



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

California-Great Basin region

History

On June 17, 1902, President Theodore Roosevelt signed the Reclamation Act into law, creating the U.S. Reclamation Service (renamed the Bureau of Reclamation in 1923). The agency's mission was to develop and provide water for the 17 arid Western states. The 475 major structures built by Reclamation – including Hoover Dam on the Colorado River and Shasta Dam on the Sacramento River – are testaments to the agency's accomplishment of its early construction mission. In the 1980s, environmental concerns and population growth began to modify Reclamation's priorities, and today, the mission is “to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.”



California-Great Basin

The California-Great Basin (Region) was created by the Secretary of the Interior in 1942 and is headquartered in Sacramento, California. The Region covers the northern two-thirds of California, most of western Nevada, and a part of southern Oregon. Area Offices are in Shasta Lake, Folsom, and Fresno, California; Carson City, Nevada; and Klamath Falls, Oregon. Field Offices are in Byron, Sonoma, and Napa, California and Fallon, Nevada. Specialized offices include the Bay-Delta and Central Valley Operations offices in Sacramento, Trinity Restoration Program Office in Weaverville, and the MP Construction Office in Willows.

What We Do

The Region strives to develop and implement a balanced approach to water allocation, serving users while protecting the environment. The California-Great Basin manages one of the Nation's largest and best-known water projects, the Central Valley Project (CVP), as well as Oregon's Klamath Project; Nevada's Newlands, Humboldt, Washoe, and Truckee Storage projects; and California's Cachuma, Orland, Santa Maria, Solano, and Ventura River projects.

The Region's goal is to balance competing and often conflicting needs among water uses and users. These include urban and industrial use, agriculture, fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, wetlands, endangered species issues, Native American Tribal Trust issues, power generation, and recreation.

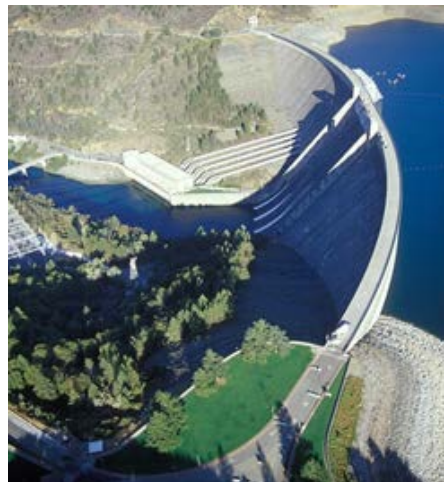
The California-Great Basin employs about 1000 people in a wide range of positions from park ranger to engineer to administrative assistant to fishery biologist. Project managers take the lead in negotiating contracts, implementing habitat improvements and furthering ongoing projects. Operations and maintenance personnel manage and maintain critical facilities in drought and flood conditions, monitor facilities instrumentation, perform preventive maintenance and oversee rehabilitation and repair projects. Support staff provides the design, engineering, construction, data processing, human resources, procurement, budget, and other services essential to getting the job done.

With the CVP under its management, the Region encounters all the same controversies and pressures that characterize the state's water supply overall. The CVP delivers more water through its facilities than any other single agency in California - about 5 million acre-feet on average. From Shasta Dam on the Sacramento River near Redding, Folsom Dam on the American River near Sacramento, and Friant Dam on the San Joaquin River near Fresno, and facilities on other major rivers throughout the north state, water is conveyed about 400 miles within the CVP service area from near the Oregon border to the Tehachapi Mountains near Bakersfield.

The CVP with 20 reservoirs and more than 500 miles of canals provides water used to irrigate more than 3 million acres of prime agricultural land in 6 of the top 10 agricultural counties in California, the Nation's leading farm state. This water grows crops such as grapes, apples, oranges, lemons, tomatoes, rice, almonds, peaches, figs, melons, lettuce, pistachios, broccoli, asparagus, corn, wheat, cotton, hay, and flowers. CVP water is also critical to the poultry, beef and dairy industries. Additionally, there are 11 hydroelectric powerplants providing an average of 4.5 billion kilowatt hours of electricity, enough to supply about 1.5 million people with power. With the state's burgeoning population; environmental needs; and unpredictable weather patterns; water delivery and storage challenges are many.



Boating in Shasta Reservoir



Lake Cachuma