

## 1.0 Introduction

The purpose of the Conservation Strategy of the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) is to provide direction for the California Department of Water Resources' (DWR's) environmental stewardship activities related to integrated flood management in the Central Valley, and to provide a framework and support for programmatic permitting of flood management activities.

One goal of the Conservation Strategy is to contribute to the recovery and stability of native species populations and overall biotic community diversity. A set of potential target species was identified to support measurable objectives for this goal. For those target species with the greatest need for recovery of their populations, focused conservation planning was conducted. This appendix documents the process used for selecting the target species of the Conservation Strategy, including 17 target species for which focused conservation planning was conducted. The results of this focused planning are also provided in this appendix, in the form of focused conservation plans. This document is scheduled to be updated every 5 years.

Because the conservation needs of species change, in the future, additional species may become suitable targets for the Conservation Strategy. Therefore, during preparation of the 5-year updates to the CVFPP, the preliminary list of species in this appendix will be reevaluated using the same criteria described below. Species meeting these criteria will be added, and focused conservation plans will be developed for them and included in subsequent updates of the Conservation Strategy. During the public comment period, new information regarding the status of the delta smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*) and its habitat use in the Systemwide Planning Area (SPA) was made available, and a recovery plan for the species is expected to be released in 2016; therefore, this species will be considered for inclusion in the 2022 CVFPP and Conservation Strategy. Other species that were considered during the initial screening could be reconsidered, and targeted conservation plans may be developed. These species include the western pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*), tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*), western red bat (*Lasiurus blossewillii*), and western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugaea*).

## 2.0 Selection of Target Species

Potential target species are those sensitive, native species that could most benefit from implementation of the Conservation Strategy to enhance and restore processes and habitats, primarily because of their strong association with river and floodplain ecosystems of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys. A preliminary list of candidate target species was compiled from the lists of sensitive species potentially affected by implementation of the CVFPP (see the CVFPP program environmental impact report [PEIR]; DWR 2012). The preliminary list was also based on additional review of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB; California Department of Fish and Wildlife [CDFW] 2014) and other information sources (California Native Plant Society [CNPS] 2012; CalFish 2012; California Interagency Wildlife