The Intertie

Overview
The Delta-Mendota Canal/California Aqueduct Intertie is a shared federal-state water system located in a rural agricultural area of the San Joaquin Valley in Alameda County, west of the city of Tracy, California. The 500-foot-long Intertie connects the federal Delta-Mendota Canal (DMC) and the California Aqueduct via two 108-inch-diameter pipes. The Intertie pumping station has a capacity of 467 cubic feet per second (cfs) up hill and 900-cfs gravity flow down to the DMC. The Intertie is downstream from the C.W. “Bill” Jones and Harvey O. Banks pumping plants at DMC mile 7.2 and California Aqueduct mile 9.

Operations
The Intertie provides operational flexibility in the federal-state water distribution system, allows for maintenance-and-repair activities that are less disruptive to water deliveries, and provides options to respond to Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP) emergencies.

Jones Pumping Plant and the DMC are the primary federal water delivery facilities that provide water to CVP contractors south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta.

The 500-foot-long Intertie connects the California Aqueduct on the left to the Delta-Mendota Canal on the right.

To convey water from the DMC to the California Aqueduct, the Intertie uses a pumping plant at the DMC that allows up to 467 cfs to be pumped from the DMC to the California Aqueduct via an underground pipeline. This additional 467 cfs allows the Jones Pumping Plant to pump at its designed maximum monthly average of about 4,600 cfs throughout the year. Water can also be conveyed from the California Aqueduct to the DMC. Since the California Aqueduct is approximately 50-feet higher in elevation than the DMC, up to 900-cfs flow can be conveyed from the California Aqueduct to the DMC through the Intertie using gravity flow.

Intertie construction was completed in May 2012 and the facility was transferred to the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority for operation, maintenance, and replacement. Intertie operations are subject to all applicable Delta export pumping restrictions for water quality and fisheries protection.