

Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2005

I. Program Title. Refuge Water Supply Program Refuge Water Conveyance (Wheeling)
Component CVPIA Sections 3406(d)(1), (2) and (5)

II. Responsible Entities

	Agency	Staff Name	Role
Lead	USBR	Dan Meier	Program Manager
Co-Lead	USFWS	Dale Garrison	Refuge Water Supply Coordinator

The Refuge Water Supply Program has three components; water acquisition, water conveyance and facilities construction. This work plan covers water conveyance (wheeling) as well as coordination between the other two components. The refuge water acquisition component is covered in the Water Acquisition Program work plan and the refuge facilities construction component is covered in the Long-Term Facilities Construction Program and in the San Joaquin Basin Action Plan Program work plans.

III Program Objectives for FY 2005

The Refuge Water Supply Program aims to meet the mandate of Section 3406(d)(1), (2), and (5) of the CVPIA; to provide long-term, firm and reliable water deliveries to certain Federal, State, and private wildlife refuges located in the Central Valley of California.

IV Status of the Program

The Program is interconnected with other refuge water related programs such as activities in the Water Acquisition Program, Facilities Construction and San Joaquin Basin Action Plan. The Program conveys set quantities of water based on refuge water supply contracts using cooperative agreements with wheeling entities using Project or acquired water. There are allocations for both the Level 2 and Incremental Level 4 water to be supplied to each refuge that serve as the program's goals for water conveyance quantities. However, each year in February and March the CVO and the Water Acquisition Program announce the actual available refuge water quantities for the contract, or water year, that begins in March. At this time an annual water delivery schedule is established for each refuge by the IRWMT. The schedules are reviewed by the CVO, Water Acquisition Program and the refuge water supply program manager in coordination with the IRWMT. Much of the Program's activities are focused on delivering water according to the annual schedules and in compliance with the water supply contracts and associated conveyance cooperative agreements. If the CVO and/or the Water Acquisition Program cannot provide full level 2 or Incremental Level 4 allocation, then this Program component (conveyance) cannot convey the water to the refuges. Likewise, if either of the construction programs has not completed water conveyance facilities this program cannot deliver water to the affected

refuges. It is critical that the Refuge Water Supply Program (conveyance/wheeling), Refuge Construction (both the MP700 and the South Central California offices), and the Water Acquisition Program have close intra agency coordination to ensure the mandate of Section 3406(d)(1) and (2) of the CVPIA is met.

To meet the mandate of the CVPIA, the refuge water supply contracts between Reclamation and Grassland Water District (GWD), USFWS, and CDFG identify the requirements of each party to the contract, which includes the quantities of Level 2 and Incremental Level 4 water supplies mandated by the CVPIA to be provided by Reclamation on an annual basis. There are five refuge water supply contracts: two with CDFG for water to Gray Lodge, Los Banos, Volta, Mendota and North Grasslands, two with the USFWS for water to Sacramento, Delevan, Colusa, Sutter, San Luis, Merced, Kern and Pixley and one with Grassland Water District for water to the district's privately-owned and managed wetlands. The costs shown in this Work Plan under conveyance cooperative agreement and water supply contract section represent the calculated costs of conveying the quantities of water identified in the contracts.

To meet the mandate of the CVPIA, eight long-term (25-30 year) and three interim conveyance cooperative agreements are currently in place and are administered by the Program. The long-term agreements are with San Luis Canal Company (two agreements), Central California Irrigation District, Grassland Water District, San Luis Delta Mendota Water Authority, Buena Vista Water Storage District, Biggs-West Gridley Water District and the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District. The one interim agreement is with Department of Water Resources. The interim agreement will continue to provide for refuge water conveyance until a long-term agreement can be negotiated.

The area offices manage a significant portion of the agreement negotiation. The South Central California area office, including Tracy office manages California Department of Water Resources, Buena Vista Water Storage District, San Luis Canal Company, Grassland Water District, and Central California Irrigation District, cooperative agreements. The Shasta office in Willows manages the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, Biggs-West Gridley Water District and Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority cooperative agreements.

V FY 2004 Accomplishments

1. Delivered Level 2 and Level 4 quantities of water per the Refuge Water service contracts according to the delivery schedules provided by GWD, USFWS, and CDFG: approximately 369,955 AF Level 2 water (321,700 AF delivered to refuge boundary) and approximately 70,000 AF Incremental Level 4 (63,000 AF delivered to refuge boundary).
2. Worked with the Interagency Refuge Water Management Team (IRWMT) to develop Level 2 and Incremental Level 4 water delivery schedule scenarios, expedite refuge monthly water delivery schedules, prioritized limited Incremental Level 4 water supplies and continued to participate in the long range planning study

- “Evaluation of Groundwater Potential for Level 4 Refuge Water Supplies”, and to provide input to the summary of existing refuge related water quality standards.
3. Negotiated a new 5-year contract with DWR for conveyance of water deliveries to Kern NWR (note – pending final negotiation)
 4. Continued development of integrated refuge water supply database for water accounting, delivery scheduling and invoicing.
 5. Continued development of a report highlighting specific biological benefits documented on refuge units since CVPIA has been implemented.
 6. Coordinated with CALFED and California State University San Luis Obispo staff to install water monitoring and conservation equipment on Kern NWR on a trial basis.
 7. Completed the project for new water measurement devices for the San Luis NWR through cooperative efforts with Grassland Water District.
 8. Completed the draft Refuge Criteria. The criteria was published in the Federal Register on June 28, 2004 for a 30 day public review and comment period.

VI Tasks, Costs, Schedules and Deliverables

A. Narrative Explanation of Tasks.

1. Program Management.
 - 1.1 Cooperative Agreement and Water Supply Contracts Negotiation and Administration. Staff manages existing long-term, interim and negotiable new long-term conveyance agreements and assists with facility improvement (construction) agreements with cooperating entities.

Using cooperative agreements as the funding mechanism, the program reimburses cooperating entities for conveying Level 2 and Incremental Level 4 water to the refuges. The area offices manage a significant portion of the conveyance agreement administration. The South Central California area offices, including the Tracy office, manages California Department of Water Resources, Buena Vista Water Storage District, San Luis Canal Company, Grassland Water District, and Central California Irrigation District cooperative agreements. The Shasta office in Willows manages the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, Biggs-West Gridley Water District and Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority cooperative agreements.

Using water supply contracts, the program has agreed to provide certain quantities of water to refuges. Contract administration consists of coordinating with Central Valley Operations office (CVO), the Water Acquisition Program and the refuges on water needs and delivery schedules to ensure the contract obligations are met. CVO is responsible for providing Level 2 water supplies and the water acquisition program component is responsible for acquiring Incremental Level 4 supplies.

Program funding is organized in two categories - program management and conveyance cooperative agreements and water supply contract administration. The \$7,800,000 total program budget will be split as follows:

BOR

\$416,567 program management
\$6,273,433 wheeling agreements
\$6,690,000 Total

FWS

\$269,646 program management
\$840,354 wheeling agreements
\$1,110,000 Total

The majority of the funds allocated to this program, approximately 93 percent, will be used for conveyance cooperative agreements and water supply contract administration; the program reimburses water delivering entities using cooperative agreements for costs of conveying Level 2 and Incremental Level 4 water supplies through Federal, State, and private water distribution systems to the refuges. Area office staff is responsible for requesting annual conveyance agreement budget and expending funds based on water district-submitted invoices for wheeling charges.

For FY05 the program expects to wheel approximately 100 percent of Level 2 in both the Sacramento and the San Joaquin Valleys. For Incremental Level 4 water, the program expects to wheel limited quantities (approximately 6,300 AF of permanent supply) in the Sacramento Valley. Limited Level 4 water acquisitions will most likely be used in the San Joaquin Valley. In the San Joaquin Valley the program expects to wheel 53,150 AF which is approximately 46% of the required Level 4 (approximately 47,835 AF delivered after losses). Conveyance facility delivery constraints at the Mendota, Pixley and East Bear Refuge prohibit 100% Level 4 deliveries.

- 1.2 Interagency Coordination. The program lead (BOR) organizes and chairs the Interagency Refuge Water Management Team (IRWMT) meetings. This includes coordination with the program partner, USFWS, and with cooperating entities, Grassland Water District (GWD), and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). The team coordinates and develops the annual refuge water delivery schedule and facilitates ongoing water management issues.
- 1.3 Planning. Program planning is necessary to ensure the program meets both long-term and short-term refuge water supply needs. The program must comply with all Federal and State laws, monitor program progress, maintain adequate records and provide information to interested parties. Planning includes NEPA compliance, accounting and audits, IRWMT coordination, Level 2 and

Incremental Level 4 scheduling, WORKS database modifications, Internet applications and refuge facilities maps.

Additional Funding Needs.

The budget of \$7,800,000 for Refuge Water Conveyance for FY05 will meet the conveyance requirements based on the quantities of full Level 2 and limited quantities of Incremental Level 4 (approximately 6,300 AF in Sacramento Valley and 53,150 AF in the San Joaquin Valley). However, it should be noted, if the budget is reduced or additional Incremental Level 4 acquired, there will not be adequate funding to meet the mandate of Section 3406(d)(1) and (2) of the CVPIA.

B. Schedule and Deliverables

#	Task	Dates		Deliverable
		Start	Complete	
1	Program Management	10/01/04	09/30/05	
1.1		10/01/04	09/30/05	Conveyance Cooperative Agreements and Water Supply Contract Negotiation and Administration.
1.1.1		10/01/04	09/30/05	Regional Office - Track FY05 program obligations and expenditures. Monitor cooperative agreement obligations in coordination with area office staff, delivering entities, refuge managers and IRWMT.
1.1.2		10/01/04	09/30/05	Fresno area office – Monitor Conveyance Cooperative Agreement obligations in coordination with delivering entities, refuge managers and IRWMT, process invoices.
1.1.3		10/01/04	09/30/05	Tracy office - Monitor Conveyance Cooperative Agreement obligations in coordination with delivering entities, refuge managers and IRWMT, process invoices.
1.1.4		10/01/04	09/30/05	Willows office – Monitor Conveyance Cooperative Agreement obligations in coordination with delivering entities, refuge managers and IRWMT, process invoices.
1.2		10/01/04	09/30/05	Interagency Coordination - Regional Office
1.2.1		10/01/04	09/30/05	Continue efforts on Level 4 groundwater study
1.3		10/01/04	09/30/05	Program Planning - Regional Office
1.3.1		10/01/04	09/30/05	Database Development. Continue work with IT to develop refuge specific water accounting database that can integrate the WAP with the Wheeling Program.
1.3.1		10/01/04	09/30/05	Website. Update existing Refuge Water Supply website and work with the WAP to examine the potential to merge program information onto the WAP public website that can be accessed by the Refuge Managers and the delivering Districts.
1.3.2		10/01/04	09/30/05	Mapping. Build on existing GIS maps to develop detailed maps of the Refuges and their associated existing and potential conveyance systems.
1.3.3		10/01/04	09/30/05	Conveyance Losses. Develop a fact sheet of conveyance agreement losses integrated with refuge maps.

Explanatory Notes: The above referenced long-term (30 years) cooperative agreements include the requirement to have funds obligated prior to paying invoices for water conveyed to the refuges and wildlife habitat areas. Some of the agreements include monthly invoicing while some include quarterly invoicing. Due to the method of availability of Restoration Funds, as soon as funds are available, the funds can, and will, be obligated against the agreement with the most urgent need of funds.

C. Summary of Program Costs and Funding Sources.

#	Task	Total Cost	Funding Sources
			RF
1	Program Management	\$686,213	\$686,213
2	Conveyance Cooperative Agreement and Water Service Contract Administration	\$7,113,787	\$7,113,787
Total Program Budget		\$7,800,000	\$7,800,000

Explanatory Notes: In accordance with Section 3406(d)(3) of the CVPIA, the State of California has an obligation through direct reimbursement or equivalent in-kind contributions to cover 25% of the costs related to Incremental Level 4 water supplies provided to the refuges and wildlife habitat areas. Based on historic information, to date, there has been no direct reimbursement to Reclamation by the State of California.

D. CVPIA Program Budget

#	Task	FTE	Direct Salary and Benefits Costs	Contracts Costs	Miscellaneous Costs	Admin Costs	Total Costs
BOR							
1	Program Management	1.9	\$251,114	\$0	\$13,600	\$151,853	\$416,567
2	Conveyance	0.0	\$0	\$6,273,433	\$0	\$0	\$6,273,433
	BOR Subtotal	1.9	\$251,114	\$6,273,433	\$13,600	\$151,853	\$6,690,000
FWS							
1	Program Management	1.3	\$155,000		\$9,500	\$105,146	\$269,646
2	Conveyance	0.0		\$840,354			\$840,354
	FWS Subtotal	1.3	\$155,000	\$840,354	\$9,500	\$105,146	\$1,110,000
	Total	3.0	\$406,114	\$7,113,787	\$23,100	\$256,999	\$7,800,000

Explanatory Notes:

FTE breakdown as follows.

BOR = 1.0 Manager (Program Lead), .6 Program Assistant, .2 MP-410 branch chief and secretary, .1 Environmental Specialist

FWS = 1.3 Manager (Program co-lead)

Contract breakdown as follows.

Wheeling Cooperative Agreements – 100 percent Level 2 and 115,000 AF Level 4

BOR Miscellaneous breakdown as follows.

MP-410, SSCAO, NCAO travel, training, supplies (\$13,600).

FWS Miscellaneous breakdown as follows.

Travel and training (\$9,500)

VII. Future Years Commitments/Actions

In accordance with Section 3406(d)(1) and (2) of the CVPIA , commencing with FY02, the Secretary is obligated to provide the Level 2 water supplies and 100% of the Incremental Level 4 water supplies identified in the contracts. This will require the commitment of funds based mainly on the Activity Plans, which should then be reflected in the annual Mid-Pacific Region Budget justifications, and the Mid-Pacific Region Operating Budget.

To meet the mandate of Section 3406(d) of the CVPIA, in January 2001, Reclamation entered into long-term (25 year) water service contracts with GWD, CDFG, and USFWS which in part includes Reclamation’s obligation to convey the Level 2 and the Incremental Level 4 water supplies. Based on the mandate and Reclamation’s contractual commitment it is imperative that the dollar amounts identified in the Activity Plans, created for this Program, be included in the Mid-Pacific Region budget justifications, allocated in the Mid-Pacific Region Operating Budget and then not be reduced when the total Restoration Funds are limited, reduced and/or distributed between offices.