

Project Information Sheet

South Delta Improvements Program

Project Name: South Delta Improvements Program

Project Lead: Department of Water Resources and Bureau of Reclamation

Relationship with Tribes: The Department of Water Resources, as a CALFED Agency, acknowledges the CALFED Record of Decision paragraph on Tribal Consultation. The Department of Water Resources also acknowledges the special relationship between the United States and Federally recognized Indian 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 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 Southern Sacramento and San Joaquin River Delta immediately north of the City of Tracy in San Joaquin County.

Purpose Increase Clifton Court Forebay diversion to 8500 cfs, Protect stage and water quality for South Delta Water Agency, and Reduce Straying of SJR Salmon

Benefits Increased water reliability for State Water Contractors, Federal Water Contractors and South Delta Water Agency. Improved protection of San Joaquin River salmon.

Features to be Constructed Construct four barriers within south Delta channels (Old River at the San Joaquin River, Old River near the Delta Mendota Canal, west end of Grant Line Canal, and Middle River near Tracy Road), dredge several miles of south Delta channels and, extend up to 24 agricultural diversion pumps.

How It Works One permanent operable barrier at the head of Old River where it splits off of the San Joaquin River will help prevent straying of salmon from the preferred San Joaquin River. The Head of Old River barrier is closed from April 15th to May 15th to allow salmon smolts to stay in the San Joaquin River as they migrate out to sea. In October and November the barrier is closed again to protect flows in the San Joaquin River, which helps to increase dissolved oxygen in the river and keeps more of the returning adult salmon in the river. A fish ladder at the Head of Old River will give passage to adult salmon from the south Delta channels to the spawning grounds in the eastern tributaries of the San Joaquin River.

The remaining barriers and much of the dredging will protect water stage and water quality in the south Delta channels. Water stage is protected by keeping the barriers open when the tide is coming in (flood) and closing the barriers to trap some of the tide at a specific elevation. Water quality is mainly protected during periods of poor San Joaquin River water quality by trapping more tide stage behind two of the three barriers and allowing the water to circulate water through the third barrier.

Increasing the water diversion rate at Clifton Court Forebay will increase the reliability for both state and federal water contractors. The increased diversion capability will also serve to transfer some water in drier years.

Interested Federally Recognized Tribes

Cachil DeHe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa
Rancheria

Hoopa Valley Tribe
Yurok Tribe

Opportunities for Tribal Participation

1. All tribes can request from the lead agency to be placed on mailing lists to receive notices of future public outreach activities regarding CALFED projects.
2. All tribes can provide comments at hearings about CALFED projects.
3. All tribes can obtain copies of Environmental Impact Statements/Environmental Impact Reports to review and provide written comments about their contents.
4. All tribes can review CALFED lead agency internet sites on CALFED projects and provide input by email.
5. All tribes can contact the CALFED lead agency, project contact, identified on this sheet for project information updates.
6. 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.
7. Federally recognized tribal governments can be engaged in the planning and development of specific CALFED projects in their areas by CALFED lead agencies.
8. 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.

9. 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. Public Scoping Meetings held October 2002
2. Public Hearings on Draft EIS/EIR May 2004
3. Construction Start Date - 2006

Project Website: <http://www.sdelta.water.ca.gov/index.htm>

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