

## **American River Pump Station Project** **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

**Q1.** What is this Project's purpose?

**A1.** The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) are pursuing the development of a year-round water diversion facility capable of diverting up to 35,500 acre-feet annually of PCWA's water entitlements from its Middle Fork Project on the American River. The Project will provide a pumping plant for PCWA to provide year-round access to its Middle Fork American River water entitlements, eliminate the safety hazard associated with the Auburn Dam bypass tunnel; and allow for the beneficial use of the now dewatered river channel.

**Q2.** Can you provide some background on the Project?

**A2.** As part of PCWA's Middle Fork American River Project, PCWA constructed a pumping plant at this location in 1964-67. This plant was removed by Reclamation to make way for construction of Auburn Dam. Under an agreement between PCWA and Reclamation, the bureau was to provide an interim pumping plant until Auburn Dam was completed. Reclamation built the interim plant in 1977, and removes it each fall and reinstalls it each spring in order to avoid damage by winter floods. It is now not able to meet the ever-increasing water demands of PCWA's service area.

**Q3.** What work will be performed?

**A3.** The project consists of constructing a pump station, and associated facilities including pipelines, access roads, power lines and safety features in the American River Canyon within the Auburn Dam construction area. It will also include building an intake structure for the pumping plant, restoring the currently de-watered river segment near Auburn that will allow for all beneficial uses of water, including recreation, navigation, and other instream uses. Additional improvements will be made to ensure safe public access near the Project area.

**Q4.** When will the project begin and end?

**A4.** Site construction activity began in September 2003 and will conclude in 2008.

**Q5.** How much does the project cost, and what contractor will do the work?

**A5.** The project is being constructed in two phases. On June 13, 2003, Reclamation awarded a \$16,974,135 contract to Steve Manning Construction of Redding, California, to build Phase 1 of the American River Pump Station Project. Phase 1 included constructing a pump station and associated facilities.



**Q6.** What is Phase 2 of the Project? When will it start, and briefly what does it entail?

**A6.** A \$30,998,789.00 contract for Phase 2 was awarded on August 24, 2006, to Ford Construction Company, Inc. of Lodi, California. That contract will include building an intake structure for the pumping station, then closing the Auburn Dam diversion tunnel, as well as some additional features for public access.

**Q7.** Who is paying for it?

**A7.** The Bureau of Reclamation is paying the costs associated with construction of a 100 cubic feet per second pump plant. Additional costs to provide the ability to up rate or enlarge the pump plant are being paid by the Placer County Water Agency. The State of California is paying for some of the channel restoration costs.

**Q8.** How much noise will construction cause?

**A8.** Construction noise levels are being kept within Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration limits. Given the distance and natural sound barriers between the construction site and nearby residences and other areas of public habitation, construction activity is not perceptible to most people. Some increase in traffic on Maidu Dr. has resulted from construction entry and exit. Construction vehicles entering and leaving the site are restricted from roads that have homes fronting them. Construction noise is being monitored by sensitive noise receptors on the canyon rim.

**Q9.** What are you doing to minimize the other effects of construction on nearby residents?

**A9.** In addition to keeping noise levels as low as possible, extensive fire hazard abatement measures are being required of the contractor to eliminate accidental fires. In addition, the contractor is required to comply with strict dust abatement measures.

**Q10.** What cities and towns will get water from this pumping plant?

**A10.** The PCWA Pumping Plant will supply water to Penryn, Loomis, Rocklin, Lincoln, portions of Granite Bay, and unincorporated areas of Placer County.

**Q11.** How much water will be withdrawn from the American River by this project each year?

**A11.** PCWA's Middle Fork Project water rights total 120,000 acre-feet per year. Of that amount, this project will divert from 10,000 to 13,000 acre-feet of water annually when the pumps go into operation, climbing gradually as the needs grow. The remaining PCWA water rights water from Folsom Dam is made available to the City of Roseville, San Juan Water District, and Sacramento Suburban Water District under separate water supply contracts.

**Q12.** Placer County is still growing. Can the pumping plant be enlarged in the future to handle increased demand?

**A12.** Installed pump plant capacity will be 100 cubic feet per second. The plant can be upgraded in the future to move 225 cubic feet per second.

**Q13.** Does the closure of the diversion tunnel, putting the river back in its channel, and building the Placer County Water Agency Pump Station kill any chances of an Auburn Dam being built?

**A13.** No. Reclamation retains the Project area lands pending further Congressional action regarding a dam. If a dam is built at the Auburn site in the future, diversion capability for PCWA's Middle Fork Project Entitlement will be incorporated as previously planned.

**Q14.** Will this project increase the spawning run for fish in the river?

**A14.** There is no spawning run of fish that return from the ocean, such as salmonids. Ocean going fish cannot access the upper American River.

**Q15.** What effect will this project have on whitewater rafting both during and after construction?

**A15.** During construction no change to existing conditions will occur – the Auburn Dam site area will remain closed to boating activities. When construction of Phase 2 is completed, non-powered boating access through the dam site will be restored. Limited take out facilities will be incorporated in Phase 2 construction.

**Q16.** What effect will the project have on hiking, horse riding, running, and mountain biking on the Auburn-to-Cool trail during construction?

**A16.** Day to day public access on the Auburn to Cool trail by hiking, biking, and horse back is limited to Sundays only during construction. Portions of the trail have been re-routed around the American River Pump Station Project construction site. Arrangements are being made for special events that are scheduled to occur on Saturdays. The trail closure continues in effect to protect public safety during Project construction.

**Q17.** How has the Auburn to Cool Trail been rerouted?

**A17.** The trail is re-routed off the cofferdam in the middle of the construction zone. Instead, it travels up over the diversion tunnel outlet and uses old haul roads that switch back and forth up into the Knickerbocker Flats area. Once on top of the ridge, the trail continues to use old roadbeds to connect into the Olmstead Loop Trail. The Auburn to Cool Trail is the only designated trail open for public use near the Auburn Dam site. The public can continue to use the roads and trails that access the river at Oregon Bar that are downstream of the construction site closed area.

**Q18.** Can you list the changes recreationists will see following Project completion?

**A18.** The Auburn Dam diversion tunnel will be closed and the river re-routed through its historic channel, allowing small non-powered boat or raft passage on the river. Small boat take out facilities will be provided near the Auburn Dam site, and limited public access to the river channel will be provided, as well as a parking lot for use by boaters and other people recreating in the canyon. In addition, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, responsible for management of recreation activities within the Auburn State Recreation Area, will provide a parking area located outside of the gate at the Maidu Drive entrance to the Project area to allow for limited parking for trail users and to minimize the potential for recreation-related parking along Maidu Drive. A gated entrance and staffed booth at Maidu Drive will be built, and parking areas and sanitation facilities (trash containers and restrooms) will be available for public health and safety purposes.