

Last Thursday flows from the Sacramento River came rushing in to the new Kapusta 1a side channel at river mile 288. What an exciting moment to witness! [Check out our video.](#)

In the coming weeks, finishing touches will include final rock placement along the channel, closing up the temporary access road, and adding several more native riparian plants. Then, post-construction monitoring begins when over the next one plus years, the Upper Sacramento River Restoration Team will be observing channel function, habitat conditions and use by fish species.

The project was completed by Mike Michalak owner of the The Fly Shop with funding from the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, with Project Manager, Harmony Gugino, nurturing it to fruition with the diligent help of Project Coordinator, Jan Raether, and designs provided by California Department of Water Resources engineer, Nancy Snodgrass and with a myriad of other people over the last 5 years or so advising and working towards this day.

Why Side Channels?

Here are some links with information on the benefits of side channel and floodplain habitat for our treasured and imperiled salmon species:

https://www.calsalmon.org/.../fi.../Good_Habitat_Bad_Habitat.pdf

http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/.../floodplains_fact_...



Team Kapusta with flowing channel entrance in the background

Where the side-channel exits to the Sacramento River