



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Shasta Dam & Reservoir Expansion Project: Frequently Asked Questions

Background:

California is in critical need of additional water storage. Over 40% of the nation's fruits, nuts and other table foods are grown in the Central Valley, much of that using water from the Central Valley Project (CVP), which includes its key facilities, Shasta Dam and Shasta Lake. Shasta Lake is also the largest reservoir in the CVP and comprises 41% of the CVP's total 9 million acre-feet of storage.

What are the goals of the Shasta Dam and Reservoir Expansion project?

The proposed 18.5 raise of Shasta Dam would:

- Increase Shasta Dam's water storage capacity by 634,000 acre-feet for water users and the environment
- Improve water supply reliability for agricultural, municipal and industrial, and environmental uses
- Reduce flood risk
- Improve Sacramento River temperatures and water quality below the dam for anadromous fish survival--192,000 acre-feet of water supply will be dedicated to Shasta's cold-water pool for anadromous fish
- Enlarge the cold-water pool and increase the seasonal carryover storage in Shasta Reservoir
- Provide an additional 125,000-megawatt hours per year of hydropower generation for electrical grid reliability with an existing renewable and carbon-free resource.

In addition, the project would enlarge the cold-water pool and increase the seasonal carryover storage in Shasta Reservoir. The increased volume of cold water would increase the ability of Shasta Dam to make cold water releases to improve water temperatures in the upper Sacramento River for anadromous fish.

Where is the project located?

Shasta Dam and Reservoir are located about 9 miles northwest of Redding on the Sacramento River in Shasta County in Northern California. Built during the seven-year period between 1938 and 1945, the dam is a 602-foot-high concrete gravity dam, which provides flood control, power and water supply benefits. The reservoir is also used extensively for recreation.

Shasta Reservoir is fed by the Sacramento, Pit and McCloud rivers, with additional water coming from Squaw Creek. This drainage area receives an average of 62 inches of annual precipitation, which in pre-dam years was a major contributor to frequent floods in the valley below.

What communities and stakeholders will be impacted?

An 18.5-foot raise would inundate an additional 2,500 acres. About 100 parcels of non-federal land would be acquired, mostly in the Lakehead community.

What phase is this project in and what is currently occurring?

The project is in the pre-construction and design phase. Activities include:

- Completing environmental and cultural review, culminating in a Record of Decision for the entire project
- Engineering designs
- Real estate planning
- Gathering design data for the project

How is this project being funded?

Congress passed the Water Infrastructure Improvements Act for the Nation (WIIN) Public Law 114-322 in December 2016. The Act includes Section 4007, which addresses water storage, and Section 4008, which addresses recreational facilities. Those sections also discuss federally owned facilities criteria for construction, and cost-share opportunities.

Congress appropriated \$20 million for Shasta pre-construction activities in March 2018.

When will the dam raise be completed?

Reclamation's schedule targets completion of the Shasta Dam and Reservoir Enlargement Project in 2025.

Will there be any adverse impacts to the environment, including air quality?

The simple answer is that most projects have impacts. The project's environmental impacts, including air quality impacts, were identified in the final Environmental Impact Statement released in 2015. This report's air quality finding states that short-term emissions of criteria air pollutants and precursors will occur during project construction.

Learn more about air quality impacts by clicking on this link:

https://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/includes/documentShow.php?Doc_ID=22671.

Why was a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement prepared?

Since the 2015 Final Environmental Impact Report was released, Reclamation identified several key areas that required updating. The new or updated information available included in the Shasta Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement includes:

- Updated information relevant to the application of Clean Water Act 404(r) to the project, including amounts and types of fill to waters of the United States and additional details for the wetland mitigation plan
- A revision of the wild and scenic river considerations for the McCloud River to re-focus on federal requirements.
- Updated modeling to reflect the operational changes in the 2019 Biological Opinions

What federal agencies are involved and what are their roles?

Reclamation is the lead agency for designing and overseeing the dam raise's construction. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is involved due to National Forest System lands and recreational residences that will be affected by the dam raise.

Cooperating agencies, in addition to Reclamation and the USFS that were involved in preparing and providing information for the project's impacts, include: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Colusa Indian Community Council of the Cachil Dehe Band of Wintun Indians and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Who are the agency contacts for acquisition processes, contracting opportunities, or other questions?

Reclamation – Mary Lee Knecht, Public Affairs Officer, 916-978-5100

U.S. Forest Service – Lesley Yen, District Ranger, 530-275-1587

Reclamation lands and acquisition processes Scott Springer – 916-978-5266

How will the federal government compensate or mitigate impacts to local businesses during dam raise construction? Will the marinas be relocated?

Since this project falls under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, the following considerations apply:

Any new or modified Reclamation water storage project construction that destroys or otherwise adversely affects any existing marina, recreational facility or other water-dependent business will be compensated by the appropriate Secretary of Interior (if Reclamation) or Agriculture (if USFS).

The owner of the affected marina, recreational facility or other water-dependent business, under mutually agreeable terms and conditions, will be afforded the right of first refusal to construct and operate a replacement marina, recreational facility or other water-dependent business, on United States land associated with the new or modified water storage project.

What are some examples of cost-share partners?

According to the WIIN Act, the federal government can cover up to 50 % of the cost of the project, and a non-federal cost share partner is required to come up with the rest of the funding. A non-federal cost share partner could be water agencies, groups of water users, state agencies or private entities.

What is the project's effect on the McCloud River?

Chapter 5 of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report was revised to reflect and re-focus the analysis on the federal requirements.

The State of California has not designated the McCloud River as Wild and Scenic under the State Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Instead, portions of the river were designated in the California Public Resources Code Section 5093.542 as supporting a wild trout fishery. Reclamation's view is that there is a question as to whether the legislature intended to prohibit the Shasta Dam raise by enacting section 5093.542 given its support for studying the proposal.

What is the project's effect on tribal lands? How does Reclamation plan to address those effects?

Reclamation has been consulting with the Winnemem Wintu Tribe through the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 process and they have been involved in the development of a Programmatic Agreement to guide compliance and minimize/mitigate effects to cultural resources where possible.

What is the easiest way to learn more about the Shasta Dam raise project?

Visit Reclamation websites to read about the project's history, timeline, maps and the acquisition process:

<https://www.usbr.gov/mp/ncao/shasta-enlargement.html> and
<https://www.usbr.gov/mp/ncao/shasta-lake.html>.

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