



2022

## HABITAT PROJECTS AT NIMBUS BASIN AND LOWER SAILOR BAR

### *Frequently Asked Questions*



## About the Projects

### **WHAT ARE THE 2022 HABITAT PROJECTS AT NIMBUS BASIN AND LOWER SAILOR BAR?**

The habitat projects at Nimbus Basin and Lower Sailor Bar will enhance crucial habitat for native Chinook salmon and steelhead trout in the Lower American River by recreating spawning and rearing areas by constructing new gravel beds in the river and carving side channels to protect juvenile fish.

### **WHEN WILL THE PROJECTS TAKE PLACE?**

August 1st through mid-October 2022, Monday through Saturday, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. with in-river work occurring only on weekdays (and not on Labor Day).

### **WHERE IS THE PROJECT AREA?**

The project area is the Lower American River, at Nimbus Basin and Lower Sailor Bar.

### **WHY ARE THESE PROJECTS IMPORTANT?**

The Nimbus Basin and Lower Sailor Bar areas of the river have been a prime area for spawning salmon and steelhead. Both are locations of previous Water Forum habitat work, implemented approximately 10 years ago, that would benefit from a "tune up" because these areas are heavily utilized by spawning fish every year. Although it has been altered to serve human needs for water supply and flood control, the Lower American is still a living and dynamic river, and continued gravel movement is part of a natural process. Since dams block new gravels from coming into the lower river, and existing river gravels keep moving downstream as the river flows, it's important to keep replenishing spawning gravels for adult fish and add rearing habitat elements that support young fish, too.

### **WHAT IS THE SACRAMENTO WATER FORUM AND THEIR ROLE?**

The Water Forum includes a diverse group of water providers, environmentalists, business groups and local governments working to balance water supply needs with protection of the Lower American River. The Water Forum coordinates restoration activities in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and provides City of Sacramento Department of Utilities personnel to construct projects. You can learn more at [waterforum.org](http://waterforum.org).

### **WHO IS FUNDING THESE PROJECTS?**

These projects are made possible by grant funding from the California Natural Resources Agency (Proposition 68) and the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (U.S. Bureau of Reclamation) and through partnerships with the City of Sacramento Department of Utilities, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency and Sacramento County Regional Parks

### **WHAT ARE SOME PROJECT BENEFITS?**

This will be the Water Forum's 11th and 12th projects restoring fish spawning gravel beds and improving juvenile fish rearing habitat on the Lower American River. Previous projects have demonstrated measurable results, including surges in native fish nests in areas where there were very few prior to restoration. You can learn more about the Water Forum's habitat restoration projects and their results at [waterforum.org/habitat2022](http://waterforum.org/habitat2022).

## Potential Impacts

### **HOW ARE THESE PROJECTS EXPECTED TO IMPACT VISITORS AND NEIGHBORS?**

Potential temporary impacts to visitors and surrounding neighborhoods during construction may include noise, traffic, parking and impaired access to the river.

- **Noise:** Most of the noise is expected to come from machinery that washes and sorts rock before it is placed into the river. The project team contains this noise to the hours of 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Employee traffic:** The project team includes up to 25 employees who will travel to and from the project site twice daily (at the beginning and end of the day) via Illinois Ave. (for Lower Sailor Bar) and Gold Country Blvd. (for Nimbus Basin).
- **Employee parking:** The project team will park in the equipment staging area (for Lower Sailor Bar) and may park in the Aquatic Center parking lot nearest the American River Parkway (for Nimbus Basin).

- **Equipment traffic:** The projects will use heavy equipment to excavate, move, wash and place gravel into the river, as well as create side channels. This equipment includes large bulldozers, excavators, front loaders and trucks. The equipment will move into and out of the project areas at the beginning and end of the projects, as well as during construction when gravel is being hauled.
- **Access to the river:** During construction, access to the river from the shore will be blocked to the public within the construction areas. During off-work hours, construction areas and equipment will be secured with fencing and on-site security. The public will have access to the river along the shore in any areas where it is safe.

### **IS PUBLIC PARKING EXPECTED TO BE IMPACTED?**

For Lower Sailor Bar, the project team (up to 20 employees) will park in the equipment staging area, and public parking will not be impacted. For Nimbus Basin, the project team may park at the Aquatic Center in the area nearest the American River Parkway, which could impact public parking.

### **HOW ARE THE PROJECTS EXPECTED TO IMPACT RAFTERS?**

The project team is working to minimize impacts on rafters moving through the Lower Sailor Bar area. In-river construction will be taking place during weekdays only (and not on Labor Day). Signage will be placed at the Sailor Bar Boat Ramp to alert boaters of the work occurring downstream. When in-river work is occurring, the project team will be on alert and communicating with equipment operators to allow for safe passage through the construction site.

### **WILL THE PUBLIC BE ABLE TO ACCESS THE CONSTRUCTION ZONE (ON SHORE AND FROM THE RIVER) WHEN CREWS ARE NOT THERE?**

During off-work hours, the excavation area and equipment will be secured with fencing and on-site security. However, the public will have access to the river along the shore. Rafters and boaters will be able to travel through the area via the river and access the shore.

## **Construction**

### **WHAT KIND OF EQUIPMENT WILL BE USED AND HOW DO YOU MAKE SURE IT DOESN'T HARM THE RIVER?**

The project will utilize river-friendly heavy equipment to place gravel and woody material into the river flows and alcove. This equipment, which will move around and in the river, includes large bulldozers, excavators, front loaders and trucks that have been thoroughly pressure washed and equipped with food-grade vegetable oil (rather than motor oil) to protect water quality during in-river work.

### **WHERE IS THE ROCK COMING FROM THAT WILL BE PLACED INTO THE RIVER?**

The project will use gravel from two borrow area this year. At Lower Sailor Bar, gravel will be excavated and sorted at a previously used area near the river, off Olive Avenue. This excavated gravel will be cleaned and sorted into the optimum size for salmon and steelhead spawning, and then strategically placed back into the flowing river according to design plans. The Nimbus Basin project will use presorted gravel hauled from dredger tailing piles at Mississippi Bar in Fair Oaks.

### **WHAT KIND OF MATERIAL WILL BE PLACED INTO THE SIDE CHANNELS?**

Project teams will add large woody material and plant riparian trees and bushes along the side channels. These elements create places for young fish to hide from predators, provide shade, and a place for insects to grow for feeding the fish and many other Parkway species. We reuse trees removed for other maintenance projects along the parkway, where possible.

### **DID THIS PROJECTS UNDERGO AN ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW?**

Yes. Water Forum projects have undergone an environmental analysis as required by California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and have acquired all applicable permits and approvals from natural resource and public safety agencies. You can find environmental documentation at <https://www.waterforum.org/resources/resource-library/>.

## **More Information**

### **HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROJECTS?**

For more information, please visit [waterforum.org/habitat2022](https://www.waterforum.org/habitat2022). The Water Forum is hosting a Virtual Information Session on Monday, June 13, 2022 from 6 to 7 p.m. You can find a registration link at [waterforum.org/habitat2022](https://www.waterforum.org/habitat2022).

### **HOW CAN I GET IN CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?**

You can reach the project team at (916) 808-1997 or [contact@waterforum.org](mailto:contact@waterforum.org).

