

Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2007

Program Title:

April 5, 2007

Refuge Facilities Construction Program

CVPIA Section 3406(d)(5)

II. Responsible Entities:

	Agency	Staff Name	Role
Lead	Reclamation	Chuck Jachens	Program/Project Manager
Co-Lead	USFWS	Dale Garrison	Refuge Water Supply Coordinator

III. Program Objectives for FY 2007:

The objective of the Refuge Facilities Construction Program (RFCP) is to meet the mandate of Section 3406(d)(5) of the CVPIA, providing the necessary infrastructure to support long-term delivery of firm, reliable water supplies from existing Central Valley Project (CVP) or State Water Project (SWP) facilities to the boundary of specific State and Federal refuges in the Central Valley. The need to upgrade conveyance facilities is a result of capacity constraints in existing delivery systems and/or the lack of existing systems. In some cases, conveyance can be provided through wheeling agreements with local water districts with improvements to their facilities. In other cases, new and independent facilities are needed.

The RFCP is a long-term program involving eight refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System in the Central Valley hydrologic basin of California. Three of these refuges are located in the West Sacramento Valley area, extending west from the Sacramento River to the eastern edge of the Coast Range Mountains in Yolo, Tehama, Colusa, and Glenn Counties. These three refuges are the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge (Sacramento NWF) located about 5 miles south of the city of Willows; the Delevan National Wildlife Refuge (Delevan NWR) located about 7 miles east to the City of Maxwell in Colusa County and west of the Sacramento River; and the Colusa National Wildlife Refuge (Colusa NWR) located about one-half mile southwest of Colusa in Colusa County. Two refuges are located in the East Sacramento Valley area, extending from the Sacramento River east to the western edge of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range, in the Butte, Yuba, and Sutter Counties. The Sutter National Wildlife Refuge is located within the Sutter Bypass in Sutter County, eight miles southwest of Yuba City and the Gray Lodge Wildlife Area (Gray Lodge WA) is located in Sutter and Butte counties about 10 miles southwest of Gridley. The Kern and Pixley National Wildlife Refuges (Kern NWR and Pixley NWR) are located in South San Joaquin Valley in the counties of Kern and Tulare respectively. The last refuge, Mendota Wildlife Area (Mendota WA), is located southwest of the City of Mendota, in Fresno County.

In carrying out its mission, Reclamation has identified the appropriate contractual mechanism in which to enter into partnership with water purveyors for facility construction as long-term construction cooperative agreements (agreements). These agreements establish a partnership between Reclamation and district purveyors, articulating terms and conditions of the respective parties to the agreements, facilitating construction of necessary infrastructure on district lands and/or facilities to secure capacity in existing district facilities. In certain cases, construction of isolated facilities is required.

Conveyance agreements are a companion to this program and provide a means for compensating cooperating entities for use of existing facilities for conveyance purposes. Conveyance agreements can be separate, or conveyance can be included with construction as a single Agreement.

This work plan describes specific objectives related to modifying existing facilities and/or constructing new facilities to support refuge water deliveries as described in section VI below. This work plan is a living document and is typically modified year-to-year. However, with limited restoration funding relative to significantly higher construction costs that have become apparent the past few years, Reclamation may amend this work plan at any time based on changing Reclamation priorities and through coordination with appropriate stakeholders. The general components of the Program for each refuge include:

Program/Project Management

Program/Project management activities include project integration and coordination activities with the associated Refuge Water Conveyance (Wheeling) and Refuge Water Acquisition Programs. The objective of this activity is to ensure continuity of methodologies and approach towards executing and achieving Program objectives. Interagency coordination activities are included in this element as well as budget formulation, tracking, and management activities. Additional activities included in Program/Project Management are administrative coordination tasks for planning, design, and construction efforts between agencies and water purveyors (water districts).

Planning Activities

Planning activities include but are not limited to alternative identification, analyses and selection, environmental compliance, compliance with other Federal and State laws, public involvement and outreach, conceptual design development, and participation in and completion of negotiations with water districts regarding construction cooperative agreements. Although, negotiations of the construction cooperative agreement is identified as an activity that should be complete under this phase, it should be accomplished by a Reclamation functional area with the requisite expertise and would not normally be led by the Reclamation Planning Division.

Implementation

Administrative activities of the RFCP include support for cooperative agreement implementation, development, and/or administration of detailed design, permit acquisition, and construction contracts, as applicable. Implementation of agreement activities may also include

and are not limited to construction contract award, facilities construction activities, construction inspection and management, and coordination as appropriate with other agencies regarding permit requirements. Funding of Refuge facilities construction agreements is included in this task, as appropriate.

IV. Status of the Program:

- ❑ Completion of the facilities construction agreement with Glenn-Colusa Irrigation district which provided approximately 127 facilities, securing conveyance capacity for transporting water supplies to the West Sacramento Valley Study Area (defined as Sacramento, Delevan, and Colusa NWRs). These refuges are capable of receiving their full Level 4 water supplies.
- ❑ Planning and environmental compliance documentation has been completed for the East Sacramento Valley Study Area (defined as Sutter NWR and Gray Lodge WA, and South San Joaquin Valley Study Area (defined as Kern and Pixley NWRs).
- ❑ Implementation of the facilities construction agreement with Biggs-West Gridley Water District (BWGWD), allowing for the design, permit acquisition, and construction of infrastructure required for Gray Lodge WA to receive full Level 4 water supplies.
- ❑ Implementation and completion of the Refuge facilities construction agreement with Buena Vista Water Storage District which allowed for the completion of designs, acquisition of permits, and construction activities providing the infrastructure to support conveyance of quantities to water to Kern NWR. Kern NWR is now capable of receiving full Level 4 water supplies.
- ❑ Specific environmental and engineering related activities are in process with regard to the Mendota WA and Gray Lodge WA, respectively. See below for more information.

V. FY 2006 Accomplishments:

- Completed Mendota WA Pre-Public Draft EA/IS.
- Completed an internal draft Design Data Study on conveyance facilities of the Biggs-West Gridley Water District (BWGWD) for conveyance of Refuge water supplies to Gray Lodge WA, covering canal water level study, flow measurement study, seepage study, proposed system improvements, and cost estimates.
- Continued implementation of the Refuge Facilities Construction Agreement with BWGWD.
- Participated and provided input to the CVPIA Program Activity Review.
- Developed a new Statement of Work for contract services to continue planning, environmental and engineering activities in FY 2007.

VI. Tasks, Schedules and Deliverables, and Costs:

A. Narrative Explanation of Tasks:

1. Program/Project Management:

- Mendota WA
- Gray Lodge WA and Sutter NWR
- Pixley NWR

2. Planning Activities:

General:

The need to upgrade conveyance facilities is a result of capacity constraints and/or a lack of existing delivery systems. Existing water district facilities were not designed to convey peak refuge requirements in addition to existing agricultural demands. Ultimately, conveyance facilities must be able to support scheduled maximum Level 4 peak flows.

In order to determine the most economically and environmentally practicable means of providing infrastructure for refuge water supplies, a detailed planning process is integral to the project. Because of the time to implement alternatives over the life of this project, planning activities are continuing through implementation of selected alternatives to affirm anticipated conditions during the alternative selection process actually exist.

2.1 This subtask involves the completion of an environmental document for the Mendota WA. The general scope to complete the environmental document is the resolution of all outstanding comments/issues; respond to public draft comments and prepare administrative final EA/IS; final EA/IS; approved FONSI and Mitigated Negative Declaration; completion of the USFWS Biological Assessment and required coordination with the NMFS; completion of Archeological Report(s) for consultation with the SHPO; and associated public involvement activities.

2.2 Negotiations of a cost share agreement to provide funding for a facilities construction cooperative agreement is on a parallel track with completion of the environmental document for the Mendota WA per the dates noted in the schedule.

2.3 Complete Design Data Study on conveyance facilities of the BWGWD for conveyance of Refuge water supplies to Gray Lodge WA, covering canal water level study, flow measurement study, seepage study, proposed system improvements, and cost estimates.

2.4 General planning, support, and tracking of activities related to the Pixley NWR and Sutter NWR. Currently, a groundwater investigation is being conducted for the Pixley NWR through the Refuge Water Acquisition Program that may have a bearing on negotiations of a facilities Construction agreement with the Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District; thus, planning support for Pixley NWR is limited at this time. The Sutter Extension Water District is studying alternatives that would upgrade their facilities and potentially benefit the Sutter NWR. Attend stakeholder and associated meetings to stay informed of those activities related to this process.

3. Implementation:

Implementation of facilities construction agreements require collaboration between Reclamation and water districts on designs, permit acquisitions, and construction, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the facilities construction agreement.

Reclamation may prioritize/re-prioritize projects for implementation because of limited restoration funding relative to significantly higher construction costs that have become apparent the past few years. As such, Reclamation may amend this work plan at any time based on changing Reclamation priorities and through coordination with appropriate stakeholders. Specific implementation activities in the near and/or long-term future may include:

3.1 Mendota WA: Fund and implement facilities construction agreement to include, but not limited to design and construction activities.

3.2 Gray Lodge WA: Continue the funding and implementation of the existing facilities construction agreement with BWGWD. Oversight, administration, and project management activities related to this agreement.

3.3 Pixley and Sutter NWRs: Fund and implement facilities construction agreements, including design and construction activities.

4. USFWS Coordination:

The USFWS participates in coordination and planning of facilities construction projects.

B. Schedule and Deliverables.

#	Task	Dates		Deliverable
		Start	Estimated Completion	
1	Project Management	10/01/06	09/30/15	Program/Project support and administration of costs for project integration, planning, design, construction, public involvement and outreach, and agreement administration; overall program coordination between agencies, stakeholders and districts.
2	Planning			
2.1	Mendota WA	10/01/06	09/30/07	Complete all required environmental documentation.
2.2	Mendota WA	12/01/06	09/30/07	Negotiate cost share and facilities construction agreement
2.3	Gray Lodge WA	10/01/06	09/30/07	Complete Design Data Study on conveyance facilities of the BWGWD for conveyance of Refuge water supplies to Gray Lodge WA.
3	Construction			
3.1	Mendota* WA	08/01/07	09/30/11	Fund and implement facilities construction agreement including design and construction activities.
3.2	Gray Lodge* WA	10/01/06	*	Continue funding and implementation of facilities construction agreement (design and construction)
4	USFWS Coordination	On-going	09/30/15	Participation in coordination with refuge managers on project elements; review and comment on applicable documents; development of mitigation measures; track/coordinate with various branches on project related documents such as the ESA branch to facilitate BO completion, etc.

Explanatory Notes: * Reclamation may prioritize/re-prioritize projects for implementation because of limited restoration funding relative to significantly higher construction costs that have become apparent the past few years. As such, Reclamation may amend this work plan at any time based on changing Reclamation priorities and through coordination with appropriate stakeholders. Assignment of costs to water districts and assignment of responsibilities for design and construction efforts are subject to agreement being reached during negotiations of the facilities construction agreements.

C. Summary of Program Costs and Funding Sources. FY2007

#	Task	Lead Agency	Total Cost	Funding Sources
				RF
1	Program/Project Management; Admin/Coordination activities related to Construction	Reclamation	\$175,000	\$175,000
2	Planning	Reclamation	\$185,000	\$185,000
3	Construction/Implementation	Reclamation	\$1,079,302	\$1,079,302
4	USFWS Coordination	USFWS	\$60,698	\$60,698
Total Program Budget				\$1,500,000

D. CVPIA Program Budget. FY2007

#	Task	FTE	Direct Salary and Benefits Costs	Contract/Agreement Costs	Miscellaneous Costs	Administrative Costs	Total Costs
1	Project Management *	1.0	\$120,000		10,000	\$45,000	\$175,000
2	Planning						
2.1	Mendota WA						
2.2	Mendota WA						
2.3	Gray Lodge WA			\$185,000			\$185,000
3	Construction/Implementation						
3.1	Mendota WA						
3.2	Gray Lodge WA			\$1,079,302			\$1,079,302
3.3	Pixley and Sutter NWRs						
4.	USFWS Coordination		\$38,323**	\$13,944***		\$8,431	\$60,698
Total by Category			\$158,323	\$1,278,246	\$10,000	\$53,431	\$1,500,000

Explanatory Notes: * Includes funding for MP-700, MP-150, Willows/MPCO, etc. ** Funding to the USFWS is to support 25% of the Refuge Water Supply Coordinator's (co-lead) involvement. However, this requirement and possibly other requirements need to be validated under the Interagency Agreement. *** Funding anticipated under the USFWS Coordination Act.
USFWS split is \$46,754 = direct salary plus admin.

Table E

DRAFT CVPIA RFCP 5-Year Budget Plan*
FY 2008 – 2012
(\$ Thousands)

Mendota, Gray Lodge, Sutter and Pixley		FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	Total (\$)
	W& RR						
	RF	4,110	7,876	2,325	4,150	5,656	\$29,117
	State						
	FWS						
Total:							\$29,117

* Source: FY 2008 -2009 Budget Activity Plans (Activity ID 676)

Major Activities:

FY 2008

- Program/Project Management \$175,000
- Planning related Activities \$250,000
- Construction/Implementation \$635,000
- Agency/Miscellaneous Program Administration \$50,000
- \$1,110,000**

Additional Construction/Implementation Funds Needed – Minimum of \$5,000,000; up to \$7,000,000.

The preliminary FY2008 budget estimate for Refuge Facilities Construction Program allocates \$1.1M for Refuge Facilities Construction Program (RFCP). Based on this estimate, an additional \$5-7M will be required in FY2008 for facilities construction activities (for either Mendota WA or Gray Lodge WA construction project) for the anticipated completion of one of these projects combined with the projected RFCP need for \$7.8M in FY2009. Reclamation estimates an approximate 15% increase per year in construction costs for either Mendota WA or Gray Lodge WA project. A delay in initiating one of these projects due to inadequate funding would result in a significant increase in the overall construction cost estimate.

FY 2009

- Program/Project Management \$175,000
- Planning related Activities \$250,000
- Construction/Implementation \$7,311,000
- Agency/Miscellaneous Program Administration \$50,000
- \$7,786,000**

FY 2010

• Program/Project Management	\$175,000
• Planning related Activities	\$250,000
• Construction/Implementation	\$1,850,000
• Agency/Miscellaneous Program Administration	<u>\$50,000</u>
	\$2,325,000

FY 2011

• Program/Project Management	\$175,000
• Planning related Activities	\$250,000
• Construction/Implementation	\$3,675,000
• Agency/Miscellaneous Program Administration	<u>\$50,000</u>
	\$4,150,000

FY 2012

• Program/Project Management	\$175,000
• Planning related Activities	\$250,000
• Construction/Implementation	\$5,181,000
• Agency/Miscellaneous Program Administration	<u>\$50,000</u>
	\$5,656,000