



Continuous Flow and Water Quality Monitoring Network Update- February 2026

Background

Reclamation continues to fund and has assumed direct operation of the continuous flow and water quality monitoring network previously maintained by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). This transition strengthens Reclamation's ability to ensure continued access to essential water data for operations, habitat management, and regulatory compliance. The transition occurred during a federal government shutdown, adding logistical complexity to the transfer.

Station Transition

Over a three-week period beginning November 18, 2025, the agencies transitioned stations comprising Reclamation's portion of the monitoring network. The transfer was completed on December 12, 2025. The transfer included:

- 29 stations: monitoring instrumentation only
- 6 stations: monitoring instrumentation and instrument control boxes
- 0 stations: transfer of power or telemetry equipment

Due to the lack of power and telemetry equipment, real-time reporting of these stations to CDEC could not be maintained until replacement equipment could be procured and installed.

Reclamation took steps minimize data loss and capture interim data. The interim data will be available on CDEC once the telemetry equipment is reinstalled.

In February 2026, raw data collected between October 1, 2025 and each station's transfer date was provided to Reclamation. Complete metadata necessary for full quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) validation was not provided; therefore, data collected during this period will remain provisional.

Interim Monitoring and New Installations

To minimize data gaps associated with the transfer, Reclamation built and deployed seven temporary water quality stations equipped with sondes (compact submersible instruments) at locations critical for water management operations. Data from these stations were manually collected and routinely posted to a Reclamation water quality dashboard. The temporary stations were removed as the fixed stations came under Reclamation operation. A new water quality

sonde was also installed near the existing Jersey Point (SJJ) monitoring site. This new site, identified as SJW, is transmitting real-time data to the California Data Exchange Center (CDEC).

Operations and Upgrades

Since assuming station transfer, Reclamation has:

- Conducted manual data downloads at all sites equipped with YSI sondes (core water quality data)
- Provided battery power to support Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADCP) data collection where feasible
- Begun installing interim instrument control boxes to enable continuous monitoring and reporting of core water quality and flow parameters
- Inspected all transferred stations, determining that approximately 25% of the stations are in poor condition

Station Status

- Multiple stations, including San Joaquin at Jersey Point (SJW), transmit real-time data directly to CDEC
- Additional stations are being activated telemetry-based reporting on an on-going basis

All calibration, maintenance, and data management follow standard operating procedures consistent with, or exceeding, previous protocols for this network. Standard operating procedures will be made available through the project site. Data are made publicly available through CDEC and Reclamation's dashboard (please contact BDO with data requests).

Next Steps

Installation of interim control boxes is occurring and anticipated to be completed in March 2026. Permanent control boxes and upgraded power supplies are scheduled for installation in spring and summer 2026. Once installation is completed, all stations will transmit continuous monitoring data in real time for all water quality and flow parameters previously monitored at each station. Legacy rating curves, funded and previously used with these efforts, were not delivered; therefore, Reclamation is developing new flow and sediment rating curves: This process will require one to three years of data collection. Until new rating curves are developed and validated, flow and sediment data will remain provisional.

For Additional Information

Reclamation is proud of its Delta monitoring program and remains committed to transparency, data continuity, and high-quality science. Updates and data visualizations will be made publicly available as work progresses through CDEC and Reclamation's dashboard. For more info, visit:

<https://www.usbr.gov/mp/bdo/>.