

Central Valley Project Improvement Act

Project Summary: Restoration of rivers in California's Central Valley Project is one of the primary requirements of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act of 1992. The CVPIA amends previous authorizations of the CVP, which is one of the world's largest systems for storing and moving water, to include fish and wildlife protection and mitigation as project purposes that have equal priority with irrigation, domestic uses and power generation. From 1993-2010, Reclamation's CVPIA Program completed several major river projects, including restoration of Butte Creek and installation of fish screens in the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District and Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District. Overall, the CVPIA Program completed 98 actions from the river restoration plan in 26 watersheds throughout the Central Valley, focusing on removal of barriers from rivers, flood plain restoration and riverbed gravel supplementation. Reclamation also has assisted

the State of California in construction of 29 fish screen diversions ranging from 11 cubic feet per second

to 960 cfs, for a cumulative total of more than 4,800 cfs. CVPIA river restoration embodies the America's Great Outdoors Initiative in many respects, including expansive ecological restoration.

Strategic Value: River restoration within the CVP is a key aspect of meeting the CVPIA fisheries goal, which is to double the natural production of anadromous fish on a sustainable basis. The current scope of the CVPIA includes 15 programs that fall into three resource areas: fisheries, refuges, and other resources. Major ongoing fishery projects include the San Joaquin River Restoration Program in central California; and the Red Bluff Fish Passage Improvement Project and the Trinity River Restoration Program in northern California.



Map of Central Valley Project



Channel deepening work on the Trinity River

Benefits: River restoration is an important aspect of meeting CVPIA requirements for fish and wildlife mitigation as the CVP meets its water supply responsibilities. The CVP has long-term agreements to supply water to more than 250 contractors in 29 of California's 58 counties. Deliveries by the CVP include providing an annual average of 5 million acre-feet of water for farms; 600,000 acre-feet of water for municipal and industrial uses; and water for wildlife refuges and maintaining water quality in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.