLEMENTATION OF NHP CONSERVATION MEASURES**

15 Activities that will be implemented pursuant to the NHP, including the implementation of the
16 Conservation Strategy described in Chapter 5, *Conservation Strategy*, are covered by the Plan.
17 Habitat management is an integral component of the NHP and will occur in accordance with the
18 provisions of the Plan. The NHP covers all habitat restoration, management, and monitoring
19 activities undertaken for the purpose of implementing the Plan. Covered activities include
20 habitat assessments and population surveys; habitat management activities to maintain suitable
21 habitat conditions; establishing and maintaining fuel management zones at the wildland/urban
22 interface; restoration, enhancement, and creation of habitats; construction and maintenance of
23 facilities necessary for the protection of NHP habitat conservation lands (e.g., fences, access
24 roads, and outbuildings⁴); control of invasive nonnative species by mechanical means or other
25 means excluding use of pesticides; scientific investigation into species' biological characteristics;
26 and all other management and monitoring activities prescribed in the Plan.

27 **3.4 EMERGENCY ACTIVITIES**

28 Responses to emergency activities may be required as a result of flooding, fire, erosion, and
29 other natural disasters. Many of the activities covered by the NHP would be the same activities
30 used to address a natural disaster. Permittees are continuing to explore with USFWS and DFG
31 the degree to which emergency response activities should specifically be covered under the NHP.

⁴ Outbuildings are non-residential, small-footprint structures necessary for the maintenance and management of the NHP preserve lands such as sheds, workshops, storage facilities, and wells.

1 **3.5 ACTIVITIES NOT COVERED BY THE PLAN**

2 The NHP covers a broad range of activities within the Plan Area. There are several activities and
3 classes of activities that would not be covered by the NHP; these are listed below:

- 4 • Operation of existing water diversion facilities on the Sacramento River or in the Delta;
- 5 • In-channel construction and operation of new water diversion facilities on the
6 Sacramento River or in the Delta;
- 7 • Construction of in-water portions of new facilities at the Port of West Sacramento;
- 8 • Fallowing land for sale of water;
- 9 • Pesticide and herbicide application; and
- 10 • In-water activities that could affect ESA or CESA listed fish species.
- 11