

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## Environmental Impact Statement

### Remanded Biological Opinions on the Coordinated Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation

# Public Scoping Meetings Agenda

- Overview
- Scoping process
- Public comment forum

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# Purpose of Scoping

- Invite public comments
- Obtain insights and specific local information related to issues for Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- Obtain input on alternatives to be considered in the EIS
- **PLEASE PROVIDE WRITTEN COMMENTS, TOO!**

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# Why is Reclamation Preparing this EIS?

2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reclamation issued a Biological Assessment on Long-Term Operations of the Central Valley Project &amp; State Water Project</li><li>• U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Biological Opinion issued for delta smelt populations and their critical habitat</li><li>• Reclamation accepted the Reasonable and Prudent Alternative (RPA)</li></ul>
2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Biological Opinion issued for salmonids, green sturgeon, and Southern resident killer whale populations and their critical habitat</li><li>• Reclamation accepted the RPA</li></ul>
2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Following several litigations, U.S. District Court ruled that:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Portions of the USFWS and NMFS BOs remanded to USFWS and NMFS</li><li>• Reclamation should review potential impacts to human environment prior to accepting and implementing the RPAs</li></ul></li><li>• Reclamation is initiating a combined National Environmental Policy Act process to evaluate USFWS and NMFS RPAs or alternatives to the RPAs</li></ul>

# What is a Biological Opinion?

- **Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act requires:**
  - **Federal agencies, in consultation with USFWS and/or the NMFS, to ensure that actions they authorize, fund, or implement are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of federally-listed threatened or endangered species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat of these species**
- **A BO is the technical document that evaluates the effects of the Federal action**
- **If jeopardy is likely, a BO may include a RPA**

# What is an EIS?

- **Purpose of an EIS**
  - To evaluate a reasonable range of alternatives
  - To identify potential benefits and adverse impacts, and propose mitigation to reduce/avoid impacts
  - To provide information for public review and comment
  - To support decision making process by the Federal agency
  - Prepared in accordance with NEPA
- **An EIS addresses more issues than a BO**
  - Water Resources
  - Other Physical Resources - such as Air Quality
  - Biological Resources - including non- federally-listed threatened or endangered species
  - Human Resources - including land use, socioeconomics, and cultural resources

# What will this EIS Consider?

- This EIS will consider conditions through 2030
- This EIS will consider the operational components of the USFWS and NMFS RPAs or alternatives to the RPAs
- This EIS will include both site-specific and programmatic analyses based upon available definition of potential actions within the alternatives



# Public Input During Scoping Process

- **Your input will help shape the EIS**
  - What alternatives should be considered?
  - What environmental issues should be evaluated?
  - When and how would you like to be informed?
- **What happens to comments?**
  - Comments will be compiled in a Scoping Report which will be made available to the public on Reclamation's website

# How Can You Provide Comments?

- **Comments for Scoping Report due May 29, 2012**
- **To provide comments today**
  - Comment Cards
  - Verbal Comments
  - Individual comments to transcriber
- **To provide comments after today until May 29, 2012**
  - Email: *[jpinero@usbr.gov](mailto:jpinero@usbr.gov)* OR Fax: (916) 414-2439
  - Mail:
    - Janice Piñero, Endangered Species Act Specialist*
    - Bureau of Reclamation, Bay-Delta Office*
    - 801 I Street, Suite 140*
    - Sacramento, CA 95814-2536*

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# Scoping Meeting Guidelines

- **Ensure everyone's participation**
  - Meeting is structured to give everyone an opportunity to participate
- **Respect each other's comments**
  - Listen carefully to other participants
  - Place cell phones/pagers on vibrate and silent mode
- **Honor time limits**
  - Please keep comments concise so everyone has an opportunity to speak
- **Identify yourself and your affiliation**
  - This will help the transcriber, Reclamation staff, and the audience

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# Guidelines for Verbal Comments

- Fill out a Speaker Card and submit to facilitator
- Everyone will be heard
- Please be respectful
- Please limit comments to 3 minutes
- All comments will be recorded by a transcriber
- Please introduce yourself and affiliation to help the transcriber
- Reclamation is here to listen

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# For More Information

- [www.usbr.gov/mp/BayDeltaOffice](http://www.usbr.gov/mp/BayDeltaOffice)
- Sign up to receive periodic electronic updates on sign-in sheet
- Provide comments throughout preparation of EIS