

# Draft CVPIA Fiscal Year 2013 Annual Work Plan

August 21, 2012

## **Program Title:**

Refuge Water Supply Program – **Water Acquisition Component** (CVPIA Section 3406 [d] [2])

## **Responsible Entities:**

<b>Staff Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Role</b>
<i>Tim Rust</i>	<i>Reclamation</i>	<i>Lead</i>
<i>Dale Garrison</i>	<i>Service</i>	<i>Co-Lead</i>
<i>Brian Cary</i>	<i>CDFG</i>	<i>State Partner</i>

## **Overview of the Refuge Water Supply Program**

Reclamation and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Service) have primary responsibility for the oversight and implementation of all aspects of the Refuge Water Supply Program (RWSP), which consists of three major components: water acquisition, water conveyance, and facilities construction. These agencies serve as the RWSP’s primary contacts; represent the RWSP at various internal and external meetings; prepare and make presentations on the RWSP; and provide guidance and oversight to the technical support personnel on contracting, budget, and environmental issues.

The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), as the State partner, oversees state wildlife areas, and provides guidance and technical assistance on costs share efforts, pursuant to CVPIA. In addition, Reclamation collaborates with the Grassland Water District (GWD) in the acquisition and delivery of water supplies to the Grassland Resource Conservation District (GRCD) wetlands. Reclamation, Service, DFG, and GWD, working collaboratively together, plan and implement RWSP activities to meet wildlife refuge water supply needs, in accordance with CVPIA.

The RWSP’s over arching goal is to ensure that all 19 CVPIA identified wetland habitat areas, hereinafter referred to as “refuges”, annually receive water of specified quantity, of suitable flow rate and timing, and suitable quality to support their wetland and aquatic environments. These wetland areas include 13 National Wildlife Refuges (NWR), 5 State Wildlife Areas (SWA), and 1 private wetland area (GRCD).

The RWSP’s two water types are defined as Level 2 (L2) water and Incremental Level 4 (IL4) water. L 2 is the amount of water required for minimum wetlands and wildlife habitat management based on historic average annual deliveries before 1989. Annually, Reclamation is required to provide 422,251 acre-feet of L2 water supplies.

IL4 water is the difference between L2 and Full Level 4 water supplies; it equals 133,264 AF. Each year, the RWSP strives to provide as much IL4 water as possible. IL4 water supplies may be acquired through voluntary measures such as water conservation, conjunctive use, purchase, lease, donation, or similar activities.

Full Level 4 is the total annual amount of water identified for each refuge in CVPIA as required for optimum wetland and wildlife habitat development and management. The Full Level 4 water delivery target for the 19 refuges is 555,515 AF and is satisfied when both L2 and IL4 water targets are met in full.

Each year between February and March, Reclamation provides the Interagency Refuge Water Management Team (IRWMT), which is comprised of representatives from Reclamation, the Service, CDFG, GWD, and the Central Valley Joint Venture, with an initial projection of anticipated Incremental Level 4 water purchases for that contract year. The IRWMT determines the allocation of the projected Incremental Level 4 supplies to the refuges. Concurrent with this process, the three refuge managing agencies (Service, CDFG, and GWD) develop their initial water delivery schedules for each refuge and submit them to Reclamation by March 1.

The RWSP strives to diversify its water sources. For example, the RWSP pursues groundwater projects in partnership with local water districts because groundwater does not require external conveyance if the source can be located at or near a refuge. The lower cost of groundwater is also an advantage, although downsides include groundwater of poorer quality in some locations, particularly in the San Joaquin Valley; the threat of aquifer depletion and land subsidence. Groundwater quality is monitored for toxins, pollutants and salinity so as not to degrade the general quality of water on the refuges. Several refuges rely at least in part on groundwater supplies, including Volta and Gray Lodge SWAs, Merced and Pixley NWRs, and the GRCD.

Numerous biological benefits have resulted from a reliable year-round water supply that adequately meets the delivery schedule for wetland management on CVPIA refuges. Wildlife refuges are capable of providing habitat (such as swamp timothy and water grass) supporting migrant waterfowl and shorebirds; resident wildlife; and the recovery of special status species such as the giant garter snake, and tricolored blackbirds. In addition, RWSP water supplies allow refuge managers to “flush” excess salts from wetlands while improving soil quality.

### ***RWSP Water Acquisition Component's Goals and Objectives for FY 2013***

To acquire 133,264 acre-feet (AF) of IL4 (also called supplemental water) for critical wetland habitat supporting resident and migratory waterfowl, threatened and endangered species, and wetland dependent aquatic biota on the refuges. RWSP-Water Acquisition Component (WAC) is subject to state cost share of 25% and a task order is being developed under the CVPIA Sharing of Costs Agreement for Mitigation Projects & Improvements. State in-kind cost contributions are shown in Table 1. We anticipate entering into contracts to purchase up to 53,435 acre feet of IL4 water in FY 2013. Listed below are key RWSP-WAC's supporting documents:

- Title 34 (CVPIA)
- CVPIA Programmatic Record of Decision
- Report on Refuge Water Supply Investigations – March 1989
- San Joaquin Action Plan Report - 1989
- Annual CVPIA Accomplishment Reports

### ***Status of RWSP-Water Acquisition Component***

Presently, IL4 water consists of annual purchases from willing sellers such as the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority -- 25,000 AF of surface water; the Santa Clara Valley Water District -- 10,000 AF of surface water; as well as the Grassland Water District -- up to 10,000 AF of groundwater. In 1998 and 2005, the RWSP-WAC acquired 9,300 AF of permanent IL4 surface water supplies.

The RWSP-WAC continues to use groundwater to lower costs and increase reliability of providing supplemental refuge water supplies with acquisitions from GWD and by groundwater wells constructed at the Volta Wildlife Area. The Volta wells have increased water supply reliability and helped to diversify Level 2 Water. It is anticipated that these wells will produce up to 5,000 AF annually of which half will be IL4 water and half will be diversified L2 water.

The RWSP-WAC has acquired an average of approximately 60,000 AF of IL4 water each fiscal year since 1994 (excluding permanent water). Decisions about the use of IL4 water are made in collaboration with the IRWMT.

The RWSP-WAC's FY 2013 staff labor costs, planned activities and associated budgets are highlighted in Table 1. Table 2 presents projected budgets for fiscal years 2014, and 2015.

### ***Adaptive Management***

Reclamation has worked with the Service, CDFG, and GWD in developing a Strategic Wetlands Best Management Plan (BMP) consistent with CALFED legislation (H.R. 2828), providing resources to support the development and implementation of a real-time monitoring network and other potential BMP analysis tools. The RWSP-WAC does not anticipate providing any FY 2013 funding for monitoring activities. However, Reclamation intends to continue providing funds for water quality monitoring activities in association with other San Joaquin Valley wide monitoring work being conducted in accordance with Regional Water Quality Control Board Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements. Previous monitoring results have helped increase analysis and understanding of refuge in-bound and out-bound water quality, on-refuge water quality, and refuge water quality contributions to the lower San Joaquin River system. Changes in refuge water management and operations will continue to be made in the future, if feasible, to improve refuge water quality. The RWSP – WAC is also pursuing other adaptive management approaches such as possible water exchanges that would provide a 2 for 1 exchange of water and purchasing San Joaquin River Restoration Program recaptured water.

Table 1. FY2013 Proposed Activities and Costs

CVPIA Section 3406 (d)(2), Refuge Water Supply Program- Inc Level 4 Water

	3406 (d)(2) Requested Funding for Fiscal Year 2013				
	Restoration Fund	Water and Related Resources	State Cash	State In-Kind	Total All Sources
<b>Total Funding</b>	\$8,300,000	\$0	\$0	\$26,414	\$8,326,414
Reclamation	\$8,187,743	\$0			\$8,187,743
Service	\$113,787	\$0			\$113,787
CA DFG			\$0	\$26,414	\$26,414
CA DWR			\$0	\$0	\$0

1.1 Program Management											
AWP Activity Number	Activity Name	Activity Description	Agency		Program Performance Goal	FY2013 Projected Performance	3406 (d)(2) Requested Funding for Fiscal Year 2013				
			Name	Fractional FTE			Restoration Fund	Water and Related Resources	State Cash	State In-Kind	Total All Sources
1.1.1	RWSP Program Lead	Provides Reclamation oversight for all aspects of the Water Acquisition Component of the Refuge Water Supply Program (RWSP). Serves as a primary contact and coordinator; represents the Water Acquisition Component at various internal and external meetings. Prepares and makes presentations on the RWSP. Provides guidance and oversight to the technical support personnel on contracting, budget, and environmental issues. Has primary responsibility for RWSP long and short-term strategy. (BOR H37-1205-6050/FWS FRFR4833-0832LR0 )	BOR	0.20			\$44,268				\$44,268
1.1.2	RWSP Program Co-lead	Provides Service oversight for all aspects of the Water Acquisition Component of the RWSP. Serves as a primary contact and coordinator; represents the Water Acquisition Component at various internal and external meetings. Prepares and makes presentations on the RWSP. Provides guidance and oversight to technical support personnel on contracting, budget, and environmental issues. Has primary responsibility for RWSP long and short-term strategy. (BOR H37-1205-6050/FWS FRFR4833-0832LR0 )	FWS	0.40			\$87,465				\$87,465
							Sub-Total for Program Management, FY2013				
							Restoration Fund	Water and Related Resources	State Cash	State In-Kind	Total All Sources
<b>Subtotal Funding</b>							\$131,733	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$131,733
<b>Reclamation</b>							\$44,268	\$0			\$44,268
<b>Service</b>							\$87,465	\$0			\$87,465
<b>CA DFG</b>									\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>CA DWR</b>									\$0	\$0	\$0

1.2		Program Support										
AWP Activity Number	Activity	Activity Name & Description	Agency		Program Performance Goal	FY2013 Projected Performance	3406 (d)(2) Requested Funding for Fiscal Year 2013					
			Name	Fractional FTE			Restoration Fund	Water and Related Resources	State Cash	State In-Kind	Total All Sources	
1.2.1	Water Acquisition Component Manager	Water Acquisition Component Manager -- Consults with water rights and water transfer personnel, solicitor's office, to negotiate, prepare and administer water acquisition contracts for Incremental Level 4 water. Coordinates refuge delivery schedules with personnel from refuges, area offices, Central Valley Operations (CVO), and California Department of Water Resources (DWR). Tracks and monitors all obligations and expenditures. (BOR H37-1205-6050/FWS FRFR4833-0832LR0 )	BOR	0.90			\$149,891					\$149,891
1.2.2	FWS Supervision Support	FWS Regional contracting, budget and finance support (P2O). (BOR H37-1205-6050/FWS FRFR4833-0832LR0 )	FWS	0.10			\$21,866					\$21,866
1.2.3	FWS Finance Support	Provide administrative support such as contracting, budget, finance, human resources, and IT. (BOR H37-1205-6050/FWS FRFR4833-0832LR0 )	FWS	0.00			\$2,926					\$2,926
1.2.4	BOR Administrative Support	Provide support services for Water Acquisition Component of the RWSP. Assists with coordination of refuge delivery schedules, water accounting, annual work plans, and RWSP data entry. (BOR H37-1205-6050/FWS FRFR4833-0832LR0 )	BOR	0.00			\$23,396					\$23,396
1.2.5	RWSP Support Specialist	Provide program clerical support. (BOR H37-1205-6050/FWS FRFR4833-0832LR0 )	BOR	0.50			\$65,848					\$65,848
1.2.6	Clerical Support	Provide program supervisory support. (BOR H37-1205-6050/FWS FRFR4833-0832LR0 )	BOR	0.15			\$9,024					\$9,024
1.2.7	Supervisory Support	Provide program supervisory support. (BOR H37-1205-6050/FWS FRFR4833-0832LR0 )	BOR	0.15			\$30,645					\$30,645
1.2.8	DFG State Coordinator	Represent the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) at various meetings and provides guidance and input to the water acquisition component related to DFG on contracting, budget, operations and environmental issues.	CDFG	0.17							\$26,414	\$26,414
							<b>Sub-Total for Program Support, FY2013</b>					
							<b>Restoration Fund</b>	<b>Water and Related Resources</b>	<b>State Cash</b>	<b>State In-Kind</b>	<b>Total All Sources</b>	
							\$303,596	\$0	\$0	\$26,414	\$330,010	
							<i>Reclamation</i>	\$278,804	\$0		\$278,804	
							<i>Service</i>	\$26,322	\$0		\$26,322	
							<i>CA DFG</i>			\$0	\$26,414	\$26,414
							<i>CA DWR</i>			\$0	\$0	\$0

1.3		Technical Support										
AWP Activity Number	Activity	Activity Name & Description	Agency		Program Performance Goal	FY2013 Projected Performance	3406 (d)(2) Requested Funding for Fiscal Year 2013					
			Name	Fractional FTE			Restoration Fund	Water and Related Resources	State Cash	State In-Kind	Total All Sources	
1.3.1	Environmental Specialist	Prepare environmental documents such as EA/CEC for water acquisition contracts with Exchange Contractors, Grasslands WD, 4S-Smith Ranch, and Volta Ranch in support of the Water Acquisition Component. (BOR H37-1205-6050/FWS FRFR4833-0832LR0 )	BOR	0.30			\$55,835				\$55,835	
1.3.2	Water Quality Monitoring	Provide water quality monitoring analysis and reviews water quality reports on current and potential water acquisitions. Provide technical assistance for water acquisitions. (BOR H37-1205-6050/FWS FRFR4833-0832LR0)	BOR	0.00			\$30,000				\$30,000	
							<b>Sub-Total for Technical Support, FY2013</b>					
							<b>Restoration Fund</b>	<b>Water and Related Resources</b>	<b>State Cash</b>	<b>State In-Kind</b>	<b>Total All Sources</b>	
							<i>Subtotal Funding</i>	\$85,835	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$85,835
							<i>Reclamation</i>	\$85,835	\$0			\$85,835
							<i>Service</i>	\$0	\$0			\$0
							<i>CA DFG</i>			\$0	\$0	\$0
							<i>CA DWR</i>			\$0	\$0	\$0

3.1		Land or Water Acquisition or Water Conveyance									
AWP Activity Number	Activity	Activity Name & Description	Agency		Program Performance Goal	FY2013 Projected Performance	3406 (d)(2) Requested Funding for Fiscal Year 2013				
			Name	Fractional FTE			Restoration Fund	Water and Related Resources	State Cash	State In-Kind	Total All Sources
3.1.1	Water Acquisition (IL4)	Acquire water from the Exchange Contractors for IL4 refuge water supplies. Annual quantity and price vary depending on the south-of-delta agricultural allocation. Estimated purchase of 24,438 total af of surface water @ \$225/af. (BOR H37-1205-6050/FWS FRFR4833-0832LR0 )	BOR	0.00	Annually acquire 133,264 AF of Inc L4	Purchase 24,438 acre feet of IL4 water	\$5,504,050				\$5,504,050
3.1.2	Water Acquisition (IL4)	Acquire up to 10,000 acre feet of IL4 water (groundwater) @ \$85/af from Grassland Water District (BOR H37-1205-6050/FWS FRFR4833-0832LR0 )	BOR	0.00	Annually acquire 133,264 AF of Inc L4	Purchase 10,000 acre feet of IL4 water	\$850,000				\$850,000
3.1.3	Water Acquisition (IL4)	Acquire up to 18,997 acre feet of IL4 water from to-be-determined sellers @ \$75/af (BOR H37-1205-6050/FWS FRFR4833-0832LR0 )	BOR	0.00	Annually acquire 133,264 AF of Inc L4	Purchase up to 18,997 acre feet of IL4 water	\$1,424,786				\$1,424,786
							<b>Total for Land or Water Acquisition or Water Conveyance, FY2013</b>				
							<b>Restoration Fund</b>	<b>Water and Related Resources</b>	<b>State Cash</b>	<b>State In-Kind</b>	<b>Total All Sources</b>
							\$7,778,836	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,778,836
							<b>Subtotal Funding</b>				
							<i>Reclamation</i>	\$7,778,836	\$0		\$7,778,836
							<i>Service</i>	\$0	\$0		\$0
							<i>CA DFG</i>			\$0	\$0
							<i>CA DWR</i>			\$0	\$0

Table 2 – Intentionally left blank