U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
California-Great Basin Region

Maximizing Water Deliveries for California

Overview

On December 2, 2025, the Bureau of Reclamation issued a new Record of Decision adopting a revised long-term operation plan for the coordinated operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project. The updated plan responds to Executive Order 14181, dated January 24, 2025, directing federal agencies to take all available measures to increase water deliveries and hydropower production while remaining consistent with federal law and existing environmental protections. The new Record of Decision replaces the previous long-term operations decision signed in December 2024.

Updated Operations Plan

The revised approach allows the Central Valley Project to increase annual water deliveries by up to 85,000 acre-feet and the State Water Project by up to 129,000 acre-feet, depending on hydrologic conditions.

The updates include an improved real-time governance structure and targeted operational changes that remain within the range analyzed in the 2024 Long-Term Operations Final Environmental Impact Statement, and are consistent with the 2024 Biological Opinions issued by NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Wildlife Fish and Service.



The Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta: the hub of California's water system.



Jones Pumping Plant, a key federal facility that helps move water from the Delta to farms, communities, and wildlife refuges.

Operational Changes

Key operational changes in the revised plan include:

Removal of the Delta Summer and Fall Habitat Action (Fall X2) - Based on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service findings that the action is not expected to significantly affect Delta smelt survival.

Removal of early Delta export-reduction concepts in the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program - The data and processes needed to evaluate whether and how to implement these early measures were not in place.

Adjustments to Delta export operations - Updates include revised Old and Middle River flow criteria and changes to stormflex operations.

Revised governance structure - Ensures any water-supply restrictions provide measurable benefits to endangered species through predictive, real-time assessment tools.

These operational changes are not expected to result in any significant negative effects to the environment or species listed under the Endangered Species Act. Effects to listed anadromous species under the updated plan are within the range of effects analyzed in the 2024 NOAA Fisheries Biological Opinion. Similarly, effects to Delta smelt, longfin smelt, and terrestrial species are within the range of effects analyzed in the 2024 USFWS Biological Opinion.



An aerial look at the Delta-Mendota Canal, an essential link in California's water delivery system.



B.F. Sisk Dam impounding San Luis Reservoir, a key feature of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project, and the nation's largest offstream reservoir.



One of six pumps at the federal Jones Pumping Plant. The pumps lift water from the Delta about 200 feet from the intake through three discharge pipes, which then carry it up a distance of about 1 mile to the Delta-Mendota Canal.



Shasta Dam, the Central Valley Project's keystone reservoir for water storage, flood control, and power generation.

Next Steps

Many of the regulations that control today's Central Valley Project have been applied without accounting for our improved understanding of the role of habitat in continued species declines, better modeling, and more advanced science and forecasting tools now being used to inform smarter operations.

As such, pursuant to Executive Order 14181 and Presidential Memo: Putting People over Fish, Reclamation is exploring additional modifications to Central Valley Project operations that may fall outside of the bounds of the current Endangered Species Act and National Environmental Policy Act coverage to further increase deliveries and improve reservoir storage south of the Delta. These additional modifications are anticipated to require supplemental environmental compliance for implementation in Water Year 2027 and beyond.