

ADDENDUM TO
Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for
Sacramento River Floodplain Enhancement Project at Rancho Caleta
Use Permit (PD-24-21)

ADDENDUM DATE: DECEMBER 15, 2025

PREPARED BY

River Partners

Summary

This is an addendum to the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for River Partners' Sacramento River Floodplain Enhancement Project at Rancho Caleta Use Permit (PD-24-21) dated September 24th, 2024. The MND is for the Rancho Caleta project to restore floodplain and fish habitat adjacent to the Sacramento River by manipulating the existing topography, re-contouring a swale, and planting native vegetation at Rancho Caleta.

The addendum is for the restoration of an additional 13 acres of native riparian habitat on Rancho Caleta North (Figure 1), the property adjacent to Rancho Caleta that was recently acquired by Western Habitat Partners, a wholly owned subsidiary of River Partners. The environmental analysis, mitigation measures, and project design features contained in the original MND remain applicable to the expanded project area proposed in the addendum with no new significant environmental impacts or substantial changes to the project scope.

Project History and Vision

The Sacramento River Floodplain Enhancement Project at Rancho Caleta was originally conceived as one floodplain restoration project across two parcels: Rancho Caleta (APN 015-130-020-000) and Rancho Caleta North (APN 015-130-132-000). Prior to the preparation of the 2024 MND, River Partners was under contract to acquire Rancho Caleta North as part of the CVPIA grant agreement; however, the acquisition was not successful, and the parcel was purchased by another entity. In 2024, River Partners proceeded with the use permit and MND on the 30-acre Rancho Caleta parcel. Over the last year, River Partners (d.b.a. Western Habitat Partners) continued to pursue acquisition of Rancho Caleta North. Earlier in 2025, River Partners successfully acquired the parcel and now seeks an addendum to the MND to implement the comprehensive restoration project as it was originally envisioned. The 13 acres of restoration on Rancho Caleta North is already part of the Sacramento River Floodplain Enhancement Project at Rancho Caleta funded by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) grant.

Land Ownership

In 2020, River Partners acquired the 30-acre Rancho Caleta (southern) parcel with California Wildlife Conservation Board Habitat Conservation Fund funding. In 2025, Western Habitat Partners, a wholly owned subsidiary of River Partners, acquired the adjacent 16-acre Rancho Caleta North parcel. The combined 46-acre Rancho Caleta

property is managed by River Partners for proposed floodplain enhancement and riparian habitat restoration.

Existing Land Use

Rancho Caleta North is located immediately upstream of Rancho Caleta along the Sacramento River at approximately River Mile 141L. The 16-acre Rancho Caleta North parcel exhibits environmental characteristics identical to Rancho Caleta described in the original MND. The site was previously used for agriculture (abandoned prune orchard) and features flat topography with Moonbend silt loam soils that are frequently flooded. Existing vegetation communities include annual grassland, orchard agriculture, and remnant valley foothill riparian habitat, consistent with those analyzed in the MND. The same 35 special-status species identified in the Rancho Caleta Biological Assessment have potential to occur on Rancho Caleta North due to identical habitat conditions. The site has the same archaeological sensitivity and River Frontage (RF) zoning designation as Rancho Caleta.

Changes To Project Description

Grading/Floodplain Enhancements

Unlike Rancho Caleta where grading (0.25 acres) is proposed, no grading or topographic modifications are proposed for Rancho Caleta North. There are no changes to grading-related impacts or ground disturbances in the MND.

Riparian Restoration

An additional 13 acres of native riparian habitat restoration is proposed on Rancho Caleta North using the same plant community design, species palette, planting densities, and restoration methods described in Section 2.4 and Table 1 of the original MND.

Maintenance and Monitoring

The three-year maintenance and monitoring period described in Section 2.4.3 of the original MND will be extended to cover the additional 13 acres of restoration on Rancho Caleta North. No changes to maintenance or monitoring protocols are required.

Best Management Practices, Funding, Permits, and Construction

Best Management Practices

There are no changes to the Best Management Practices. All Conservation Measures (1-6) in Section 2.5.2 of the original MND apply to Rancho Caleta North.

Permits

There are no changes to the permits, monitoring requirements, and reporting obligations identified in the MND Section 2.4.3 and Mitigation Measure #7. All permits required for project activities on Rancho Caleta North will be secured or amended as necessary.

Funding

There are no changes to the funding sources. The original CVPIA funding for Rancho Caleta includes restoration activities on Rancho Caleta North.

Construction

There are no changes to the restoration timeline planned for Spring 2026. Ground preparation and planting activities on Rancho Caleta North will proceed concurrently with or immediately following restoration work on the southern parcel to maximize operational efficiency.

Environmental Setting, Impacts, And Mitigation Measures

There are no changes to environmental analysis or mitigation measures. The environmental setting and impact analysis in Chapter 2 of the original MND apply equally to Rancho Caleta North due to identical site conditions.

Hydraulic Analysis

The Hydraulic Impact Analysis prepared by MBK Engineers (Appendix 3) analyzed the entire 46-acre project area, including Rancho Caleta North. The Hydrologic & Hydraulic Analysis confirmed no adverse hydraulic impacts or flood flow redirection.

Impact Determinations

All impact determinations in section 2.10 of the original MND remain unchanged. No new or revised impact determinations are required.

Mitigation Measures

All mitigation measures (1-10) in chapter 3 of the original MND are fully applicable to Rancho Caleta North. No new or revised mitigation measures are required.

CEQA Determination (CEQA Guidelines Section 15164)

The inclusion of Rancho Caleta North meets the criteria for an addendum because none of the conditions in Section 15162 requiring a subsequent EIR or Negative Declaration have occurred:

1. **No New Significant Impacts:** Environmental setting on Rancho Caleta North is identical to Rancho Caleta analyzed in the original MND.
2. **No Increase in Impact Severity:** Impacts are reduced due to absence of grading activities on Rancho Caleta North (no heavy equipment earthmoving or swale re-contouring).
3. **Mitigation Measures Remain Effective:** All adopted mitigation measures are applicable and adequate for Rancho Caleta North due to identical environmental baseline, species assemblage, and restoration techniques.
4. **No New Information:** The Hydraulic Impact Analysis already included Rancho Caleta North in its modeling. No new information shows previously unidentified significant effects or more severe impacts.
5. **Within Original Project Scope:** The restoration of Rancho Caleta North was part of the original CVPIA-funded project scope; this addendum does not fundamentally change the project's objectives or activities.

Conclusion

The riparian restoration on 13 acres of Rancho Caleta North will complete the project's original vision. Implementing the restoration activities on Rancho Caleta and Rancho Caleta North simultaneously optimizes resources, reduces the project timeline and costs, and minimizes the project's overall impact. The environmental analysis, mitigation framework, and project design in the MND dated September 24, 2024, MND remain valid for the expanded 46-acre Rancho Caleta project area. No new environmental impacts, no substantial increase in impact severity, and no new mitigation measures are required.

Figures

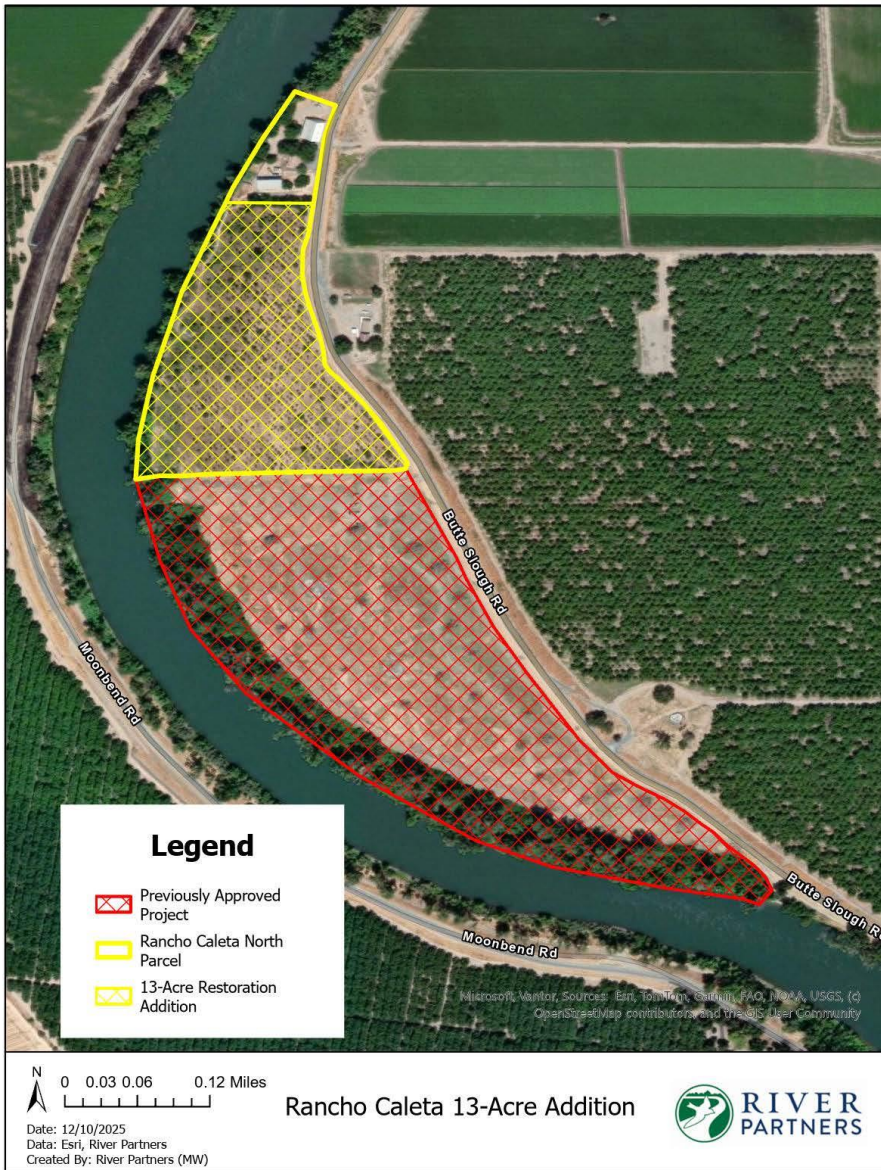


Figure 1 – Map of the proposed 13-acre restoration addition to Rancho Caleta