

## Haire, Jennifer

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**From:** John Spranza  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 6, 2021 2:12 PM  
**To:** Martinez, Josh@DWR; Davis, Brittany E.@DWR; Bedwell, Mallory@DWR; Erecius, Lesa; Williams, Nicole; Lecky, Jim; Huber, Anne  
**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe; Twardochleb, Laura@DWR; Wright, Hailey@DWR; Laurie Warner Herson  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Project WSIP/Yolo Flow Question on NDFA

Thank you all very much, this information is really helpful. I have included our ICF water quality team in this email as they may have some additional questions.

John

### John Spranza

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**From:** Martinez, Josh@DWR <Joshua.Martinez@water.ca.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 6, 2021 1:23 PM  
**To:** Davis, Brittany E.@DWR <Brittany.E.Davis@water.ca.gov>; Spranza, John <John.Spranza@hdrinc.com>; Bedwell, Mallory@DWR <Mallory.Bedwell@water.ca.gov>  
**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Twardochleb, Laura@DWR <Laura.Twardochleb@water.ca.gov>; Wright, Hailey@DWR <Hailey.Wright@water.ca.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Project WSIP/Yolo Flow Question on NDFA

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Hi John,

We evaluated inundation impacts to mercury methylation, agriculture, and to the vegetation community as part of the Yolo Bypass Salmonid Habitat Restoration and Fish Passage Project (better known as “The Big Notch”). All of this info can be found in our EIR/EIS, though our analyzed project flow period was confined to November 1 – March 15. More info on our EIR/EIS can be found [here](#).

I’m not sure when your flows will occur during the year, but I would anticipate impacts in the Yolo Bypass if they occur in the winter/spring. Similarly, I’ve cc’d Petra Lee, our resident mercury expert. She has been working on analyzing inundation-related impacts to methylation in floodplains and may have something more to offer.

I hope this helps,

-Josh



**Joshua Martinez**  
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**From:** Davis, Brittany E.@DWR <Brittany.E.Davis@water.ca.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 6, 2021 1:13 PM  
**To:** Spranza, John <John.Spranza@hdrinc.com>; Bedwell, Mallory@DWR <Mallory.Bedwell@water.ca.gov>  
**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <aforsythe@sitesproject.org>; Twardochleb, Laura@DWR <Laura.Twardochleb@water.ca.gov>;  
Martinez, Josh@DWR <Joshua.Martinez@water.ca.gov>; Wright, Hailey@DWR <Hailey.Wright@water.ca.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Sites Project WSIP/Yolo Flow Question on NDFA

Hi John,

We have not conducted an official evaluation the effects of the flow pulses on the specific metrics you listed. However, some observations may be helpful. In past years, we may have had an instance or two of seepage or flooding of lower elevation parcels which were mitigated by pumping or adjustments in operations by close coordination and communications with the landowners. In general, our experience is that the NDFA pulses have minor to limited effects on upstream agriculture including Colusa Basin Drain and Upper Yolo Bypass that can be managed and mitigated, and less to none impacts in the Lower Yolo Bypass or downstream as it's constrained to the perennial Toe Drain. Other observations might be movement of upstream aquatic weeds to Wallace Weir, and we've monitored transport of contaminants (pesticide, fungicides, and herbicides) the last several years, that do increase during the pulse in the bypass, return to normal levels following the pulse, but are similar to the contaminants observed in non-action years when local drainage occurs.

Josh Martinez and Hailey Wright, please correct any of my uncertainty or provide additional description.

Thank-you,  
Brittany

**Brittany E. Davis**, PhD  
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**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
WATER RESOURCES**

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**From:** Spranza, John <[John.Spranza@hdrinc.com](mailto:John.Spranza@hdrinc.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 1, 2021 11:12 AM  
**To:** Davis, Brittany E.@DWR <[Brittany.E.Davis@water.ca.gov](mailto:Brittany.E.Davis@water.ca.gov)>; Bedwell, Mallory@DWR  
<[Mallory.Bedwell@water.ca.gov](mailto:Mallory.Bedwell@water.ca.gov)>  
**Cc:** Alicia Forsythe <[aforsythe@sitesproject.org](mailto:aforsythe@sitesproject.org)>  
**Subject:** Sites Project WSIP/Yolo Flow Question on NDFA

Hi Brittany and Mallory,

Laura is out of office so I'm reaching out to you two hoping you can help with a question. The Sites Project Authority is working on our finishing up our Draft EIR and as you are likely aware of, we have been funded under WSIP to provide flows through the Yolo Bypass, similar to those under the NDFA. One item that has come up was whether or not the

NDFA identified any negative effects of the pulses on the floodplain landcover. Specifically, any potential flooding effects to agriculture, sensitive vegetation communities (wetlands and such) or increased methylation of mercury. Have you had to deal with any of these issues?

Any help is much appreciated.

John

**John Spranza, MS, CCN**

*Senior Ecologist / Regulatory Specialist  
Sites Project Permitting and Agreements Integration Lead.*

**HDR**

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