

TEMPORARY BARRIERS PROJECT

The Temporary Barriers Project was initiated in 1990 to determine the feasibility of installing and operating rock barriers in the south Delta to improve local water level conditions for agricultural diverters and collect data on the effects of the barriers to water quality and fish and wildlife. Over the last 10 years, the barriers have proven to be an effective water management tool allowing the Central Valley Project, the State Water Project and local diverters to achieve their mutual water supply objectives.

The Programmatic Record of Decision issued for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program on August 28, 2000 specifies that the temporary barriers be installed and operated until the permanent solution developed by the South Delta Improvements Program is implemented. The Department of Water Resources has applied for the necessary Federal and permits to extend the Temporary Barriers Project through 2007. Endangered Species Act consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the California Department of Fish and Game is required as part of the permitting process.

DWR is also seeking a modification of the traditional operations window for the Temporary Barriers Project as part of the permit application. The permit application is being facilitated through regular meetings of CALFED's South Delta Improvements Team. The Head of Old River barrier is part of the Temporary Barriers Project and is a key component of the Vernalis Adaptive Management Plan. A final decision on the permit application is expected in early 2001 to assure the installation of HOR barrier by mid-April, as required by the VAMP.