



— BUREAU OF —  
RECLAMATION

# LTO WINN Act Meeting

June 10, 2025

# Agenda

- Proposed Regulatory Changes
- Executive Orders 14181
- Modification of 2024 ROD
- Trinity River Division Updates
- Sites Reservoir



# Prior WINN Act Quarterly Meeting (1 of 3)

- March 2022 – Scoping Meetings
- June 2022 – Initial Alternatives
- September 2022 – Seasonal Operation Deconstruction and Initial Alternatives
- December 2022 – Lines of Evidence
- March 2023 – Environmental Impact Statement (Alternative Components)



# Prior WIIN Act Quarterly Meeting (2 of 3)

- September 2023 – Modeling Updates, EIS, BA comment themes
- December 2023 – Biological Modeling and Biological Assessment
- March 2024 – Cooperating Agency 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft EIS release
- June 2024 – Cooperating Agency Comment Themes, Release of DEIS



# Prior WIIN Act Quarterly Meeting (3 of 3)

- September 2024 – Themes of Public Meeting Comments Received on DEIS
- September 2024 – Themes of Public Meeting Comments Received on DEIS
- December 2024 – Final Record of Decision and TRD Initial Modeling Progress





# Proposed Regulatory Changes

- Executive Order 14154 – Unleashing American Energy
  - Issued January 20, 2025
  - Rescinded 1977 EO 11514: *Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality* (as amended by EO 11991)
  - Directed CEQ to propose rescission of its NEPA implementing regulation within 30 days



# Proposed Regulatory Changes

- CEW Recission of NEPA Regulations
  - Issued a Memorandum on Implementation of NEPA on February 19, 2025
  - Rescinded its NEPA Implementing Regulations on February 5, 2025
  - Interim Final Rule Effective April 11, 2025
- DOI Existing Procedures for NEPA Regulations
  - 43 CFR Part 46
  - Department Manual 516



# Proposed Regulatory Changes

- On April 17, 2025, USFWS and NMFS proposed a rule to rescind regulatory definition of “harm” in the ESA
- Harm will continue to be included under the statutory term “take”
- Removal of the definition may narrow ESA protections





# Proposed Regulatory Changes

- Potential Outcomes

- Reduced Section 7 consultations
- Narrowed scope of effects due to habitat alteration
- Shifts in mitigation and conservation strategies
- Streamlined environmental compliance processes
- Increased flexibility in water management



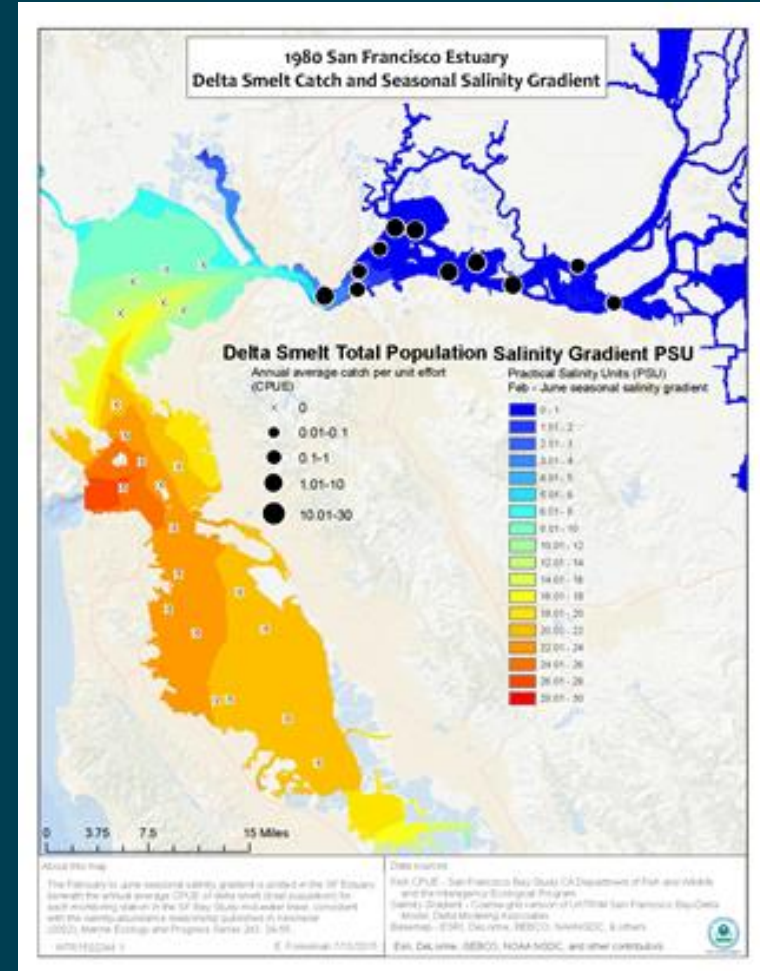
# Executive Order 14181

- *Emergency Measures to Provide Water Resources in California and Improve Disaster Response in Certain Areas – January 24, 2025*
  - Sec. 2 (c) – operate the CVP to deliver more water and produce additional hydropower
  - Sec. 2 (d) – expedite action related the ESA for LTO
- Consider the 2020 ROD



# Modification of 2024 ROD – Remove Fall X2

- Maintain a 30-day average X2  $\leq$  80 km east of GGB from Sep to Oct for wet and above normal years
- Adaptive Management
  - Address uncertainty
  - USFWS 2024 BO – *“The Fall X2 is not anticipated to have observable effects on Delta smelt survival.”*
- Environmental Compliance
  - Reclamation’s evaluation of removing Fall X2
  - Not implementing Fall X2 was analyzed under Alt 1 and 4

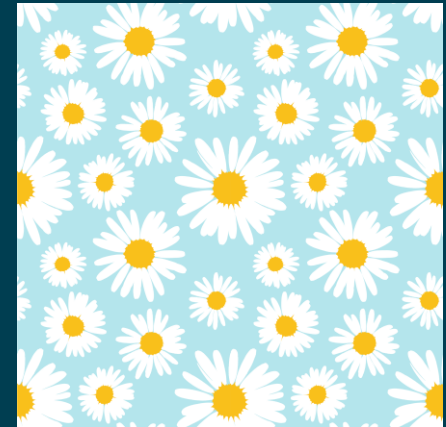


Source: US EPA



# Modification of 2024 ROD – Spring Delta Outflow

- In 2025, Reclamation operated to D-1641 and OMR management
- Environmental Compliance
  - Analyzed in the 2024 FEIS
    - Alts2wTUCPwoVA
  - Analyzed in USFWS and NMFS 2024 Bos
    - USFWS: no discernable or incremental negative effect if not implemented
    - NMFS: within the range of effects under Alt2woTUCPwoVA



# Trinity River Division (TRD) Reconsultation Update

- Eight Joint Lead Technical meetings in 2024
- Three Joint Lead Technical meetings in 2025
- Topics of discussion include
  - Relation to Central Valley
  - Development of Biological Assessment
  - Development of supplemental EIS
  - CalSim modeling
  - Approach for analyzing water temperatures for alternatives
  - Approach for analyzing effects to salmonids
  - Lines of evidence
  - Alternative development and screening





# TRD NEPA Update

- Chapter 3 – Alternatives
- Development of draft Technical Appendices
- CalSim III Model Output
- Resource Analysis
- Lines of Evidence



# Trinity Consultation Schedule

Alternatives Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ongoing</li><li>• Late Spring 2025</li></ul>
Modeling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Late Spring 2025</li></ul>
NEPA/Biological Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Summer 2025</li></ul>
Public Draft NEPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fall 2025</li></ul>
Biological Opinion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Late 2025</li></ul>
Final NEPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Early 2026</li></ul>
NEPA Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Early 2026</li></ul>



# Sites Reservoir

- ESA Framework Programmatic Consultation
  - For Construction – ongoing
  - For Operations - tiering



# Upcoming

- Next WINN Act Quarterly Meeting in September
- E.O. 14181 Implementation
- Trinity Alternatives Analysis
- Trinity Biological Assessment







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Thank you