

## California Department of Water Resources NEWS

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## Interim South Delta Program Draft EIR/EIS Release

Sacramento -- The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) today released environmental documents for a program to improve south Delta flows for agriculture, water export purposes, and fish habitat. A public review and comment period on the draft environmental impact report/environmental impact statement (EIR/EIS) will remain open until December 6, 1996.

DWR and USBR are proposing the actions outlined in the Interim South Delta Program (ISDP) draft EIR/EIS to improve the flows in the south Delta and to enhance the existing water delivery capability of the State Water Project (SWP). The two agencies would share the costs of program implementation.

DWR and the USBR are members of CALFED and continue to strongly support the CALFED Bay-Delta Program in the development of a long-term solution to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The ISDP will improve Delta flows at a moderate cost for an interim period--perhaps a decade--until a long-term solution for the Delta can be implemented. The \$54 million interim project is expected to be a small fraction of the ultimate cost of long-term Delta improvements.

DWR operates the SWP, which provides water for about two-thirds of California's population, while USBR operates the federal Central Valley Project, a system that meets urban, farming and environmental needs.

People may review the draft EIR/EIS at the Sacramento Main Library, 8th and I Streets, Sacramento; the Resources Building--Water Information Center, 1416 Ninth Street, Room 115, Sacramento (8 a.m. to 4 p. m.); the Tracy Public Library, 20 E. Eaton Avenue, Tracy; and the following locations in the greater Stockton area: the Delta Field Division on West Kelso Road in Byron; the Stockton Main Library, 605 N. El Dorado Street, Stockton; San Joaquin Delta College, Goleman Library, 5151 Pacific Avenue,

Stockton; and the Department of Fish and Game's Bay-Delta Division headquarters office, 4001 N. Wilson Way, Stockton.

Two workshops and two public hearings will be held in late October or early November in Tracy and Sacramento. Places and times will be announced at a later date.

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## **FACT SHEET**

### **Interim South Delta Program**

The proposed ISDP facilities are designed to improve water levels and circulation in south Delta channels to benefit local agriculture and fish habitat and to allow the SWP to increase winter water diversions into Clifton Court Forebay. The Forebay is adjacent to the SWP's Harvey O. Banks Delta Pumping Plant, where water is pumped into the California Aqueduct. The proposed project will enable the Banks plant to take advantage of high winter flows and expand pumping from 6,700 to 10,300 cubic feet per second. These surplus flows could then be stored in reservoirs south of the Delta for delivery later in the year.

The proposed project is consistent with, and complements, that part of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act that mandates specific actions to protect San Joaquin River salmon.

The ISDP predates the creation of CALFED, the coalition of State and federal agencies now working to develop long-term solutions to Delta water problems of supply and quality. The ISDP seeks similar objectives to those of CALFED's Bay Delta Program but on a much more limited basis. Both the Bay-Delta Program and the ISDP seek to improve the Delta environment and fish habitat while ensuring that the Delta remains a productive source of high quality water for California's population. Since both programs address agriculture, fisheries, and water supply needs in the Delta, the ISDP could complement a long-term Delta solution.

DWR and USBR are coordinating with CALFED to ensure that ISDP actions do not prejudice the outcome of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program's solution development process.

The ISDP is not mandated by Proposition 204, a \$995-million legislative proposal that will be on the November 1996 election ballot. Nevertheless, Proposition 204 recognizes the need for south Delta barriers and allocates up to \$10 million for barriers and environmental enhancement in the south Delta.

The basic components of the proposed project are shown on an attached map and described below:

- Three permanent flow control structures (barriers) in the south Delta at Middle River, Old River

near Tracy, and Grant Line Canal. By opening the flow control barrier gates on the incoming tide and closing the gates when the tide begins to recede, the barriers will aid water circulation and help raise south Delta water levels when needed for irrigation by local farmers. Estimated cost of the three barriers is \$27.3 million. Construction will occur in the following stages: 1999 to 2001 for Middle River, 1999 to 2002 for Old River, and 2000 to 2003 for Grant Line.

- A fish control structure (barrier) at the head of Old River. In the spring, the fish control barrier will direct outmigrating San Joaquin salmon away from the SWP and CVP pumps and prevent them from being trapped behind the barriers. In the fall, the barrier will increase the survival of adult salmon migrating up the San Joaquin River by increasing flows in the San Joaquin. The additional flows will improve circulation and water quality near Stockton. The barrier is estimated to cost \$5.7 million. Construction should start in 1998 and be completed in 2001.
- A new intake structure at the north end of the Clifton Court Forebay. The new intake structure will cost an estimated \$17.5 million. Construction is scheduled from 1998 to 2001.
- Dredge five miles of Old River, north of the Clifton Court Forebay. Estimated cost of the dredging is \$3.4 million and is expected to take place between 1998 and 2001.

The new Clifton Court intake structure and dredging project is designed to enable the SWP to increase diversions into the forebay. During high winter flows, this would allow pumping at Banks Pumping Plant to increase from 6,400 to 10,300 cfs. The increased pumping capability would provide pumping flexibility for both water supply and environmental restoration benefits.

People may review the draft EIR/EIS at the Sacramento Main Library, 8th and I Streets, Sacramento; the Resources Building--Water Information Center, 1416 Ninth Street, Room 115, Sacramento (8 a.m. to 4 p. m.); the Tracy Public Library, 20 E. Eaton Avenue, Tracy; and the following locations in the greater Stockton area: the Delta Field Division on West Kelso Road in Byron; the Stockton Main Library, 605 N. El Dorado Street, Stockton; San Joaquin Delta College, Goleman Library, 5151 Pacific Avenue, Stockton; and the Department of Fish and Game's Bay-Delta Division headquarters office, 4001 N. Wilson Way, Stockton.

Two workshops and two public hearings will be held in late October or early November in Tracy and Sacramento. Places and times will be announced at a later date.

To receive a copy of either the Executive Summary or the entire draft EIR/EIS, contact Judy Fong, DWR, (916) 653-3496, fax (916) 653-6077.

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*The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and*

*water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs. The State Water Project provides water to two-thirds of California's population.*

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