Restoring the Napa River Watershed

2026 California Water Law Symposium
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Coastal Conservancy
STATE of CALIFORNIA

Jessica Davenport

Regional Manager

San Francisco Bay Area Program

Where We Work

- Outer Coast
- Nine-County San Francisco Bay Area

Anchor Watersheds and Essential Streams of the San Francisco Estuary

Source: San Francisco Estuary Watersheds Evaluation: Identifying Promising Locations for Steelhead Restoration in Tributaries of the San Francisco Estuary, Prepared by the Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration for the State Coastal Conservancy and the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation, 2007.

Napa River Watershed: Oakville to Oak Knoll Project Reach

Group C, Site 13

September 2017

January 2018

May 2019

April 2024

Oxbow Bypass

Source: Napa Valley Register

Recognition & Awards for the Napa River Flood Management Plan ("Living River" Strategy)

1998 American Society of Architects Award

1998 American Society of Landscape Architects Award

1998 California League of Cities Helen Putnam Award

1999 Friends of the San Francisco Estuary Award

1999 Outstanding Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan Implementation Project Award from San Francisco Bay State of the Estuary Conference

1999 Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award from the California Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Lessons Learned

- **Develop a watershed management plan**, even if the process is contentious and it takes a while to reach agreement.
- **Base plans on ecological principles** but acknowledge the need to build political will and often taxpayer and landowner support.
- **Recognize that not all issues can be addressed at once and not all voluntarily.**

Thank you.

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