

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CALFED-Funded Narrows 2 Bypass Benefits Yuba River's Wild Salmon and Steelhead

A new Synchronous Flow Bypass System at the Narrows 2 Hydroelectric Plant near Englebright Dam will ensure consistent cold water releases for the lower Yuba River's protected Chinook salmon and steelhead, among the last remaining wild populations in California's Central Valley.

Now in operation, the bypass will prevent previously uncontrollable flow reductions into the lower Yuba River, primarily caused by acts of nature such as lightning strikes on the electric transmission line serving the plant. In the event of a power outage, the new system will bypass cold water through the offline hydroelectric plant into the lower Yuba River, eliminating a flow reduction that could be harmful to salmon and steelhead.

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program financed the \$12.5 million project through an \$8.5 million grant, with local funds making up the balance of project cost.

"The Narrows 2 bypass is an excellent addition of technology and infrastructure to protect habitat for the Yuba River's wild salmon and steelhead," said California Department of Fish & Game Director Ryan Brodrick. "This project illustrates the success of collaboration between the state, CALFED and local communities."

Prior to the installation of the bypass, instream flow releases for salmon and steelhead could be interrupted by acts of nature or plant failure. Because Englebright Dam was designed to hold back mining debris, it has no low-level water outlet. For water to be

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State Agencies

The Resources Agency – California State Parks / Delta Protection Commission / Department of Conservation / Department of Fish and Game / Department of Water Resources / San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission / The Reclamation Board /

California Environmental Protection Agency – State Water Resources Control Board / **California Department of Food and Agriculture** / **California Department of Health Services**

Federal Agencies

Department of the Interior – Bureau of Land Management / Bureau of Reclamation / Fish and Wildlife Service / Geological Survey / **US Army Corps of Engineers** / **Environmental Protection Agency** / **Department of Agriculture** – Natural Resources Conservation Service / **Department of Commerce** – National Marine Fisheries Service / **Western Area Power Administration**

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released past the dam it must flow through a powerplant or over the dam's top. Without the bypass, an emergency outage could result in a flow reduction or subsequent spill of warmer water over the top of the dam, harming the lower Yuba River's fisheries.

The new bypass enables the Yuba County Water Agency (YCWA) to maintain consistent, cold water releases into the lower Yuba River, even during power outages – providing an additional level of protection for the Yuba's wild salmon and steelhead. The bypass will further assist YCWA to meet the higher instream flows established by the proposed Lower Yuba River Accord. Supported by 17 local, state and federal interests, including conservation groups and local farmers, the Accord is a long-term, comprehensive program to improve lower Yuba River habitat for salmon and steelhead.

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program provided several grants to YCWA for the construction of the new bypass at the Narrows 2 hydroelectric plant, which is owned and operated by YCWA.

“Upstream ecosystem restoration projects like the Narrows 2 Bypass are good investments for CALFED,” said CALFED Director Joe Grindstaff. “Because of the importance of the Yuba's wild salmon and steelhead to the Bay-Delta's ecosystem, CALFED agencies have been investing in the Yuba River for many years.”

As part of the Yuba River Development Project, YCWA constructed the Narrows 2 hydroelectric plant in 1969. This facility is capable of generating up to 50 megawatts of carbon free, renewable hydroelectric power – or enough electricity for 20,000 California homes. The facility is 400 feet downstream of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Englebright Dam. Constructed in 1941 to prevent Gold-rush era mining debris from clogging the Yuba, Feather and Sacramento Rivers, Englebright is 24 miles upstream of the Yuba and Feather River confluence, near Marysville.

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[More Information](#)

The California Bay-Delta Program is a cooperative effort of more than 20 state and federal agencies working with local communities to improve the quality and reliability of California's water supplies and revive the San Francisco Bay-Delta ecosystem. The Bay-Delta plan is the largest, most comprehensive water management effort in the nation.