

Red Bluff Fish Passage Improvement Project Milestone Reached



On January 5th a key milestone was reached at the Red Bluff Fish Passage Improvement Project, the installation of the first pump of nine in the new pump station. In the coming weeks, eight more pumps will be installed which will be able to move a total of 2000 cfs at full operation.

"I toured the construction site last Friday and was very pleased by the ongoing construction," said Brian Person, NCAO Area Manager. "They've made impressive progress on the screen and pumping plant since my last visit, and they are close to being ready to install the second pump."

The Red Bluff Fish Passage Improvement Project is a joint project with the Bureau of Reclamation and the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority and is the culmination of over 40 years of efforts by various entities to find a balanced solution that improves fish passage and the reliability of irrigation water deliveries.

Construction includes an intake structure, a 1,118 foot long fish screen structure, a pumping plant, an access bridge and a discharge conduit.

The Red Bluff Diversion Dam (RBDD) has been an obstacle for fish migration when its gates are down, noting that most of the spawning habitat for the endangered salmon and steelhead occurs upstream of the dam. After the project is completed the RBDD's gates will be permanently placed open while the new fish screen and pumping system divert water from the Sacramento River into the Tehama-Colusa and Corning Canals, ensuring safe fish passage.

The groundbreaking for this project took place on March 23, 2010 and included Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Construction started in spring of 2010 with pictures available dating back to May of 2010 (<http://www.usbr.gov/mp/rbfish/index.html>).

The project is on track to deliver water in May 2012 with an overall project construction completion scheduled for December 2012.

The total project cost estimate is \$200 million. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding for this project was \$115.5 million, which represents the largest single outlay of ARRA funding in the nation by the Department of the Interior creating roughly 1,200 jobs.

