The Napa River-Napa Creek Flood Protection Project
The need for Flood Control

Napa – a long history of flooding
Brown Street, Napa - 1905
Silverado Trail, Napa - 1955
Flood Control Act of 1965 authorizes Napa River Flood Control Project

Initial Designs are standard Army Corps approaches to Flood Control:

- Deepen channel with dredging
- Straighten channel – eliminate Oxbow
- Rip rap banks of a trapezoidal channel
- Levees and flood walls

Proposals go to the voters in 1976 and 1977 – both are rejected
Downtown Napa - 1986
A Community Coalition Comes Together

40 agencies, 400 people: Chamber of Commerce, Sierra Club, Friends of the River, NV Economic Development Corp., Farm Bureau, Land Trust…..

A new “Living River” design is created

A local Project funding strategy is needed.
Achieving a Living River

- Maintain the natural slope, width, and width/depth ratio of the river
- Maintain or restore the connection of the river to its flood plain
- Allow the river to meander as much as possible
- Maintain channel features such as mudflats, shallows, sandbars, and a naturally uneven bottom
- Maintain a continuous fish and riparian corridor along the river
Flooding continues...
Third Street - 1997
The Living River
Geomorphich Channel Design

South Wetlands

Downtown “Urban Reach”

Toxics Cleanup

Marsh plains and Floodplains

Oxbow and Bypass
Project Components

• Improvements to 7 miles of the Napa River and 1 mile of Napa Creek

• Removal of 53 mobile homes, 16 other residences and 28 commercial buildings

• Creation of 900+ acres of emergent marsh, seasonal wetlands, and restored habitats

• Replacement of 9 bridges

• Protection of 3,000 properties from the “100-year flood event”, $1 billion savings over the life of the Project.
Local Project Funding

- Minimum 25% Local Cost Share
- County puts ½ Cent Sales Tax Measure on ballot in 1997
- Measure “A” passes with the required 2/3 majority by 308 votes countywide
- Countywide projects for flood protection & watershed improvement
Measure A Funded Projects in the Napa River Watershed

- Flood Protection
- Water Supply Reliability
- Restoration/Sediment Reduction

1998-2018
Approximately $250M in Sales Tax Revenues
Flood Plain Reconnection and Wetlands restoration

Early Project Successes 2000-2003
South Wetlands Opportunity Area

Before

After
The transformation from pasture land to wetland is gradual...
Over 69 species of migratory and resident birds have been documented in the Project area during point count surveys conducted from 2006 through 2009.
Downtown Napa Renewal

Urban Infrastructure Improvements 2002-2008
New Third Street Bridge -2002
Set the tone for aesthetics of public space
New Maxwell Bridge -2005
Longer and Higher – Lowers Floodwater Elevations
East Bank Toxic Sites Prior to Project Construction
Created Marsh Plain and Floodplain Terraces
Hatt to First floodwall

March 31, 2008
Floodwall Incorporated into Veteran’s Park

Jan 6, 2008
Development Along Napa River

Riverfront Promenade and Floodwalls

Napa Mill
(Napa River Inn, Celadon, Angele, General Store, Silo's)

Riverbend Plaza

The Riverfront
(Morimoto, Tyler Florence, Fish Story, Napa River Velo)

Third Street Bridge

Boat dock (future)

Veterans Park

First Street Bridge

Fifth Street Plaza

Kalser-Lui-Williams
(Cole's Chop House, Ubuntu, Annalien)

NV Opera House Theater

Opera House Plaza at Napa Creek
Oxbow District Development

- Hotel Site
- Westin Verasa Hotel / La Toque
- Wine Train
- River Terrace Inn/Cuvee
- Oxbow Public Market
- Future Oxbow Commons (Bypass Channel)
Oxbow School

East Napa Historic District Area

Former Copia
Site: Future Investment Opportunity
Napa Creek Bypass Culverts

2009-2012
Project Construction Update

Finishing the Project 2014-2018
Project Component Schedule

- Railroad relocation: Completed 2012
- Napa Creek: Completed 2013
- Bypass: In Construction
- Floodwalls and Pump Stations: TBD
The Napa River Dry Bypass
1999 Conceptual Sketch

CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN
NAPA RIVER BYPASS
Napa, California
August 25, 1999
Build Railroad Bridge
Build Soscol Ave Bridge
Reconstruct First St Bridge over Napa Creek
Similar structures in the Napa Creek Project with 1 year vegetation growth
Dissipater Design

• Curved steps
• Dual use with amphitheater style design
• Dissipater block “seats” under rail bridge
Tentative Remaining Schedule

Finish Interior and Inlet – February to March
Tentative Remaining Schedule

McKinstry Street – April to May
Project Closeout – June to July