

Steve P. Chainey, Senior Ecologist
EDAW

Ecological Values of Riparian Vegetation Near Levees of the Sacramento River Valley

ABSTRACT

Natural landscapes and habitats of the Sacramento River Valley and Great Central Valley have been irreversibly altered by the past 150 years of development for agricultural reclamation, water supply, and flood control projects. Portions of remnant natural habitats, river-dependent fish and wildlife populations, and ecological functions would be potentially adversely affected by the proposed removal of all riparian vegetation near levees systemwide. Opportunities for onsite mitigation of habitat loss from future bank protection projects may be substantially constrained by the new national policy proposed by the Corps in the "White Paper". Mr. Chainey will describe the natural, public trust values at stake, and the geometry of channel and levee position where natural woody vegetation would be affected.

Steve P. Chainey, Senior Ecologist
EDAW
Tel: (916) 266-4925
Email: Steve.Chainey@edaw.com

Steven Chainey is an ecologist and watershed restoration expert with more than 25 years of experience in natural resources management and environmental restoration. He is a recognized leader in watershed management, wetland and riparian ecology, and restoration. Mr. Chainey is experienced in managing large-area environmental restoration projects, and in aquatic, wetland, and terrestrial habitat trend analysis, restoration, mitigation, and revegetation. He has extensive expertise in the integration of ecosystem restoration and management with flood control, water supply, public open space and agricultural uses throughout California, including numerous projects benefiting riverine aquatic habitat, riparian forest, perennial marsh, seasonal wetland, vernal pool, oak woodland, and native grassland ecosystems.