

California Bay-Delta Tribal Forum, Feb. 26th, 2004

Project Information Sheet

Delta Mendota Canal/California Aqueduct Intertie (Intertie)

Project Name Delta Mendota Canal/California Aqueduct Intertie (Intertie)

Project Lead Bureau of Reclamation

Relationship with Tribes The Bureau of Reclamation is a federal agency under the U.S. Department of Interior. As an Executive Branch agency, Reclamation acknowledges and affirms the special relationship between the United States and Federally recognized Indian tribes; Reclamation also has a trust responsibility to such tribes to evaluate the potential impacts of its undertakings on Indian trust assets and to consult with federally recognized tribes when such evaluations reveal impacts that may occur to those assets.

Location See attached map

Purpose The amount, timing, and location of water deliveries from the Delta Mendota Canal; apparent canal subsidence; siltation; the facility design; and other factors have resulted in a mismatch between authorized Tracy Pumping Plant export capacity and Delta Mendota Canal conveyance capacity. The purpose of the proposed action is to eliminate the DMC conveyance conditions that restrict the Central Valley Project Tracy Pumping Plant to less than its authorized pumping capacity of 4,600 cubic feet per second (cfs).

Benefits The Intertie would be used in a number of ways to achieve multiple benefits by allowing for the maintenance and

repair of the CVP Delta export and conveyance facilities, providing operational flexibility to respond to emergencies, and meeting current water supply demands. It would allow flow in both directions, thereby providing additional flexibility to both CVP and SWP operations. Operation of the Intertie would not result in any changes to the authorized pumping capacity at Tracy Pumping Plant or the State of California's Banks Delta Pumping Plant.

Features to be Constructed The Intertie consists of constructing and operating a pumping plant and pipeline connections between the DMC and Aqueduct. Its alignment is proposed for DMC milepost 7.2, where the DMC and Aqueduct are about 500 feet apart. The proposed action includes a 400 cfs pumping plant at the DMC that would allow up to 400 cfs to be pumped from the DMC to the Aqueduct. In reverse flow operation, up to 950 cfs could be conveyed from the Aqueduct to the DMC by gravity flow.

How It Works The Intertie would be used in three different operating scenarios:

(1) Up to 400 cfs could be pumped from the DMC to the Aqueduct to minimize impacts to water deliveries from reductions in water levels on the lower DMC (south of the Intertie) or the upper Aqueduct for system maintenance or during an emergency shutdown.

(2) Up to 950 cfs could be conveyed from the Aqueduct to the DMC using gravity flow to minimize impacts to water deliveries due to scheduled or emergency shutdown of the Tracy Pumping Plant or Fish Facility, or for required reductions in water levels on the lower Aqueduct.

(3) Up to 400 cfs could be pumped from the DMC to the Aqueduct to help meet water supply demands of CVP contractors. Tracy pumping plant would not exceed its authorized capacity of 4,600 cfs.

Potentially Interested Federally Recognized Tribes

Reclamation research indicates that there is no tribal trust land or public domain allotments in the vicinity of the proposed action. No Federally recognized tribes are located in the project area.

Opportunities for Tribal Participation

1. All tribes can request from the lead agency to be placed on mailing lists to receive notices about the project.
2. All tribes can obtain copies of environmental compliance documents to review and provide written comments about their contents.
3. All tribes can contact the CALFED lead agency, project contact, identified on this sheet for project information updates.
4. All tribes can participate in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as an interested party, relating tribal concerns about possible adverse effects to historic and Traditional Cultural Properties.
5. Federally recognized tribal governments can be engaged in the planning and development of specific CALFED projects in their areas by CALFED lead agencies.
6. CALFED Agencies can and will consult with federally recognized tribal governments on a government-to-government basis, to the extent permitted by law, prior to taking actions that affect such tribal governments.
7. Upon request, federally recognized tribes can enter into Memorandums of Understanding with CALFED Agencies

to specify how the federal, state and tribal governments will work together, on a government-to-government basis, in developing CALFED projects.

Use of Information : Information about specific CALFED projects provided by CALFED project lead agencies is intended to be used by tribes to formulate their own opinions about (1) the social, economic and environmental worthiness of the specific undertaking, (2) the potential impact such an undertaking may have on the character, use or nature of trust assets, and (3) to convey the tribe's opinions to the lead agency for analysis.

Schedule

1. Draft EA/IS available for public review in late spring 2004
2. Construction Start Date – estimated in December 2004

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