

# ***Suisun Marsh Program Overview***

*Prepared for:*

**State Water Resources Control Board**

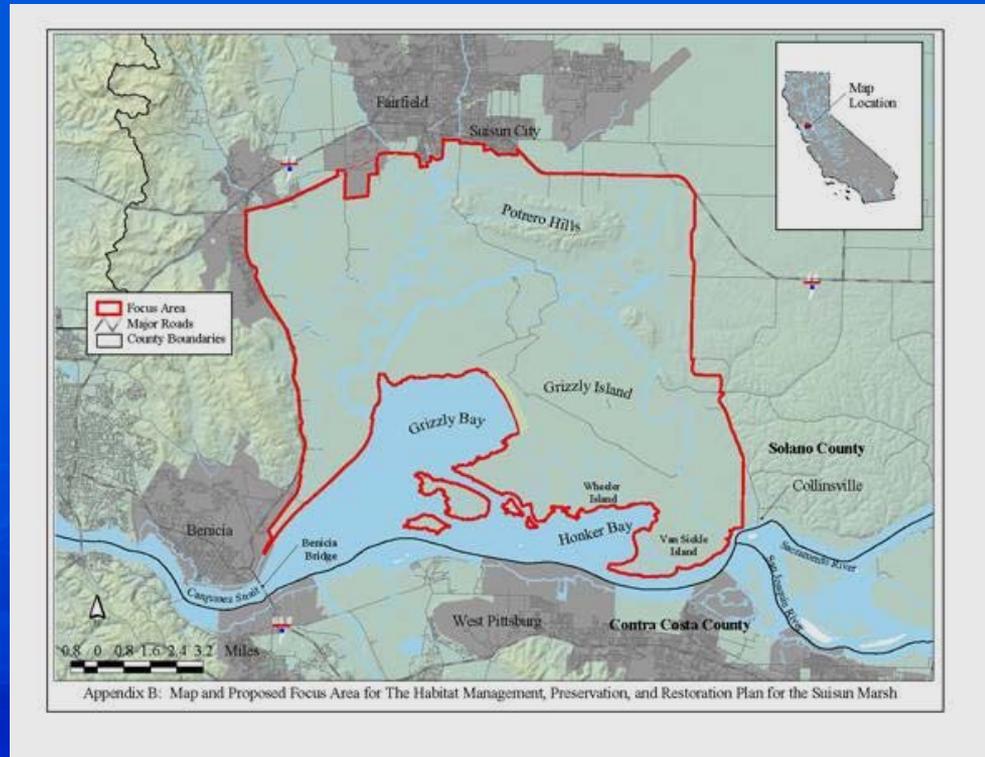
*Prepared by:*

**Suisun Marsh Principal Agencies**

**(DFG, SRCD, DWR, USBR, USFWS, NMFS, CALFED)**

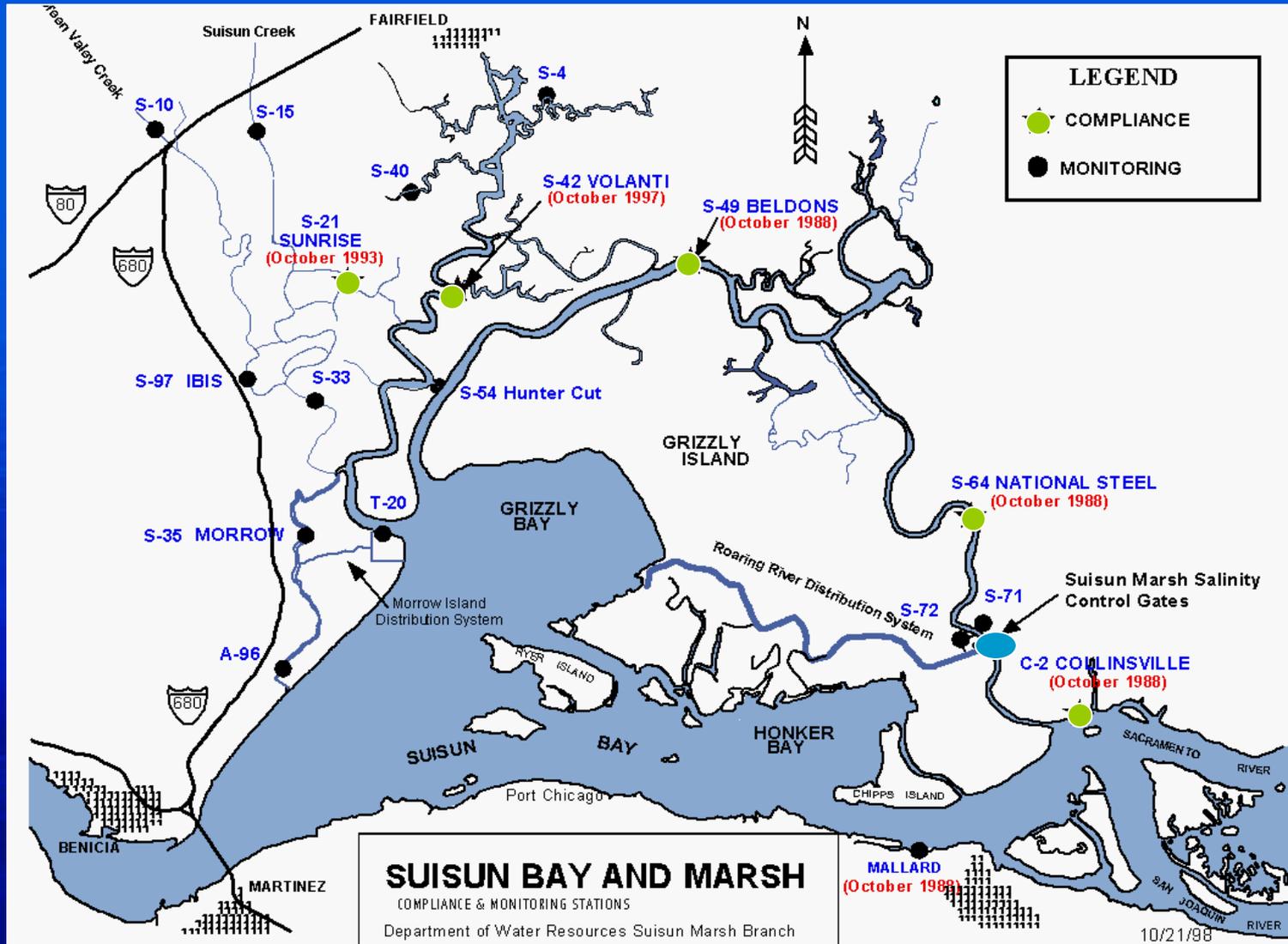
*April 15, 2008*

# Project Area



- 52,000 acres of seasonal non-tidal (managed) wetlands
- 6,300 acres of tidal wetlands
- 27,700 acres upland grassland
- 30,000 acres bays and sloughs

# Facilities



# Salinity Control Gates: The Bottom Line

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- Gate operations estimated to move X2 up to 3 kilometers upstream per operational occurrence
- Historical operations generally ranged from 60 – 120 days per year
- Gates were operated 17 days during 07-08 operating season despite dry water year
- Future operations are expected to be 10 – 20 days per year\*\*

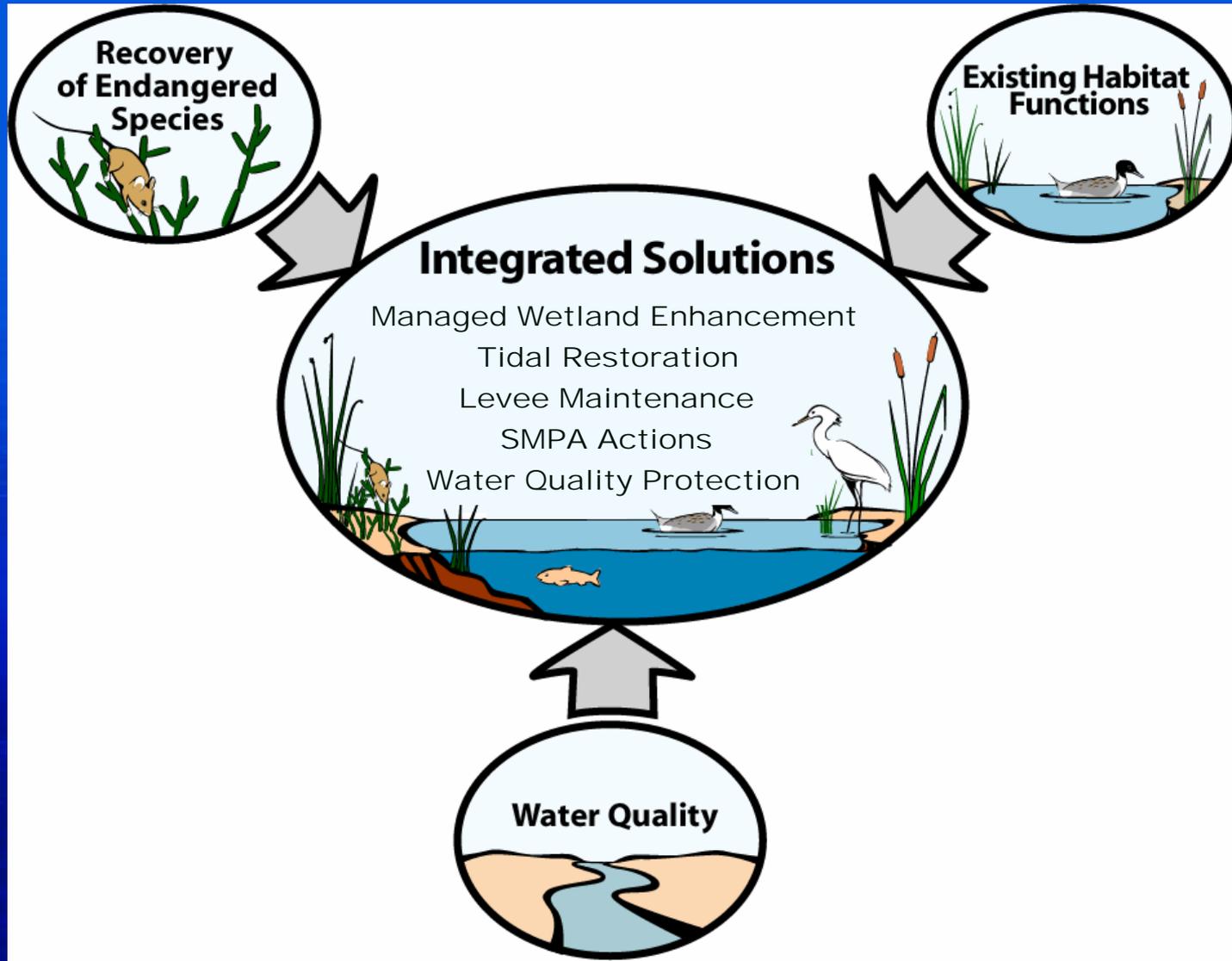
*\*\*Assuming no significant long-term changes in Delta outflow or other key salinity drivers*

## **Initial Suisun Marsh Program Purpose**

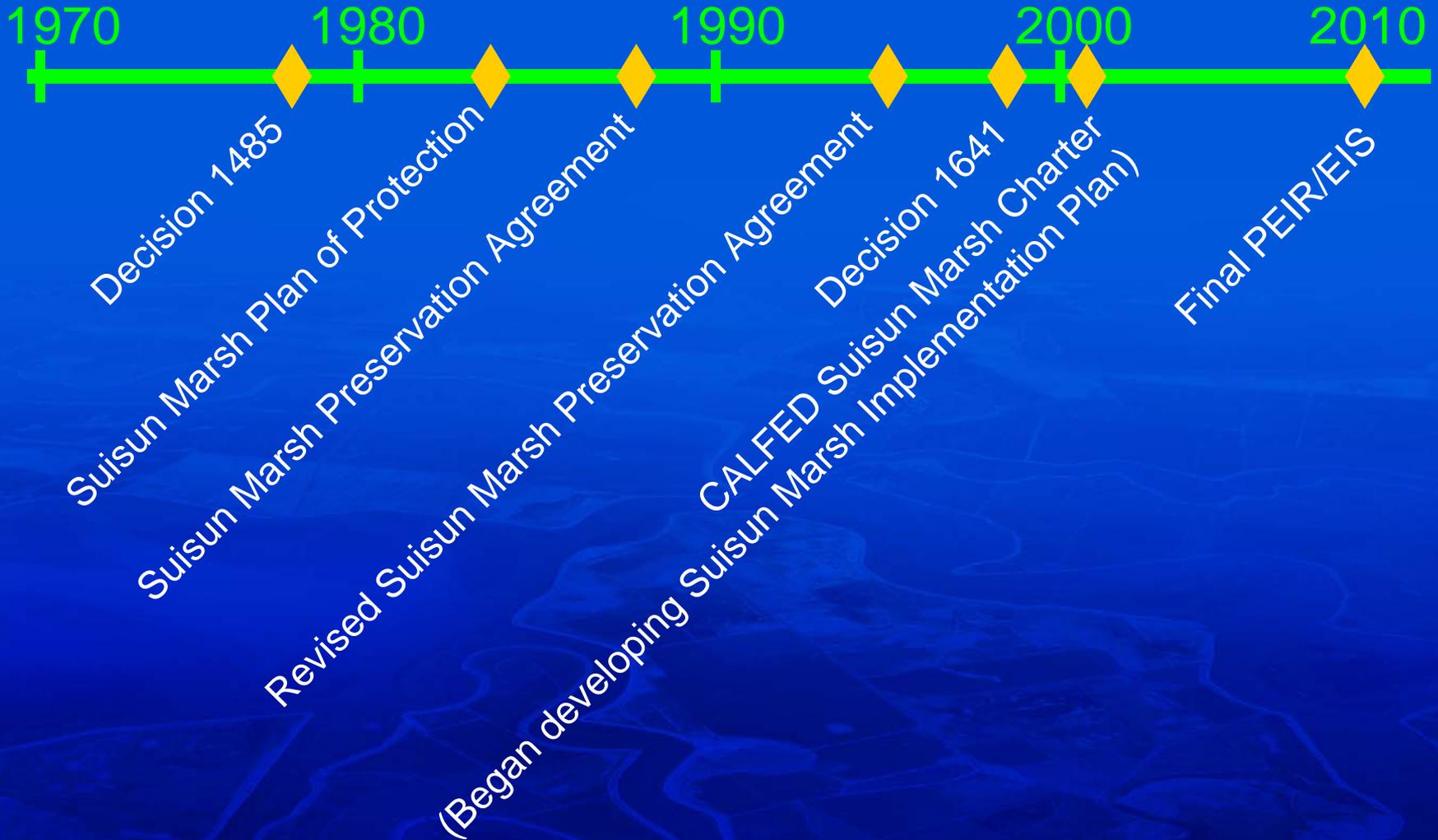
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- Mitigation for reduced Delta outflow due to State and Federal project diversions (as well as other upstream diverters)

# Expanded Purpose



# Significant Events



# **Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement**

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- Identified facilities and water quality standards similar to Plan of Protection
- Timeline for construction of facilities
- Cost-share program to assist landowners
- Mitigation and monitoring agreements

# **Water Rights Decision 1641**

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- Numerical salinity standards
- Narrative standards
  - Meeting salinity needs for all beneficial uses in the Marsh

# CALFED Suisun Marsh Charter

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- Improve collaboration among agencies regarding objectives and management decisions in the Marsh
- Maintain consistency with CALFED ERP, WQ and levee goals
- Help recovery of T & E species
- Balance needs of managed *and* tidal wetland-dependant species

# **Suisun Marsh Plan Objectives**

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- Preserve and enhance managed seasonal wetlands
- Implement a comprehensive levee program
- Protect Delta water quality
- Restore habitat for tidal marsh-dependent sensitive species
- Maintain consistency with the CALFED Bay-Delta Program's strategic goals and objectives.
- **Develop recommendations for water quality objectives in the Suisun Marsh**

# **Suisun Marsh Plan PEIR/EIS**

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- Implementation Plan has identified needs and is working toward integrated solutions
- A programmatic document with detailed specific actions
- Actions will be authorized at completion of Plan
- Public Draft Early 2009

# Participating Agencies

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- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- California Department of Fish and Game (DFG)
- Suisun Resource Conservation District (SRCDD)
- California Department of Water Resources (DWR)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries)
- San Francisco Bay-Delta Science Consortium (Bay-Delta Consortium)
- California Bay-Delta Authority (CBDA)
- CALFED Ecosystem Restoration, Levees, Drinking Water, and Science Programs
- State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)
- Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC)
- US Geological Survey (USGS)

## **Program Benefits and Achievements**

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- Helping preserve public trust values in keeping with state and federal law
- The SMP is a functioning collaborative that balances beneficial uses
- Favorable position for implementing plan while protecting beneficial uses
- Restored 70 acres of tidal marsh in 2006
- Shared knowledge base from extensive data collection, modeling and other studies
- Acquisition of Meins Landing for future restoration (PEIR/EIS)

## **Further Opportunities**

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- Further conservation, restoration and enhancement of diverse habitats in the Marsh
- Potential for other Delta initiatives to leverage opportunities in the Marsh
- Expand shared knowledge base by monitoring recent restoration actions
- SWRCB staff continue to participate in planning and implementation

## **Take Home Message #1**

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- **Current operational practices reduce frequency of influence on X2 while still meeting standards**

## **Take Home Message #2**

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- **The SMP Principals are committed to balancing ALL beneficial uses in the Marsh**
  - Brackish Habitat
  - Aquatic Species
  - Waterfowl
  - Wildlife
  - Sensitive Species

## **Take Home Message #3**

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- Suisun Marsh Principals are working with Board staff to formulate a “check-in” process with SWRCB to maintain accountability for:
  - Water quality objectives with respect to all beneficial uses
    - Final SMP PEIS/EIR is expected in early 2010