



# Central Valley Project Improvement Act

## Overview

The Central Valley Project (CVP) manages nearly 12 million acre-feet of water in California's Central Valley and San Francisco Bay–Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta (Bay-Delta). In 1992, Congress passed Title 34 of Public Law 102-575, the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA). The law, in part, amended previous authorizations of the CVP to include fish and wildlife protection, restoration, and mitigation as project purposes having equal priority with irrigation and domestic uses. The law also established wildlife enhancement as a project purpose equal to power generation.

## Fish Resource Area

Section 3406(b) of the CVPIA provides for improving natural reproduction conditions of anadromous fish like Chinook salmon. It addresses adverse environmental impacts of the CVP, mitigates fishery impacts associated with the C.W. "Bill" Jones Pumping Plant, assists with protection of the waters of the Bay-Delta Estuary, and helps meet obligations under the federal Endangered Species Act.



*New Melones Dam on the Stanislaus River in the lower Sierra Nevada foothills of Calaveras and Tuolumne counties near Sonora.*

Along with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, CVPIA recently implemented aquatic habitat improvement projects on the American, Stanislaus, Yuba, and Upper Sacramento rivers, as well as Clear, Mill, and Deer creeks.

## Science Integration Team and Structured Decision Making

CVPIA established the Science Integration Team (SIT) in 2015 to support Structured Decision Making (SDM) as an updated science-based framework to inform the use of CVPIA's Restoration Fund on Fish Resource Area projects. The SIT is a self-selected technical group made up of agency staff and stakeholders that follow the SDM process. The SIT works with local watershed groups and other local partners to advance the science of on-the-ground habitat and facility improvements in all Central Valley watersheds.



*CVPIA completed the Rio Vista Side Channel Fish Habitat Project in 2019 by converting the seasonal side channel on the right into nearly one acre of aquatic habitat.*



Water supplied to the Gray Lodge Wildlife Area, about 60 miles north of Sacramento in Butte County, supports snow geese, ducks, hawks, eagles, kites, owls, deer, coyote, rabbits, and gray fox.

## Refuge Water Supply Program

Activities under section 3406(d) of the Act provides firm water supplies of suitable quality to maintain and improve wetland habitat areas on 19 federal, state, and private lands, collectively referred to as "refuges."

The Refuge Water Supply Program's (RWSP) goal is to provide 555,515 acre-feet (AF) of water annually, comprised of 422,251 AF of Level 2 water, which also includes 26,007 AF of replacement water, and 133,264 AF of Incremental Level 4 water. Full Level 4 water is the sum of Level 2 and Incremental Level 4 water supplies. The RWSP allocates water on a contract water year basis starting in March and continuing through February of the following year.

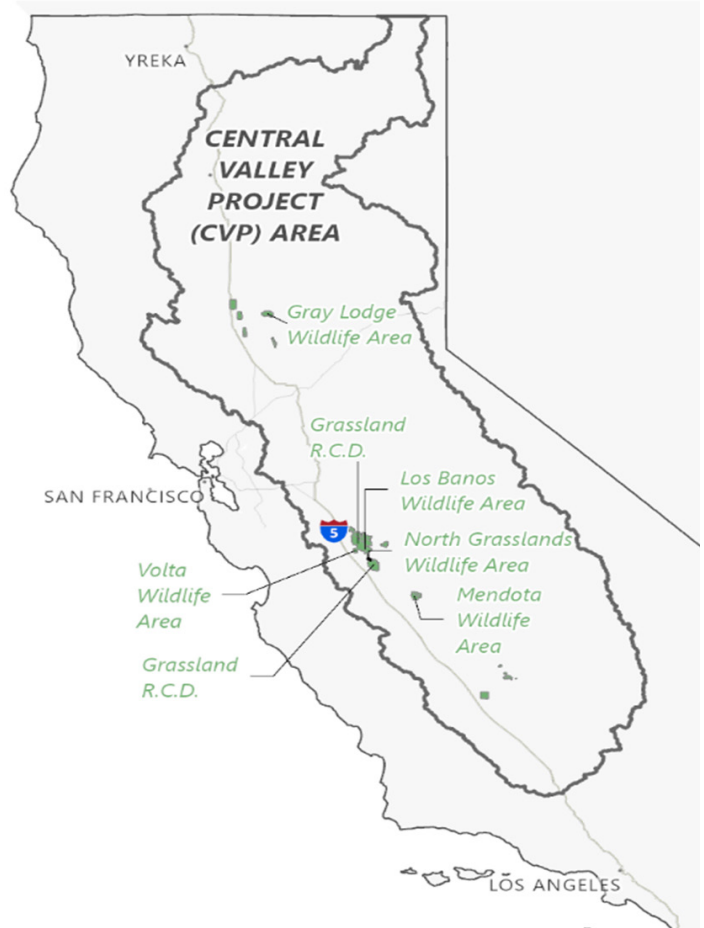
## Independent Programs

Independent programs include the San Joaquin River Restoration Program, the Trinity River Restoration Program, and the Habitat Restoration Program. These programs use the Restoration Fund to focus on on-the-ground projects related to improving habitat for their species of interest, but otherwise have separate oversight, reporting, and stakeholder coordination.

## Annual Obligation Plan and Accomplishment Report

Reclamation identifies ongoing and upcoming projects under all CVPIA authorities and estimates potential financial obligations to CVP water users and power customers. This information is used to develop an Obligation Plan annually for CVPIA projects. Reclamation uses the plan to seek feedback on program implementation from stakeholders and the public.

A report to Congress, the Annual Accomplishment Report, describes the results from expenditures under the Obligation Plan.

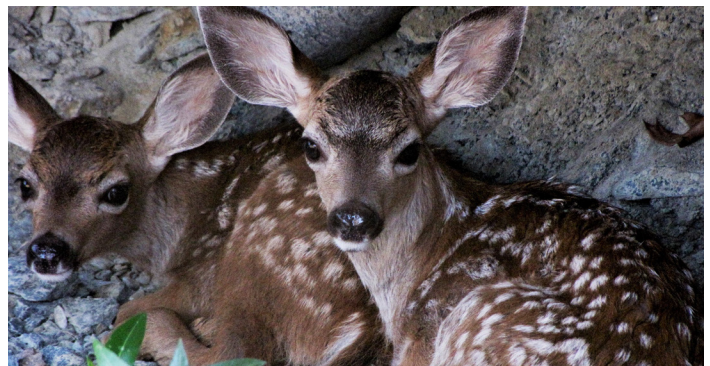


Part of the CVPIA provides firm water supplies of suitable quality to maintain and improve wetland habitat areas on National Wildlife Refuge System units in the Central Valley; on the Gray Lodge, Los Banos, Volta, North Grasslands, and Mendota state wildlife management areas; and on the Grasslands Resources Conservation District in the Central Valley.

## Additional Information

View CVPIA webpage here:

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



Deer at a refuge