



The Franks Tract Project seeks to improve conditions for fish species of concern



DWR and Reclamation are the lead agencies under CEQA and NEPA respectively



Franks Tract Project potential operable gate locations

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Franks Tract Project

Project Description:

The Franks Tract Project is designed to protect fish resources and reduce seawater salinity intrusion into the Delta. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) are evaluating installing operable gates to control the flow of water at key locations (Threemile Slough and/or West False River) to limit the entry of higher salinity water into Franks Tract. In addition to improving water quality, the gates would be operated to encourage movement of fish species of concern away from the central and south Delta where their survival rates are reduced to areas that provide more favorable habitat conditions. By protecting fish resources, this project is also expected to improve operational reliability of the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP) because curtailments in water exports (pumping restrictions) likely would be less frequent.

The project gates would be operated seasonally and during certain hours of the day, depending on fisheries and tidal conditions. Boat passage facilities would be included to allow for passing of watercraft when the gates are in operation. The Franks Tract Project is consistent with ongoing planning efforts for the Delta to help balance competing uses and create a more sustainable system for the future. Preparation of a joint environmental impact report/environmental impact statement (EIR/EIS) for the project is underway, and public input is strongly encouraged. For more information, please visit: <http://www.water.ca.gov/frankstract/>.

Project Goals:

- Modify hydrodynamic conditions for fish species of concern to positively influence their movement to areas that provide favorable habitat conditions.
- Modify hydrodynamic conditions to improve water quality by reducing higher salinity sea water intrusion into the central and south Delta.

Schedule and Milestones:

Fall 2008 – Scoping and public outreach to solicit input on project

Spring 2011 – Draft EIR/EIS released for 45-day public comment period

Fall 2011 – Final EIR/EIS released

Spring 2012 – EIR certification and Record of Decision

Spring 2012 – Issuance of regulatory approvals and permits

Summer 2012 – Construction to begin