

## Newlands Project Planning Study

The Newlands Project Planning Study (Study) will investigate a range of potential alternatives to serve Newlands Project (Project) water rights holders and reduce public safety risks associated with operating the Truckee Canal. The Study arose from a January 2008 breach of the Project's Truckee Canal that flooded nearly 600 properties in the city of Fernley and led to restrictions on the amount of water the canal may convey. Currently, the canal is limited to a maximum of 350 cubic feet per second (cfs), but prior to the breach, it had conveyed flows up to 900 cfs. In the future, this restriction could exacerbate the shortages that Project users experience.

The Study is a federal effort to investigate options for safely serving Project water rights, and will culminate in a special report to help guide decisions about the Project's future.

### Project Background

Originally known as the Truckee-Carson Project, the Newlands Project is one of Reclamation's oldest irrigation projects. Since 1903, it has served water users in the Truckee and Carson River Basins in northwest Nevada for agricultural and, increasingly, other purposes. Many rights in the Truckee Division are now exercised by municipal and industrial users, while the Carson Division now supports thousands of acres of Lahontan Valley wetlands. In total, the Project serves about 57,000 acres of irrigated land.

Sources of Project water include the Carson River and Truckee River. Primary Project facilities include Lake Tahoe Dam, Derby Dam, the Truckee Canal, Lahontan Dam and Reservoir, Carson Dam, and a network of canals that serve the Carson Division. (See Study area map, back page.) Operation and maintenance of Project facilities is performed by the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District under a contract with Reclamation.



**Derby Dam diverts water from the Truckee River into the Project's Truckee Canal approximately 32 miles east of Reno.**

### Study Process

The planning study's central task is to formulate and evaluate a set of alternatives to meet the objectives of resolving problems with the Truckee Canal and serving Project water rights. Each alternative will be built around a potential Truckee Canal capacity restriction to address the safety objectives, and will also include a blend of additional measures to help achieve water supply reliability and Project viability. Truckee Canal capacities investigated could range from 0 cfs to the full-service conveyance before the breach. Reclamation will host public meetings in Fernley, Nixon, and Fallon, Nevada—key locations in the Study area—to provide information and progress updates, and to obtain feedback to be used in the alternatives development process.

For further information on the Newlands Project and the Study, please visit <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/lbao/>.

