



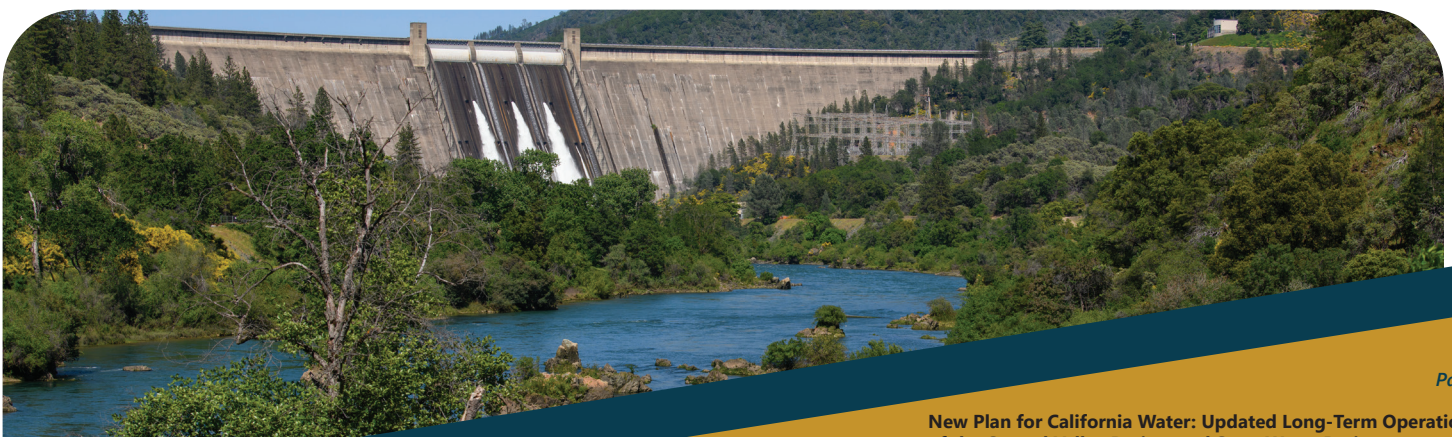
New Plan for California Water: Updated Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project

Federal and state agencies are finalizing a collaborative framework for federal and state water operations to better address long-term drought, manage for listed species and their habitat, address community needs, and prepare for the future. The updated plan for the coordinated operation of the Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP) responds to the new era of drought and climate change. The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) operates the CVP and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) operates the SWP; together, the projects deliver water to cities, farms, and wildlife refuges across California.

The updated rules mark a new path forward, with aligned operations for the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and a drought-resilient framework for operating Delta facilities and Shasta Reservoir that will provide more certainty for water users and fish and wildlife. The plan includes a new winter-run action plan to improve viability over the next 10 years, an adaptive management approach to incorporate new science, and a federal strategy to evaluate impacts of new water infrastructure.

The Process

Reclamation and DWR collaborated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), NOAA Fisheries, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to develop revised operating rules, which make up the proposed action. Reclamation and DWR analyzed impacts of the proposed action and alternatives under National Environmental Policy Act and California Environmental Quality Act respectively. The fish and wildlife agencies also analyzed this proposed action consistent with the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and California ESA. The last step is Reclamation's signing of the Record of Decision including whether to adopt the proposed action as evaluated by the USFWS and NOAA Fisheries biological opinions as defined under the ESA and associated Reasonable and Prudent Measures to minimize the effects of incidental take on species. Once signed, the Projects will begin operating to the new plan.



Next Steps

Over the last year, interested parties and independent peer reviewers have reviewed the draft documents, and the agencies have incorporated their comments and feedback as appropriate. Over the next two months the agencies will release a series of documents that evaluate, and ultimately decide on future water operations:

- DWR Final Environmental Impact Report assesses the impacts of the proposed action
- CDFW Incidental Take Permit ensures impacts to state-listed and candidate species are minimized and fully mitigated
- USFWS Biological Opinion assesses the effects on federally-listed species such as Delta smelt, longfin smelt, and 14 terrestrial species and their critical habitat
- NOAA Fisheries Biological Opinion analyzes the effects on federally-listed Chinook salmon, steelhead, green sturgeon, Southern Resident killer whales and their critical habitat
- Reclamation Final Environmental Impact Statement evaluates the environmental impacts of the proposed action and identified alternatives
- Reclamation Record of Decision adopts the final plan for revised CVP/SWP operations

SCHEDULE

*Dates subject to change

EIS = Environmental Impact Statement
EIR = Environmental Impact Report
BiOp = Biological Opinion
ROD = Record of Decision





Media Contacts


Media contacts can assist with further information and details about their upcoming documents.


Reclamation also released a series of online story maps describing the purpose of the new framework, which provides greater resilience at a time of unpredictable drought and change. (www.usbr.gov/mp/bdo/ito/index.html)

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