



**San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority
Monday, October 2, 2023 10:00 a.m.**

**Notice of Water Resources Committee Regular Meeting and Joint Water
Resources Committee Regular Meeting-Special Board Workshop**

**SLDMWA Boardroom
842 6th Street, Los Banos**

**Public Participation Information
(List of Member/Alternate Telephonic Locations Attached)**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89060080324?pwd=WWZZbWdGdndQb05zNndUWWI4eXQvQT09>

**Meeting ID: 890 6008 0324
Passcode: 467108**

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NOTE: Any member of the public may address the Water Resources Committee/Board concerning any item on the agenda before or during consideration of that item.

Because the notice provides for a regular meeting of the Water Resources Committee ("WRC") and a joint regular WRC Meeting/Special Board workshop, Board Directors/Alternates may discuss items listed on the agenda; however, only WRC Members/Alternates may correct or add to the agenda or vote on action items.

NOTE FURTHER: Meeting materials have been made available to the public on the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority's website, <https://www.sldmwa.org>, and at the Los Banos Administrative Office, 842 6th Street, Los Banos, CA 93635.

Agenda

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Water Resources Committee to Consider Additions and Corrections to the Agenda for the Water Resources Committee Meeting only, as Authorized by Government Code Section 54950 *et seq.*
3. Opportunity for Public Comment – Any member of the public may address the Water Resources Committee/Board concerning any matter not on the agenda, but within the Committee's or Board's jurisdiction. Public comment is limited to no more than three minutes per person. For good cause, the Chair of the Water Resources Committee may waive this limitation.

ACTION ITEMS

4. **Water Resources Committee to Consider Approval of the September 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes**
5. **Water Resources Committee to Consider Recommendation to Board of Directors to Authorize Pursuit of Solar Over Canals Application for Federal Non-Reimbursable Funding, Barajas**

REPORT ITEMS

6. Executive Director's Report, Barajas
(May include reports on activities within the Water Resources Committee's jurisdiction related to 1) CVP/SWP water operations; 2) California storage projects; 3) regulation of the CVP/SWP; 4) existing or possible new State and Federal policies; 5) Water Authority activities)
7. Update on Water Policy/Resources Activities, Petersen
(May include reports on federal, state, and local agency regulatory, legislative, and administrative water policy/resources activities)
8. Update on Water Operations and Forecasts, Boardman
9. Committee Member Reports
10. Closed Session

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Initiation of Litigation Pursuant to paragraph (4) of Subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9 – 3 potential cases

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Paragraph (2) or (3) of Subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9 – 3 potential cases

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION

Existing Litigation Pursuant to paragraph (1) of Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9

- A. Natural Resources Defense Council, et al. v. Haaland, et al., U.S. District Court, E.D. Cal., Case No. 1:05-cv-01207; 9th Cir., Case No. 21-15163 (2005 DMC Contract Renewals)
- B. Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, et al. v. Conant, et al., U.S. District Court, E.D. Cal., Case No. 2:11-cv-02980; 9th Cir. Case No. 23-15599 (PCFFA v. Glaser or GBP Citizen Suit)
- C. City of Fresno, et al. v. United States, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Cir., Case No. 22-1994; U.S. Court of Federal Claims, Case No. 1:16-cv-01276 (2014 Friant Div. Operations)
- D. Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, et al. v. Raimondo, et al., U.S. District Court, E.D. Cal., Case No. 1:20-cv-00431 (ROC on LTO BiOps)
- E. California Natural Resources Agency, et al. v. Raimondo, et al., U.S. District Court, E.D. Cal., Case No. 1:20-cv-00426 (ROC on LTO BiOps)
- F. CDWR Water Operation Cases, Sac. Co. Superior Court, Case No. JCCP 5117 (formerly Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority, et al. v. California Department of Water Resources, et al., Fresno Co. Superior Court, Case No. 20CECG01303) (SWP EIR Challenge)
- G. AquAlliance, et al. v. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, et al., U.S. District Court, E.D. Cal., Case No. 1:20-cv-00878 (Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR)
- H. AquAlliance et al. v. San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, Merced Co. Superior Court, Case No. 21CV-03487 (Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR Addendum)
- I. California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, et al. v. State Water Resources Control Board, et al., Sac. Co. Superior Court, Case No. 34-2021-80003761 (2021 TUCP Order)
- J. California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, et al. v. State Water Resources Control Board, et al., Sac. Co. Superior Court, Case No. 34-2021-80003763 (2021 Temp. Mgmt. Plan)

11. Return to Open Session
12. Report from Closed Session, if any, Required by Government Code Section 54957.1
13. Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)
14. ADJOURNMENT

Persons with a disability may request disability-related modification or accommodation by contacting Cheri Worthy or Sandi Ginda at the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Office, 842 6th Street, P.O. Box 2157, Los Banos, California, via telephone at (209) 826-9696, or via email at cheri.worthy@sldmwa.org. Requests should be made as far in advance as possible before the meeting date, preferably 3 days in advance of regular meetings or 1 day in advance of special meetings/workshops.

This agenda has been prepared as required by the applicable laws of the State of California, including but not limited to, Government Code Section 54950 et seq. and has not been prepared with a view to informing an investment decision in any of the Authority's bonds, notes or other obligations. Any projections, plans or other forward-looking statements included in the information in this agenda are subject to a variety of uncertainties that could cause any actual plans or results to differ materially from any such statement. The information herein is not intended to be used by investors or potential investors in considering the purchase or sale of the Authority's bonds, notes or other obligations and investors and potential investors should rely only on information filed by the Authority on the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board's Electronic Municipal Market Access System for municipal securities disclosures, maintained on the World Wide Web at <https://emma.msrb.org/>.

SLDMWA WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
TELEPHONIC LOCATIONS
OCTOBER 2, 2023

6649 S. Tracy Blvd
Tracy, CA 95377

**SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY
WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING AND JOINT
WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING - SPECIAL
BOARD WORKSHOP MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 11, 2023**

The San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Water Resources Committee Regular Meeting and Joint Water Resources Committee Regular Meeting and Special Board Workshop convened at approximately 10:00 a.m. at 842 6th Street in Los Banos, California, with Chair William Bourdeau presiding.

Water Resources Committee Members Present

Ex-Officio

Cannon Michael
William Bourdeau

Division 1

Anthea Hansen, Alternate

Division 2

Bill Diedrich, Member - Lon Martin, Alternate

Division 3

Chris White, Member

Division 4

Vincent Gin, Member - Steve Wittry, Alternate

Division 5

Absent

Board of Directors Present

Division 1

Anthea Hansen, Director

Division 2

Justin Diener, Alternate
William Bourdeau, Vice-Chair/Director
Bill Diedrich, Director - Lon Martin, Alternate

Division 3

Chris White, Alternate
Jarrett Martin, Director
Cannon Michael, Chair/Director

Division 4

Steve Wittry, Director
Joyce Machado, Alternate

Division 5

Absent

Authority Representatives Present

Federico Barajas, Executive Director
Pablo Arroyave, Chief Operating Officer
Rebecca Akroyd, General Counsel
Rebecca Harms, Deputy General Counsel
Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director
Ray Tarka, Director of Finance
Jaime McNeill, Engineering Manager
Stewart Davis, IT Officer

Others Present

Dana Jacobson, Valley Water
Steve Stadler, San Luis Water District (via ZOOM)
Wilson Orvis, Friant Water Authority (arrived during item 9)

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Committee Chair William Bourdeau called the meeting to order and roll was called.

2. The Water Resources Committee to Consider Additions or Corrections to the Agenda of Items, as authorized by Government Code Section 54950 et seq.

No additions or corrections.

3. Opportunity for Public Comment

No public comment.

4. Water Resources Committee to Consider Approval of the July 10, 2023 Meeting Minutes.

Chair William Bourdeau deemed the July 10, 2023 meeting minutes approved as submitted.

5. Water Resources Committee to Consider Recommendation to Board of Directors to Adopt Staff Recommendation for Positions on Legislation.

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported and provided staff recommended support positions for consideration on the following legislation:

- a. S. 2636 (Bennett), Healthy Watersheds, Healthy Communities Act - Improve Water Infrastructure Affecting Authority Member Agencies
- b. S. 2250 (Bennett) / H.R. 4902 (Caraveo), Voluntary Groundwater Conservation Act of 2023 - Improve Water Infrastructure Affecting Authority Member Agencies

On a motion of Member Bill Diedrich, seconded by Member Chris White, the Committee adopted staff recommendation for support positions on legislation. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES: Michael, Bourdeau, Hansen, Diedrich, White, Gin,
NAYS: None
ABSTENTIONS: None

6. Update on Planned Jones Pumping Plant Operations/Outage.

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that a significant storm in November 2021 caused damage to building UZ11A, which eliminated the ability to power Jones Pumping Plant units 2 and 6. Since that time, there has been a short term fix, but it is critical to now repair building UZ11A. General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd reported that the Board had previously authorized execution of a contract for building UZ11A repairs in February 2022.

Arroyave reported that work for a permanent fix is scheduled to occur between September 18, 2023 and October 6, 2023, and that efforts will be made to complete construction sooner to minimize the outage.

7. Executive Director’s Report.

a. **Solar Over Canals Project** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that he had an introductory meeting with Reclamation and a private solar company regarding floating solar panels over large canals. Barajas reported that Reclamation has an internal call for proposals that would make funding available for this type of pilot project. Barajas stated the Water Authority staff will review further details and will bring this item to the Committee and Board of Directors for further consideration/action.

b. **Jones Pumping Plant Rewind Project**– Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that the Jones Pumping Plant unit rewind project has been completed, and all six units are fully functional. Barajas reported that staff will present an overview at next month’s meetings.

c. **Yuba Tour** - Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that last week, staff hosted a tour of Authority facilities for a group from Yuba Water Agency. Barajas thanked Lon Martin, Anthea Hansen, and Aaron Baker for their participation.

8. Update on Water Policy/Resources Activities.

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen provided a brief summary of the report included in the packet. Petersen reported on the Reinitiation of Consultation on Long-Term Operations of the CVP and SWP, Quarterly WIIN Act meeting, Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan updates, and the advancement of Voluntary Agreements.

9. Update on Water Operations and Forecasts.

Westlands Water District's Tom Boardman reported on Shasta storage conditions and compared the storage trend to past years. Boardman also reported on Folsom storage, the current release rate, San Luis current storage, and 2024 refill projections.

Boardman also reported on current operations at Jones Pumping Plant

10. Committee Member Reports.

None.

5. Closed Session

Committee Chair William Bourdeau adjourned the open session to address the items listed on the Closed Session Agenda at approximately 10:51 a.m. Upon return to open session at approximately 11:30 a.m., General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd reported that no reportable actions were taken in closed session.

11. Agenda Item 13: Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2

No reports.

12. Agenda Item 14: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:31 a.m.



MEMORANDUM

TO: SLDMWA Water Resources Committee Members, Alternates
SLDMWA Board of Directors, Alternates

FROM: Federico Barajas, Executive Director

DATE: October 2, 2023

RE: Water Resources Committee Recommendation / Board Authorization to Pursue
Solar Over Canals Application for Federal Non-Reimbursable Funding

BACKGROUND

In July 2023, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) issued an Internal Call for Proposals (CFP) relating to the Inflation Reduction Act – Solar Over Canals (**See Attachment A**). Reclamation issued this CFP under the authority of Section 50232 (Canal Improvement Projects) of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA) (Public Law (PL) 117-169): *In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, for fiscal year 2022, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$25,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2031, for the design, study, and implementation of projects (including pilot and demonstration projects) to cover water conveyance facilities with solar panels to generate renewable energy in a manner as determined by the Secretary or for other solar projects associated with Bureau of Reclamation projects that increase water efficiency and assist in implementation of clean energy goals.*

Reclamation's Dam Safety and Infrastructure (DS&I) Directorate in collaboration with the Power Resources Office (PRO) and the Research and Development (R&D) Office, is leading and coordinating this Internal CFP. Each Reclamation Region that has an interest must submit application for funding.

Funding is available for a pilot or demonstration project that involves covering a canal(s) associated with a Reclamation project with photovoltaic (PV) solar panels to generate renewable energy. The project shall increase water efficiency and assist in implementation of clean energy goals.

The objective of this CFP is to invite applicants to submit proposals for the study, design, and construction of PV solar panels over canals associated with Reclamation projects, as a pilot project or demonstration for Reclamation. This CFP will make available up to \$25 million in appropriations from the IRA. This money is available and is planned for project use beginning in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024.

ISSUE FOR DECISION

Whether the Water Resources Committee should recommend, and the Board should authorize, pursuit of a Solar Over Canals Application for Federal Non-Reimbursable Funding.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends pursuit of a Solar Over Canals Application for Non-Reimbursable Funding.

ANALYSIS

Water Authority staff has been approached by Reclamation's Regional Office and a private firm that has conceptual ideas that are in alignment with this pilot/demonstration effort. Given the level of interest by Reclamation and the potential for Public-Private partnership, Water Authority staff sees the merit of pursuing this funding application process for a Delta Mendota Canal (DMC) pilot project.

The DMC is a prime candidate because Reclamation is looking for a project that is operated and maintained by a transferred works operator. Under this CFP, Reclamation is seeking a pilot or demonstration project to evaluate technical capability, economic feasibility, and/or viability for full-scale implementation, or to test an unproven material or technology, for future coverage of canals with solar panels.



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Internal Call for Proposals: Inflation Reduction Act – Solar Over Canals



Mission Statements

The U.S. Department of the Interior protects and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and honors its trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated Island Communities.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

Cover Photo – All-American Canal – Andrew Pernick, Bureau of Reclamation (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/usbr/7461161736/in/photostream/>).

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AMD	Asset Management Division
ARC	Application Review Committee
CFP	Call for Proposals
DS&I	Dam Safety and Infrastructure
FY	Fiscal Year
IRA	Inflation Reduction Act
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
PL	Public Law
PRO	Power Resources Office
PV	Photovoltaic
R&D	Research and Development Office
Reclamation	Bureau of Reclamation

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Section A. Introduction

A.1. Authority

This Internal Call for Proposals (CFP) is issued under the authority of Section 50232 (Canal Improvement Projects) of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA) (Public Law (PL) 117-169):

In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, for fiscal year 2022, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$25,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2031, for the design, study, and implementation of projects (including pilot and demonstration projects) to cover water conveyance facilities with solar panels to generate renewable energy in a manner as determined by the Secretary or for other solar projects associated with Bureau of Reclamation projects that increase water efficiency and assist in implementation of clean energy goals.

A.2. Background

The Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) Dam Safety and Infrastructure (DS&I) Directorate effectively manages risk and maximizes the value of Reclamation's assets by providing reliable stewardship and oversight for Reclamation's diverse infrastructure portfolio. The DS&I Directorate, in collaboration with the Power Resources Office (PRO) and the Research and Development (R&D) Office, is pleased to distribute this Internal CFP.

Funding is available internally for a pilot or demonstration project that involves covering a canal(s) associated with a Reclamation project with photovoltaic (PV) solar panels to generate renewable energy. The project shall increase water efficiency and assist in implementation of clean energy goals.

To build resiliency to climate change, fight inflation, invest in domestic energy production and manufacturing, and reduce carbon emissions, Reclamation is exploring the viability of placing PV solar panels over canals consistent with the IRA. Solar panels, when placed over canals, have the potential to create many benefits. Not only do solar panels create clean, renewable energy that can be used for a wide variety of applications, but studies suggest that it can reduce evaporation losses of the canal; increase efficiency and production of the solar panels; create land savings for open space and agricultural use; reduce maintenance of the facility by mitigating algae and/or aquatic plant growth; and reduce the energy footprint and carbon emissions required to operate or maintain the facility. Few projects of this scope currently exist in the world. Reclamation is hoping to use this opportunity to better understand the impacts of solar panels over canals to its systems and facilities; minimize the impacts to operation and maintenance; and work with technical partners (e.g., Department of Energy, Tribal Nations, transferred works operators) to understand the scale of these efforts and the corresponding benefits that can be claimed.

A.3. Objective of this Call for Proposals

The objective of this Internal CFP is to invite applicants to submit proposals for the study, design, and construction of PV solar panels over canals associated with Reclamation projects, as a pilot project or demonstration for Reclamation.

A.4. Total Project Funding

This Internal CFP will make available up to \$25 million in appropriations from the IRA. This money is available and is planned for project use beginning in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024.

Section B. Eligibility Information

B.1. Eligible Applicants

Regional Directors may submit multiple proposals from within their region. However, a consolidated request from the Regional Director is required. Regional, area office, and field office staff should work with transferred works operators on the development of a proposal. The proposed project shall feature a canal associated with a Reclamation project that is operated and maintained by a transferred works operator. If the project does not directly involve a Reclamation-owned facility, the project must be associated with an authorized Reclamation project. Additionally, upon project completion, the project shall result in 100% non-Federal operation and maintenance (O&M) of the resulting facilities.

B.2. Eligible Projects

Under this CFP, Reclamation is seeking projects to study, demonstrate, apply, and construct the deployment of PV solar panel technology over canals associated with Reclamation projects. The selected project(s) will be used as a pilot or demonstration project to evaluate technical capability, economic feasibility, and/or viability for full-scale implementation, or to test an unproven material or technology, for future coverage of canals with solar panels.

Eligible projects for this CFP shall include the physical planning, design, and construction of PV solar panels over a canal associated with a Reclamation project. The development of guidance, methods, and research through academic studies related to incorporating PV solar panel equipment over canals will be permitted if it is in addition to physical design and construction of the project. Reclamation seeks to have a pilot or demonstration physically constructed as part of the end results associated with the project, but not be responsible for its ownership, operation, or maintenance. Furthermore, the project shall measurably increase water efficiency and implement clean energy production.

Additionally, eligible projects shall:

- Have a nexus to Reclamation’s mission, priorities, or activities;
- Include a strategy for integrating with the electric grid; and
- Be operated and maintained by a non-Federal partner.

Proposed projects will be reviewed by DS&I’s Asset Management Division (AMD) to determine whether the application is eligible for evaluation.

B.3. Ineligible Projects

Ineligible projects include projects that do not study, design, and construct PV solar panels over canals associated with Reclamation projects. Ineligible projects will also include those that are

not expected to increase water efficiency, do not assist in the implementation of clean energy goals, and rely on Federal operation and maintenance.

B.4. Length of Project

Once constructed, Reclamation anticipates that the pilot/demonstration of the project(s) and associated data collection will continue for a maximum of five years. After the completion of this timeframe, the non-Federal entity with operation and maintenance responsibility will be able to continue the project through the lifecycle of the constructed components.

Section C. Review and Selection Process

The review process will include evaluating proposals by an ARC, using the evaluation criteria described in *Section E. Evaluation Criteria*, and a prioritization of projects by the Commissioner’s Office. Each of these steps is described in more detail below.

C.1. Selection Process Schedule

FY 2024 Solar Over Canals Call for Proposals Schedule	
Call for Proposals Issued	July 2023
Proposals Due	October 2023
Project Selection	February 2024
Agreements Awarded	September 2024

C.2. Selection Process Steps

Proposals that do not meet the requirements or objectives of this CFP may be rejected. Proposals will be reviewed and selected through a merit-based (criteria-driven) process comprised of the following steps.

C.2.1. Initial Screening

The AMD will conduct an initial screening to ensure that the proposals meet the following minimum requirements:

- the applicant meets the eligibility requirements stated in this CFP;
- the application meets the content requirements of the CFP package, including: submission of a technical proposal, responses to the evaluation criteria, and a budget proposal; and
- the application is submitted by the due date stated in this CFP.

C.2.2. Application Review Committee – Technical Sufficiency Evaluation

Applications will be scored against the evaluation criteria described in *Section E. Evaluation Criteria* by an Application Review Committee (ARC) made up of experts in relevant disciplines selected by the AMD. The ARC will:

- ensure the proposed project(s) meets the description of eligible projects and meets the objectives of this CFP;
- review all applications individually and evaluate them against the evaluation criteria included in this CFP;
- participate in a consensus discussion with other ARC members and make recommendations for funding based on technical sufficiency; and

- identify clarification questions for applicants or to be considered in the management review.

C.2.3. Management Review

The AMD will provide from the ARC to the Commissioner's Office those proposals that met the viability threshold (minimum technical sufficiency). The Commissioner's Office, in consultation with the AMD and pursuant to the IRA Program Management Plan, will prioritize projects to ensure the total amount of all awards do not exceed available funding levels. The management review will also ensure all projects meet the scope, priorities, requirements, and objectives of this CFP and the IRA. Management may also prioritize projects to ensure multiple project types and Reclamation offices are represented.

Section D. Proposal Content Requirements

D.1. Proposal Format and Length

The font shall be at least 12 points in size and easily readable. Page size shall be 8½ by 11 inches, including charts, maps, and drawings. Margins should be standard 1-inch margins. Oversized pages will not be accepted.

The technical proposal and evaluation criteria section shall be limited to a maximum of **10 pages**.

D.2. Proposal Content

The proposal must include the following to be considered complete:

- Technical proposal and evaluation criteria
 - Executive Summary
 - Project Technical Description
 - Evaluation Criteria
- Project Budget
 - Total Project Costs
 - Budget Proposal Table
 - Budget Narrative

D.2.1. Executive Summary

The Executive Summary should not exceed one page and is intended to be a high-level summary of the proposed project. The executive summary should include the following information:

- Project Title: The title should convey the nature of the project and its location.
- Project Eligibility: Describe how the project meets eligibility requirements of this CFP. See *Section B. Eligibility Information* for eligible project information.
- Applicant Information: Reclamation contact, Reclamation office, and region.
- Project Summary: Briefly summarize the work proposed in a manner appropriate for website posting. The summary should include:
 - the regional/area office leading the effort and the general geographic project location (city, county and state);
 - a one-paragraph project summary that specifies the purpose of the project (e.g., why is it needed, who is involved and what gave rise to the project), the work proposed, and briefly identify how the proposed project contributes to accomplishing the goals of this CFP; and
 - a list of any partners.
- Performance Period: Project length and estimated completion date.

- General project location: A general description of the area where the project will be conducted, particularly any site-specific application of the project results.

D.2.2. Technical Approach Description

Provide a more comprehensive description of the technical aspects of your project, including the work to be accomplished and the approach to complete the work. This description should provide detailed information about the existing facility that will be improved. This section provides an opportunity for the applicant to provide a clear description of the technical nature of the project and to address any aspect of the project that reviewers may need additional information to understand.

D.2.3. Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criteria portion of your application should be addressed in the technical proposal section and will count towards the 10-page limit for the Technical Proposal and Evaluation Criteria portion of your proposal. See *Section E. Evaluation Criteria* for the evaluation criteria.

D.3. Budget

The budget and narrative should reflect the level of effort required to complete the project. The three required components to the budget are described in the subsections below.

D.3.1. Total Project Costs and Budget Proposal Table

The total project costs are the sum of all allowable cost items, including any voluntary cost-share contributions. Please provide the total project costs in the format provided in Table 1.

Table 1. Total Project Cost Table

SOURCE	AMOUNT
Costs to be reimbursed with the requested funding	\$
*Cost share contributions from region	\$
*Cost share contributions by partners	\$
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$

*Cost share contributions are encouraged but not required. If you have no cost share, leave these rows blank.

Include a budget table that features high level budget costs for Reclamation non-labor equipment, supplies, materials, etc.

D.3.2. Budget Narrative

The budget narrative provides a discussion of, or explanation for, items included in the budget proposal table. Identify how these costs were estimated (i.e., quotes, previous similar project, or other methodology).

Section E. Evaluation Criteria

E.1. Criteria

The evaluation criteria portion should be addressed in the technical proposal section of the application. Applications should thoroughly address each criterion and any sub-criterion in the order presented below. **Applications will be evaluated against the evaluation criteria listed below.** It is suggested that you copy and paste the evaluation criteria and sub-criterion immediately below into your application, followed by your response, to ensure all information is adequately addressed.

Evaluation Criteria: Scoring Summary		Points
A. Operation & Maintenance Considerations		30
B. Non-Federal Cost Share and Support for Project		20
C. Project Implementation and Readiness to Proceed		20
D. Clean Energy, Water Efficiency, and Additional Benefits		15
E. Safety & Security Considerations and Benefits		15
	<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>

E.1.1. Evaluation Criterion A – Operation & Maintenance Considerations (30 Points)

Up to **30 points** may be awarded based on the evaluation of the benefits that are expected to result from the proposed project in relation to O&M benefits. This criterion evaluates the extent to which the project will hinder access to the canal and hinder the ability of Reclamation to perform visual inspections on the facility. In addition to canal access and inspection considerations, Reclamation shall consider and evaluate all impacts, both positive and negative, to underlying O&M associated with the project and facility, including the expected lifecycle costs of the project. Describe the methods used to collect and analyze data to evaluate both positive and negative project impacts to O&M. The ideal project will result in 100% non-Federal O&M, with 100% non-Federal O&M receiving the most points for this criterion.

E.1.2. Evaluation Criterion B—Non-Federal Cost Share and Support for Project (20 points)

Up to **20 points** may be awarded for proposals that include partner involvement and a plan for disseminating, transferring, and communicating project results with others, including internal

Reclamation offices and external partners. Please respond and provide support for your responses to each of the following sub-criteria.

1. Describe how this project includes partner involvement. Partners may include Reclamation staff from other offices or divisions, customers, operating partners, stakeholders, and other collaborators, including other government agencies, or universities, etc. If so, please respond to the following sub-criteria. If not, please explain why there are no partners.

- Are the partners contributing cost-share (cash or in-kind)? Are partners contributing other resources (e.g., expertise, or input and feedback to the project)?
 - Consideration will be made for disadvantaged communities that are unable to provide a non-Federal cost share and will be evaluated equally to those that can provide financial contributions. If requesting this consideration, please provide a substantiated explanation describing the applicant's circumstances and justifying the need for this consideration.

2. Describe how the methods to collect and analyze data to evaluate project impacts (both positive and negative) and how those impacts and project results will be communicated to project partners, to Reclamation staff, and to interested stakeholders and water resources managers.

E.1.3. Evaluation Criterion C—Project Implementation and Readiness to Proceed (20 points)

Up to **20 points** may be awarded based on the applicant's plan for implementing the project and demonstration of their likelihood of success by selecting appropriate team members, describing the project clearly, and including an adequate budget. Proposals that include a reasonably detailed work plan, with a schedule and specific milestones for completing the work, include appropriately qualified team members, provide a budget that is appropriate for the work proposed, and include reasonable level of detail describing the project are more likely to succeed and will, therefore, receive the most points under this criterion. Your responses to the following sub-criteria should reflect an understanding of the tasks required to complete the project. Please respond and provide support for your responses to each of the following sub-criteria:

1. Briefly describe and provide support for the approach and methodology that will be used to meet the objectives of the project.
2. Describe the work plan for the project. Include an estimated project schedule showing the stages and duration of the proposed work, including major tasks, milestones, and dates. Note: use of a table or Gantt chart to show the schedule is suggested.

E.1.4. Evaluation Criterion D—Clean Energy, Water Efficiency, and Additional Benefits (15 points)

Up to **15 points** may be awarded based on the extent that the project produces clean energy, increases water efficiency, and/or has additional benefits. Both quantitative and qualitative data shall be used to show measurable increases in clean energy production and water efficiency of Reclamation facilities. Please respond and provide support for your responses to each of the following sub-criteria:

1. Describe the clean energy production the project will produce over time, how it will offset energy usage of the facility or local area, the expected kilowatt hours of energy production, and the estimated number of years it will take for the project to return the initial investment involved in the research, design, construction, and implementation of the project. Reference academic, industry, or other studies or reports showing scalable, quantitative scientific data to support the energy production assertions.
2. Describe benefits the project will have on Reclamation water in terms of reducing evaporation losses, reducing O&M by decreasing growth of aquatic plants and algae, and any other potential benefits related to water efficiency and O&M that the project might have. Reference academic, industry, or other studies or reports showing scalable, quantitative scientific data to support the water efficiency assertions.
3. Describe any additional benefits associated with your project including those supporting Administration priorities (e.g., Environmental Justice, Disadvantaged Communities, a design that supports interchangeability of products).

E.1.5. Evaluation Criterion E—Safety and Security Considerations and Project Benefits (15 points)

Up to **15 points** may be awarded based on applicant's safety and security considerations for the design, construction, and implementation of the project. Please respond and provide support for your responses to each of the following sub-criteria:

1. Describe what safety and security concerns might occur during construction and implementation of the project, and how the applicant plans to mitigate them.
2. Describe how the project might alleviate existing safety and security concerns at the project site due to the project's construction and implementation.



MEMORANDUM

TO: SLDMWA Water Resources Committee Members and Alternates

FROM: Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director

DATE: October 2, 2023

RE: Update on Water Policy/Resources Activities

Background

This memorandum is provided to briefly summarize the current status of various agency processes regarding water policy activities, including but not limited to the (1) Reinitiation of Consultation on Long-Term Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project, including environmental compliance; (2) State Water Resources Control Board action; (3) San Joaquin River Restoration Program; (4) Delta conveyance; (5) Reclamation action; (6) Delta Stewardship Council action; (7) San Joaquin Valley Water Blueprint and San Joaquin Valley Water Collaborative Action Plan.

Policy Items

Reinitiation of Consultation on Long-Term Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project

In August 2016, the Bureau of Reclamation and California Department of Water Resources (DWR) requested reinitiation of consultation with NOAA Fisheries, also known as National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) due to multiple years of drought, low populations of listed species, and new information developed as a result of ongoing collaborative science efforts over the last 10 years.

On Jan. 31, 2019, Reclamation transmitted its Biological Assessment to the Services. The purpose of this action is to continue the coordinated long-term operation of the CVP and SWP to optimize water supply delivery and power generation consistent with applicable laws, contractual obligations, and agreements; and to increase operational flexibility by focusing on nonoperational measures to avoid significant adverse effects to species.

The biological opinions carefully evaluated the impact of the proposed CVP and SWP water operations on imperiled species such as salmon, steelhead and Delta smelt. FWS and NMFS documented impacts and worked closely with Reclamation to modify its proposed operations to minimize and offset those impacts, with the goals of providing water supply for project users and protecting the environment.

Both FWS and NMFS concluded that Reclamation's proposed operations will not jeopardize threatened or endangered species or adversely modify their critical habitat. These conclusions were reached for

several reasons – most notably because of significant investments by many partners in science, habitat restoration, conservation facilities including hatcheries, as well as protective measures built into Reclamation's and DWR's proposed operations.

On Oct. 21, 2019, FWS and NMFS released their biological opinions on Reclamation's and DWR's new proposed coordinated operations of the CVP and SWP.

On Dec. 19, 2019, Reclamation released the final Environmental Impact Statement analyzing potential effects associated with long-term water operations for the CVP and SWP.

On Feb. 18, 2020, Reclamation approved a Record of Decision that completes its environmental review for the long-term water operations for the CVP and SWP, which incorporates new science to optimize water deliveries and power production while protecting endangered species and their critical habitats.

On January 20, 2021, President Biden signed an Executive Order: “Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis”, with a fact sheet¹ attached that included a non-exclusive list of agency actions that heads of the relevant agencies will review in accordance with the Executive Order. Importantly, the NOAA Fisheries and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinions on the Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project were both included in the list of agency actions for review.

On September 30, 2021, Reclamation Regional Director Ernest Conant sent a letter to U.S. FWS Regional Director Paul Souza and NMFS Regional Administrator Barry Thom requesting reinitiation of consultation on the Long-Term Operation of the CVP and SWP. Pursuant to 50 CFR § 402.16, Reclamation indicated that reinitiation is warranted based on anticipated modifications to the Proposed Action that may cause effects to listed species or designated critical habitats not analyzed in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Biological Opinions, dated October 21, 2019. To address the review of agency actions required by Executive Order 13990 and to voluntarily reconcile CVP operating criteria with operational requirements of the SWP under the California Endangered Species Act, Reclamation and DWR indicated that they anticipate a modified Proposed Action and associated biological effects analysis that would result in new Biological Opinions for the CVP and SWP.

Following this action, on October 20, 2021, the SLDMWA sent a letter to Reclamation Regional Director Ernest Conant requesting participation in the reinitiation of consultation pursuant to Section 4004 of the WIIN Act and in the NEPA process as either a Cooperating Agency or Participating Agency.

On February 26, 2022, the Department of the Interior released a Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Hold Public Scoping Meetings on the 2021 Endangered Species Act Reinitiation of Section 7 Consultation on the Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project². In response to this, on March 30, 2022, the SLDMWA submitted a comment letter highlighting actions for Reclamation to consider during preparation of the EIS.

¹ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/01/20/fact-sheet-list-of-agency-actions-for-review/>

² <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2022-02-28/pdf/2022-04160.pdf>

During May 2022, Reclamation issued draft copies of the Knowledge Base Papers for the following management topics and requested supplementary material review and comments, to which the Authority submitted comment letters in June:

1. Spring-run Juvenile Production Estimate- Spring-run Survival Knowledge Base Document, May 2022
2. Steelhead Juvenile Production Estimate-Steelhead Survival Knowledge Base Document, April 2022
3. Old and Middle River Reverse Flow Management – Smelt, Chinook Salmon, and Steelhead Migration and Survival Knowledge Base Document, May 2022
4. Central Valley Tributary Habitat Restoration Effects on Salmonid Growth and Survival Knowledge Based Paper, March 2022
5. Delta Spring Outflow Management Smelt Growth and Survival Knowledge Base Document, May 2022
6. Pulse Flow Effects on Salmonid Survival Knowledge Base Document, May 2022
7. Summer and Fall Habitat Management Actions – Smelt Growth and Survival Knowledge Base Document, May 2022
8. Shasta Cold Water Pool Management – End of September Storage Knowledge Base Document, May 2022

Subsequent to the Knowledge Base Paper review, a Scoping Meeting was held, to which Water Authority staff provided comments, resulting in the release of a Scoping Report³ by Reclamation in June 2022.

On October 14, 2022, Reclamation released an Initial Alternatives Report (IAR).

On May 16, 2023, Reclamation provided an administrative draft copy of the Proposed Action, titled “State and Federal Cooperating Agency Draft LTO Alternative” to agencies that have executed an MOU with Reclamation on engagement. Authority staff is reviewing the document and provided feedback to Reclamation, in coordination with member agencies and other CVP contractors.

On June 30, 2023, Reclamation released a draft Qualitative Biological Assessment for review by agencies that have executed an MOU with Reclamation on engagement, though Reclamation is not accepting formal comments. Note that this release does not initiate formal ESA consultation and is being provided to assist the fishery agencies in setting up their documents and resources for the formal consultation, which we expect to begin in late September/early October.

On July 21, 2023, Reclamation released an Administrative Draft Terrestrial Biological Assessment for review by agencies that have an MOU with Reclamation on engagement, though Reclamation is not accepting formal comments. Note that this release does not initiate formal ESA consultation and is being provided to assist the fishery agencies in setting up their documents and resources for the formal consultation, which we expect to begin in late September/early October.

On September 12, Reclamation held a Quarterly Public meeting to provide an update on the LTO⁴.

³ <https://www.usbr.gov/mp/bdo/docs/lto-scoping-report-2022.pdf>

⁴ Request from Authority staff

Current Milestones

- Q4 2023 – Public Draft EIS/Quantitative Biological Assessment
 - The public draft EIS will be the avenue for comments to Reclamation
 - Cooperating agencies will receive an administrative draft of the EIS
- Summer 2024 – Record of Decision

Exploratory Modeling

Concurrent with the development of the EIS and BA, Reclamation is conducting Exploratory Modeling to assist in the development of the Proposed Action and Quantitative Biological Assessment. As a part of this work, the Benchmark model has been updated, with further updates to come. Importantly, the CalSim modeling is transitioning from CalSim2 to CalSim3, which may have some implications that need to be analyzed for potential water supply impacts.

State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Activity

Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan Update

Background

The State Water Board is currently considering updates to its 2006 Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (“Bay Delta Plan”) in two phases (Plan amendments). The first Plan amendment is focused on San Joaquin River flows and southern Delta salinity (“Phase I” or “San Joaquin River Flows and Southern Delta Salinity Plan Amendment”). The second Plan amendment is focused on the Sacramento River and its tributaries, Delta eastside tributaries (including the Calaveras, Cosumnes, and Mokelumne rivers), Delta outflows, and interior Delta flows (“Phase II” or “Sacramento/Delta Plan Amendment”).

During the December 12, 2018 Water Board Meeting, the Department of Water Resources (“DWR”) and Department of Fish and Wildlife presented proposed “Voluntary Settlement Agreements” (“VSAs”) on behalf of Reclamation, DWR, and the public water agencies they serve to resolve conflicts over proposed amendments to the Bay-Delta Plan update.⁵ The State Water Board did not adopt the proposed VSAs in lieu of the proposed Phase 1 amendments, but as explained below, directed staff to consider the proposals as part of a future Delta-wide proposal.

Phase 1 Status: The State Water Board adopted a resolution⁶ to adopt amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary and adopt the Final Substitute Environmental Document during its December 12, 2018 public meeting.

⁵ Available at <https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Blogs/Voluntary-Settlement-Agreement-Meeting-Materials-Dec-12-2018-DWR-CDFW-CNRA.pdf>.

⁶ Available at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/2018/rs2018_0059.pdf.

Most recently, on July 18, 2022, the State Water Resources Control Board issued a Notice of Preparation (NOP)⁷ and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Scoping Meeting for the Proposed Regulation to Implement Lower San Joaquin River Flows (LSJR) and Southern Delta Salinity Objectives in the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Bay-Delta Plan).

The purpose of the NOP is: (1) to advise responsible and trustee agencies, Tribes, and interested organizations and persons, that the State Water Board or Board will be the lead agency and will prepare a draft EIR for a proposed regulation implementing the LSJR flow and southern Delta salinity components of the 2018 Bay-Delta Plan, and (2) to seek input on significant environmental issues, reasonable alternatives, and mitigation measures that should be addressed in the EIR. For responsible and trustee agencies, the State Water Board requests the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information related to your agency's area of statutory responsibility that must be included in the draft EIR.

In response to the release of the NOP, the Water Authority and member agencies provided scoping comments⁸.

Phase 2 Status: In the State Water Board's resolution adopting the Phase 1 amendments, the Water Board directed staff to assist the Natural Resources Agency in completing a Delta watershed-wide agreement, including potential flow and non-flow measures for the Tuolumne River, and associated analyses no later than March 1, 2019. Staff were directed to incorporate the Delta watershed-wide agreement as an alternative for a future, comprehensive Bay-Delta Plan update that addresses the reasonable protection of beneficial uses across the Delta watershed, with the goal that comprehensive amendments may be presented to the State Water Board for consideration as early as possible after December 1, 2019.

On March 1, 2019, the California Department of Water Resources and the Department of Fish and Wildlife submitted documents⁹ to the State Water Board that reflect progress since December to flesh-out the previously submitted framework to improve conditions for fish through targeted river flows and a suite of habitat-enhancing projects including floodplain inundation and physical improvement of spawning and rearing areas.

Since the March 1 submittal, work has taken place to develop the package into a form that is able to be analyzed by State Water Board staff for legal and technical adequacy. On June 30, 2019, a status update with additional details was submitted to the Board for review. Additionally, on February 4, 2020, the State team released a framework for the Voluntary Agreements to reach "adequacy", as defined by the State team.

⁷ Available at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/notices/20220715-implementation-nop-and-scoping-dwr-baydelta.pdf

⁸ Request from Authority staff

⁹ Available at http://resources.ca.gov/docs/voluntary-agreements/2019/Complete_March_1_VA_Submission_to_SWRCB.pdf

Further work and analysis is needed to determine whether the agreements can meet environmental objectives required by law and identified in the State Water Board's update to the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan.

On September 28, The State Water Resources Control Board released a draft Staff Report in support of possible updates to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta Plan) that are focused on the Sacramento River watershed, Delta, and Delta eastside tributaries (Sacramento/Delta).

The draft Staff Report includes scientific information and environmental and economic evaluations to support possible Sacramento/Delta updates to the Bay-Delta Plan. The report assesses a range of alternatives for updating the Sacramento/Delta portions of the Bay-Delta Plan, including: an alternative based on a 2018 Framework document identifying a 55% of unimpaired flow level (within an adaptive range from 45-65%) from Sacramento/Delta tributaries and associated Delta outflows; and a proposed voluntary agreements alternative that includes voluntary water contributions and physical habitat restoration on major tributaries to the Delta and in the Delta. In addition, based on input from California Native American tribes, the draft Staff Report identifies the proposed addition of tribal and subsistence fishing beneficial uses to the Bay-Delta Plan.

The draft Staff Report is available for review on the [Board's website](#). Written comments on the report are due by **December 15, 2023**. During the public comment period, staff will hold two public workshops to explain the report where attendees can also ask questions. The workshops will be followed by a public hearing before the State Water Board to receive oral comments on the draft Staff Report.

A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document providing information on the report and the Bay-Delta Plan generally are available on the [Bay-Delta webpage](#).

Upcoming opportunities for engagement on the draft Staff Report are highlighted below:

- October 19 (9:30 am): Overview of Draft Staff Report Workshop and Q&A Session
- November 2 (9:30 am): Modeling Workshop and Q&A Session
- November 17 (9:30 am), December 1 (9:30 am), and December 11 (4:00 pm): Public hearing
- December 15: Written comments due

In addition to the public workshops, Board staff will hold a separate workshop for tribal representatives only to explain the draft Staff Report and answer questions. A separate notice inviting tribal representatives to participate in the workshop will be sent directly to tribal representatives.

Please see the [notice](#) for additional information on how to submit comments and participate in the workshops and hearing.

Schedule

LSJR Flow/SD Salinity Implementation Next Steps Assuming Regulation Path (Phase 1)

- Summer 2023: Executive Director act on draft COP, compliance methods, and procedures for adaptive implementation
- Fall 2023
 - Scientific Basis Report for Tuolumne River VAs submitted for peer review

- Draft Staff Report for Bay-Delta Plan amendment for Tuolumne River VA
- Draft Regulation and Draft EIR in support of a regulation implementing Lower SJR flows and South Delta Salinity
- Winter/Spring 2024
 - Final draft Staff Report for Tuolumne River VA
 - Board workshop and consideration of Tuolumne River VA
 - Final draft EIR and regulation implementing Lower SJR flows and South Delta Salinity
 - Board consideration of regulation implementing Lower SJR flows and South Delta Salinity

Sac/Delta Update: Key Milestones

- Winter 2023: Public workshop on Draft Staff Report
- Spring/Summer 2024: Response to comments and development of proposed final changes to the Bay-Delta Plan
- Summer/Fall 2024: Board consideration of adoption

Voluntary Agreements

On March 29, 2022, members of the Newsom Administration joined federal and local water leaders in announcing the signing of a memorandum of understanding¹⁰ that advances integrated efforts to improve ecosystem and fisheries health within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta. State and federal agencies also announced an agreement¹¹ specifically with the Sacramento River Settlement Contractors on an approach for 2022 water operations on the Sacramento River.

Both announcements represent a potential revival of progress toward what has been known as “Voluntary Agreements,” an approach the Authority believes is superior to a regulatory approach to update the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan.

The broader MOU outlines terms for an eight-year program that would provide substantial new flows for the environment to help recover salmon and other native fish. The terms also support the creation of new and restored habitat for fish and wildlife, and provide significant funding for environmental improvements and water purchases, according to a joint news release from the California Natural Resources Agency and the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA). Local water agency managers signing the MOU have committed to bringing the terms of the MOU to their boards of directors for their endorsement and to work to settle litigation over engaged species protections in the Delta.

On June 16, the SLDMWA, Friant Water Authority and Tehama Colusa Canal Authority signed onto the VA MOU. Additionally, since that time, in September and November, four more agencies – Contra Costa Water District, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), Turlock Irrigation District (TID) and Modesto Irrigation District (MID) – have signed onto the VA MOU.

¹⁰ Available at <https://resources.ca.gov/-/media/CNRA-Website/Files/NewsRoom/Voluntary-Agreement-Package-March-29-2022.pdf>

¹¹ Available at <https://calepa.ca.gov/2022/03/29/informational-statement-state-federal-agencies-and-sacramento-river-settlement-contractors-agree-on-approach-for-2022-water-operations-on-the-sacramento-river/>

Work continues to develop the working documents associated with execution and implementation of the VA's and workgroups for participating agencies have been formed, with the formation of a VA Science Workgroup to develop the framework of the VA's proposed Science program, as well as the recent formation of Scheduling and Funding workgroups to ensure that the program remains coordinated.

Tuolumne River Voluntary Agreement

Background

On December 12, 2018, the State Water Board adopted Bay-Delta Plan amendments and a Final SED establishing updated flow objectives on the Lower San Joaquin River, including its three eastside tributaries the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced Rivers (collectively "LSJR"), revised salinity objectives for the southern Delta, and programs of implementation to achieve the revised objectives.

In November, 2022, the State Water Board received a memorandum of understanding¹² for a proposed Tuolumne River Voluntary Agreement. To consider the proposed voluntary agreement, the State Water Board will need to also consider modifications to the Bay-Delta Plan and prepare a staff report to support those possible changes because the Tuolumne River Voluntary Agreement does not fully conform to the current provisions of the Bay-Delta Plan.

The State Water Board has not yet determined whether to approve changes to the Bay-Delta Plan to incorporate the proposed Tuolumne River Voluntary Agreement, but is commencing preparation of the staff report to inform its consideration. In developing its environmental documentation in the staff report, the State Water Board will tier, as appropriate, from the adopted December 12, 2018, Final SED for the LSJR and southern Delta update to the Bay-Delta Plan.

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Reclamation Manual

Documents out for Comment

Draft Policy

- There are currently no Draft Policies out for review.

Draft Directives and Standards

- There are currently no Draft Directives and Standards out for review.

Draft Facilities Instructions, Standards, and Techniques (FIST)

- There are currently no Facilities Instructions, Standards, and Techniques out for review.

Draft Reclamation Safety and Health Standards (RSHS)

- There are currently no Safety and Health Standards out for review.

¹² Available at

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/docs/2023/revised-va-mou-swrbc-copy.pdf

Draft Reclamation Design Standards

- There are currently no Design Standards out for review.

San Joaquin Valley Water Blueprint

The Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley (Blueprint) is a non-profit group of stakeholders, working to better understand our shared goals for water solutions that support environmental stewardship with the needs of communities and industries throughout the San Joaquin Valley.

Blueprint's strategic priorities for 2022-2025: Advocacy, Groundwater Quality and Disadvantaged Communities, Land Use Changes & Environmental Planning, Outreach & Communications, SGMA Implementation, Water Supply Goals, Governance, Operations & Finance.

Mission Statement: *"Unifying the San Joaquin Valley's voice to advance an accessible, reliable solution for a balanced water future for all."*

Committees

Executive/Budget/Personnel

The Blueprint Board approved additional amendments to the Hallmark and Stantec agreements specifically to include work aligned with the California Water Institute/Reclamation Valley Water Plan. The Blueprint sent its annual invoicing, including newly established categories for GSA's coinciding with irrigable acres last month, along with a summary of accomplishments and future goals. Board has approved the evaluation criteria for specific priorities/efforts to help bridge the water deficit in the San Joaquin Valley. The projects/efforts selected will be identified for valley wide support and to date include the Patterson ID conveyance project and Delta Operations.

Advocacy/Communications

With a finalized criteria and selection of projects/efforts the Blueprint will meet again with policy makers, legislators, and Advisor Villaraigosa to highlight alignment with the Governor's water resiliency plan and priority for a potential Water Bond. The Board has provided direction to coordinate efforts with the Collaborative Action Plan where alignment exists. The Blueprint will be looking to meet, discuss and provide comments to PPIC on their "The Future of Agriculture in the San Joaquin Valley" especially with the scheduled conference at Fresno State September 20th.

Activities

SJV/Delta Water Leaders' Summit

Blueprint coordinated and invited a select group of agricultural and water leaders from the San Joaquin Valley and the Delta region to meet and tour the Delta and SJ Valley. Due to the high flood risk in the Delta, the Planning Committee rescheduled the Summit meetings tentatively for November 2-3 to ensure that full attention is given to protecting life and property, and after harvest.

Drinking Water Feasibility Study - CSU Fresno State, FWA, Self-Help, Sustainable Conservation

Fresno State is finalizing the scope of work and budget for subcontractors. They expect to have a project timeline ready by July. As a reminder the partners for the feasibility study have initially identified potential Fresno County districts/areas generally for recharge projects. Initial modeling for Fresno State/California Water Institute has preliminarily identified FID, Consolidated ID, Raisin City WD and North Fork Kings GSA

for strong multi benefit recharge potential. The group is focused on multi-benefits for recharge with a focus on drinking water with measurable results.

Unified Water Plan for the San Joaquin Valley

The Blueprint and California Water Institute have kicked off the joint development of a Unified Water Plan for the San Joaquin Valley as called for in the recently awarded Bureau of Reclamation grant. Both Stantec and The Hallmark Group will be engaged on the development of the plan. The final water plan will include measures to address San Joaquin Valley needs and potential portfolios to address needs and objectives, this report will ultimately be transmitted to Congress by Reclamation in 2025. A copy of that scope is available upon request.¹³

San Joaquin Valley Water Collaborative Action Program (SJVW CAP)

Background

The CAP Plenary Group met on February 28 and approved the formation of work groups to advance the revised Term Sheet¹⁴, adopted on November 22, 2022. Phase II, Work Groups are beginning to meet and discuss priorities and drafting for their respective areas: Safe Drinking Water; Sustainable Water Supplies; Ecosystem Health; Land Use, Demand Reduction and Land Repurposing; Implementation.

Steering Committee members continue to meet to discuss the proposed budget and work with Reclamation regarding the requested funding.

The August Plenary Group meeting was cancelled while the Steering Committee continues to advance the proposed work plan, scope and budget.

¹³ Request from Authority staff

¹⁴ Request from Authority staff



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

WIIN Act Quarterly Meeting

2021 Long-Term Operation of the CVP and SWP

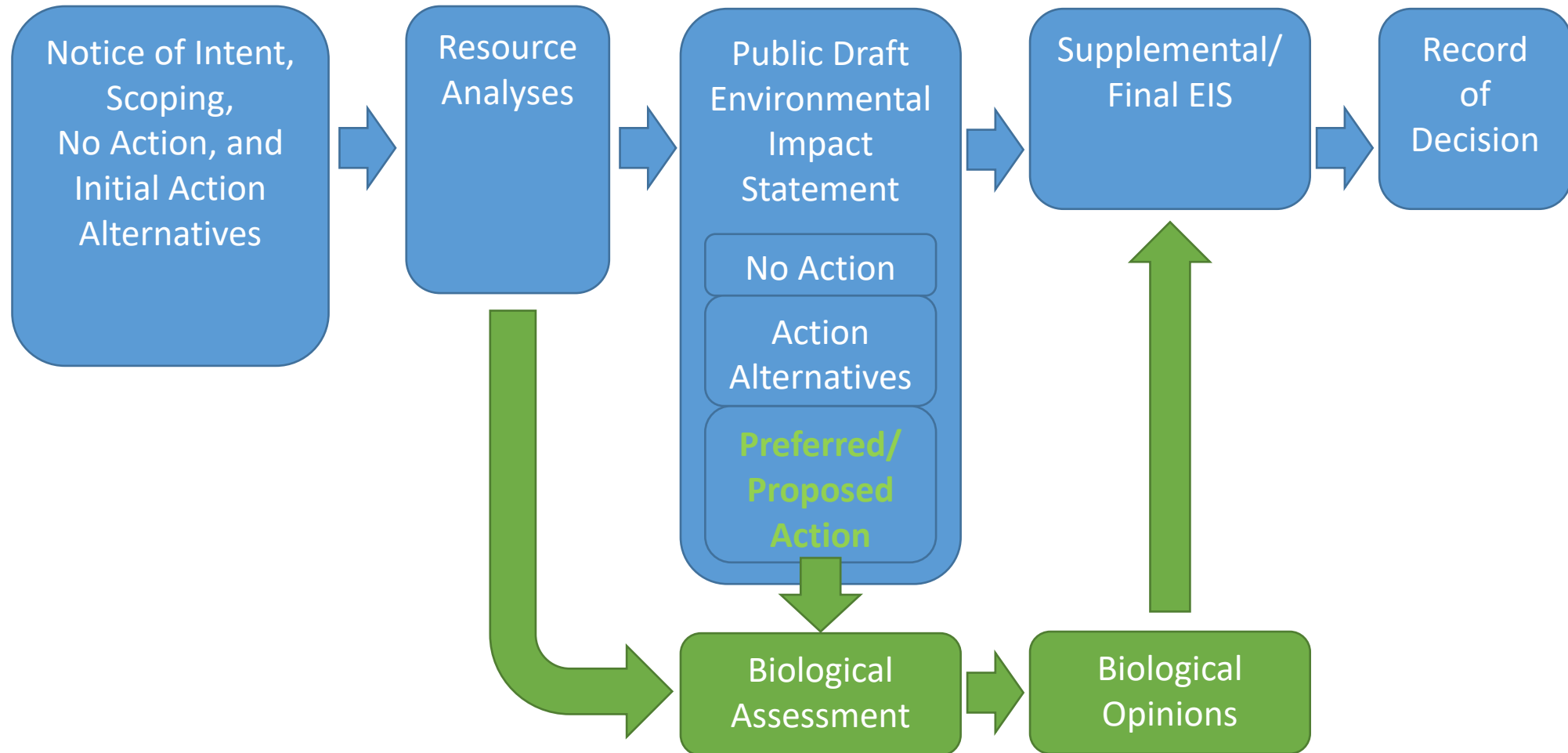
September 12, 2023

Agenda

- Modeling Update
- Cooperating Agency Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- Draft Biological Assessment Comments
- Trinity Consultation Update
- Anticipated Next Steps



NEPA and ESA Process



NEPA and ESA Process Diagram



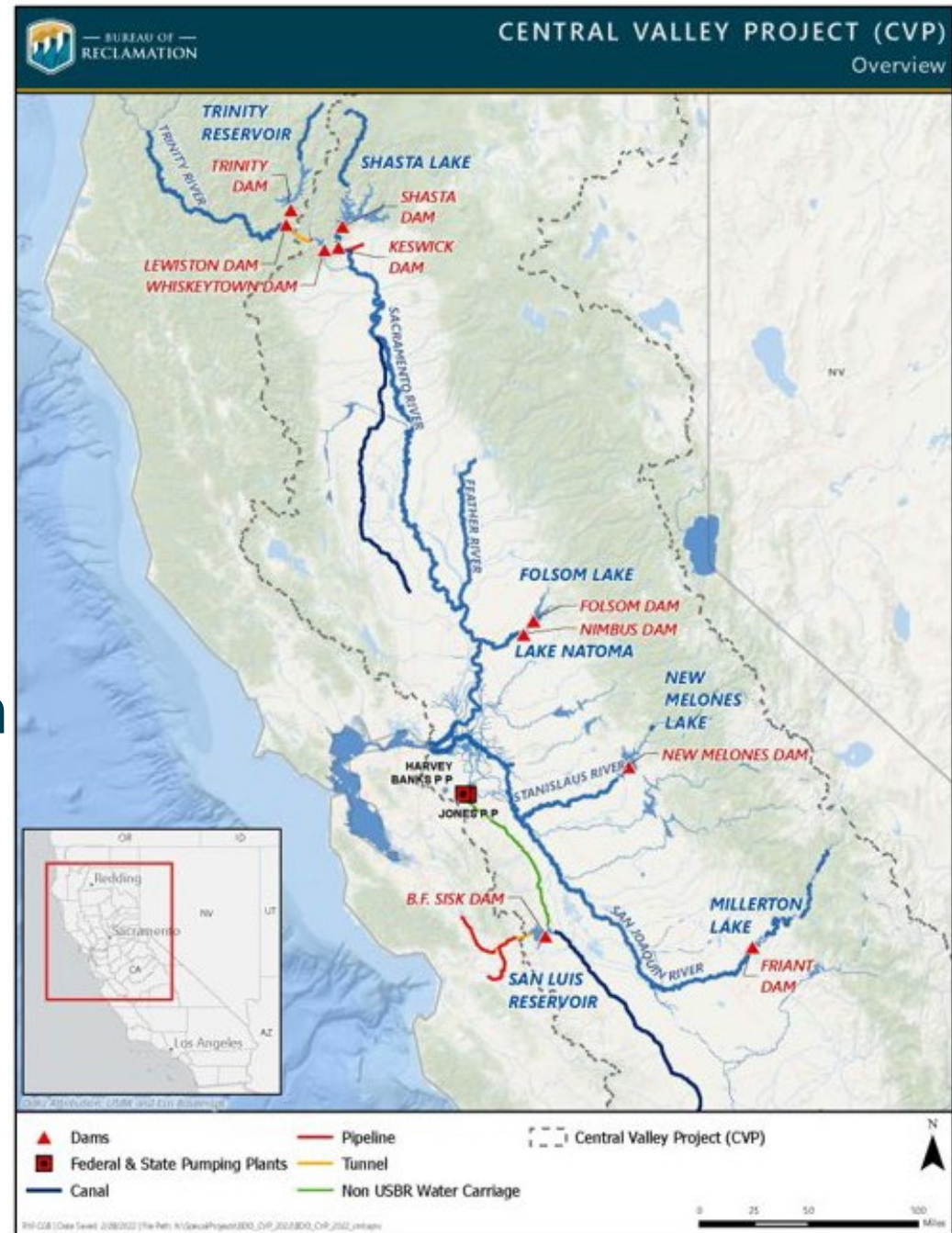
Prior WIIN Act Quarterly Meetings

- March 2022 – Various scoping meetings following the NOI
- June 2022 – Scoping Comments and Initial Action Alternative Introduction
- September 2022 – Seasonal Operation Deconstruction and Initial Alternative Development
- December 2022 – Lines of Evidence
- March 2023 – Environmental Impact Statement (Affected Environment)
- June 2023 – Environmental Impact Statement (Alternative Components)



Draft EIS Alternatives

- No Action Alternative
- Water Quality Control Plans
- Multi-Agency Consensus
- Modified Natural Flow Hydrograph
- Risk-Based Operation





— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

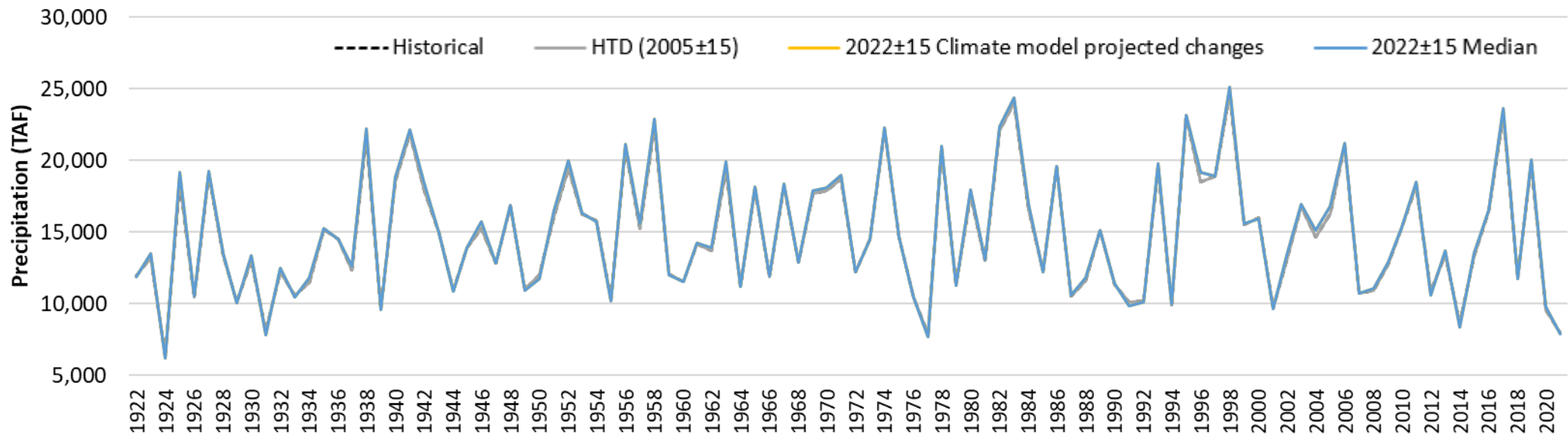
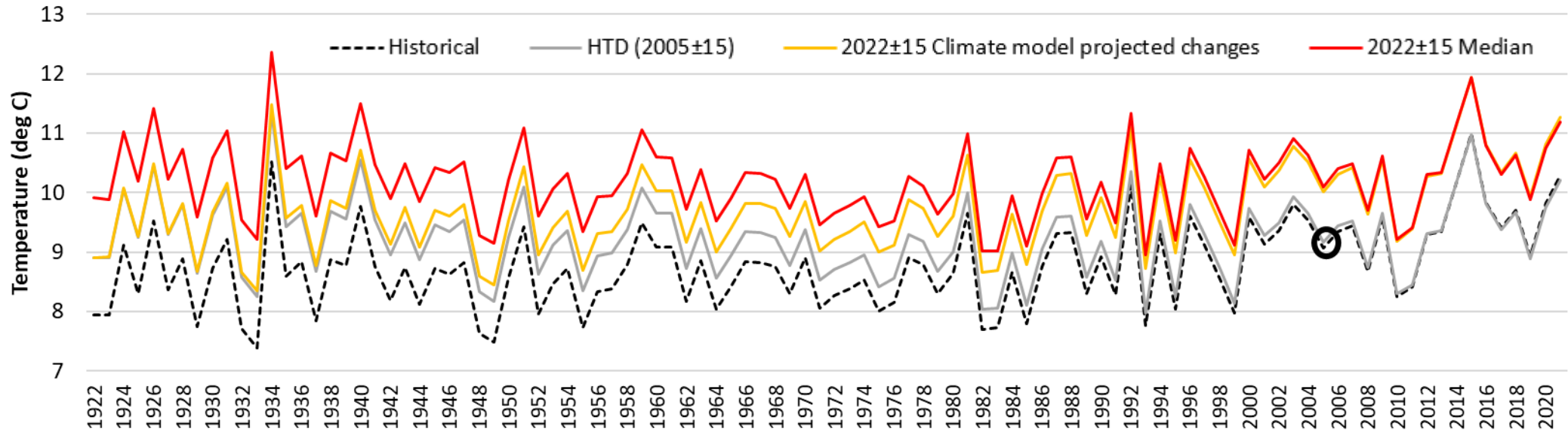
Modeling Key Assumptions and High- Level Results

Conditions for All Alternatives

- 2022±15 Median Climate Condition
- Sea Level Rise
- Land Use
- Urban Demands
- 100 year Period of Simulation
- Sisk Dam Raise and Reservoir Expansion
 - in all alternatives (not the NAA)



2022±15 Median Climate Condition: Sacramento River at Shasta example



No Action Alternative

- Operate CVP and SWP to 2020 ROD and 2020 SWP ITP
- Includes representation of TUCP actions



Shasta Dam and Reservoir



Alt. 1 - Water Quality Control Plan Model Assumptions

- Sacramento River: No spring pulse at Keswick
- Clear Creek: Instream Flow Preservation Agreement (2000) only
- American River: D-893 flow requirements only, implemented at Nimbus and H Street
- Stanislaus River: 1987 USBR-CDFW Agreement only (No Stepped Release Plan)
- Delta operations to D-1641
- No TUCPs



Alt. 2 Multi-Agency Consensus Assumptions

- Sacramento River
 - Fall and Winter Baseflows for Shasta Refill and Redd Maintenance
 - Water Temperature and Storage Management Framework
- Clear Creek and American River
 - Minimum Instream Flows
 - Pulse Flows
- Delta
 - OMR
 - Delta Smelt Summer Fall Habitat – SMSCG
- Stanislaus
 - Minimum Instream Flows
 - Winter Instability Flows
- TUCP Strategically modeled (a “w TUCP” sensitivity study will be provided)
- Voluntary Agreements, including measures for Spring Delta Outflow



Alt. 3 Modified Natural Hydrograph Assumptions

- Includes a modified priority order for meeting downstream demands
 - Meet D-1641
 - Meet minimum reservoir release and instream flow requirements
 - Make water diversions for Health & Safety
 - Meet storage criteria defined by NGOs
 - Meet unimpaired inflow and Delta outflow requirements defined by NGOs
 - Meet Delta operational requirements (e.g., OMR, 2:1 San Joaquin I:E)
 - Make water diversions for wildlife refuges
 - Make water diversions for settlement and exchange contractors
 - Make water diversions for CVP and SWP water service contractors
- Includes additional unimpaired flow and Delta outflow and measures to increase drought protection through carryover storage.



Alt. 4 Risk Informed Operation Assumptions

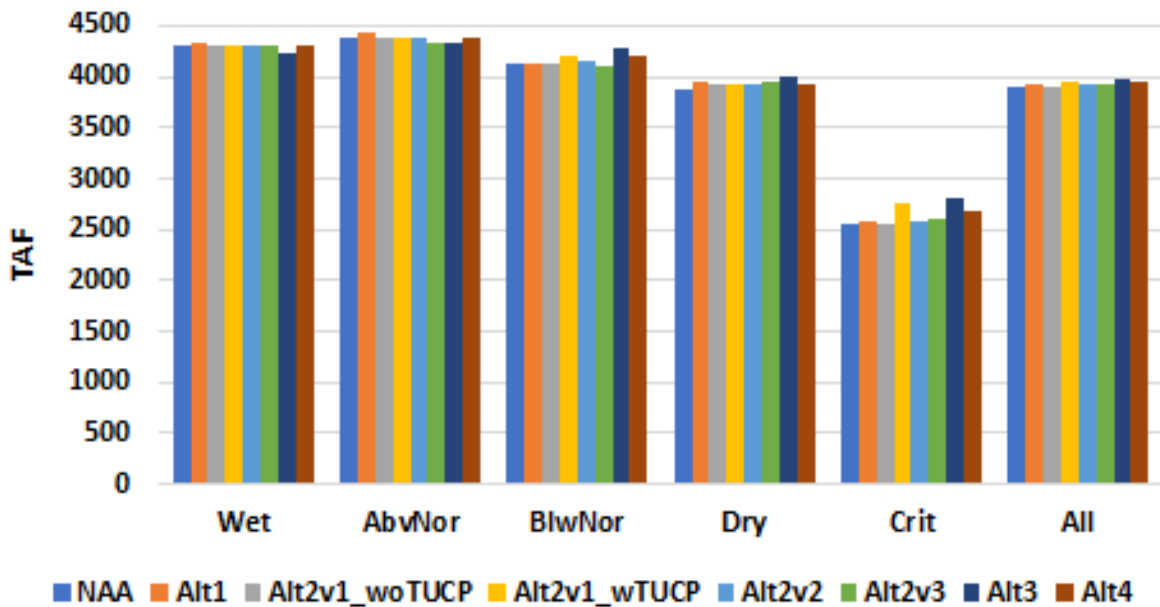
- **Shasta Action**
 - Target 2.0 MAF end of season Shasta storage
 - SRSC cuts down to 60% allocation
- **SMSCG**
 - Only Above Normal and Below Normal year action (currently modeled same as Alt2, model will be revised)
- **OMR**
 - Population dynamics
 - Real-time monitoring



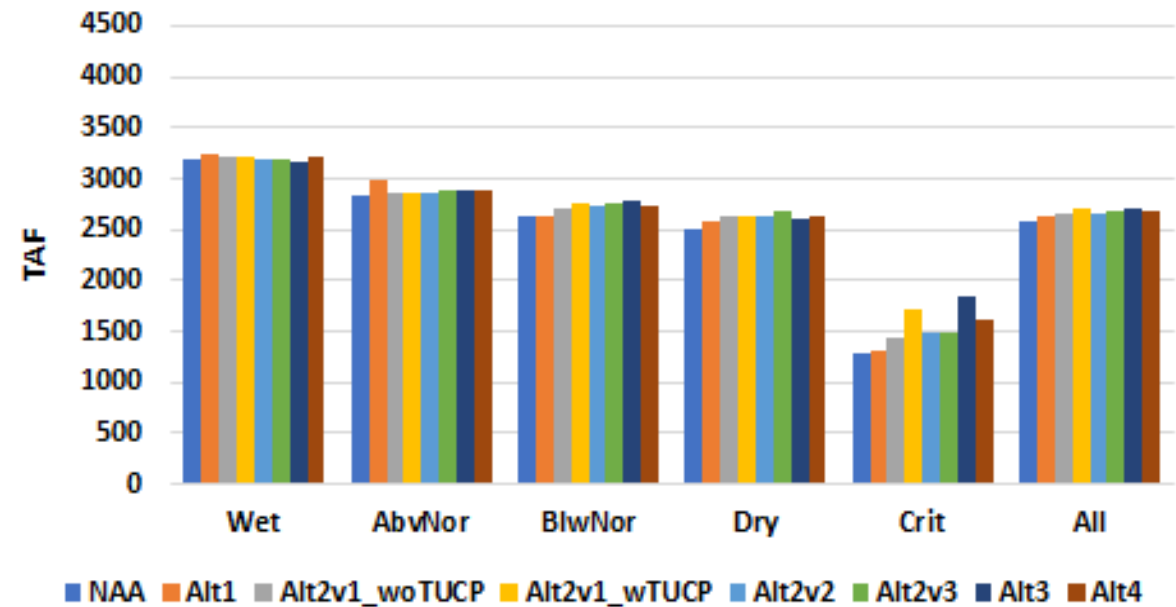
Modeling Results

- Shasta Storage (April and September)

End of April Shasta Storage - Avg by WYT

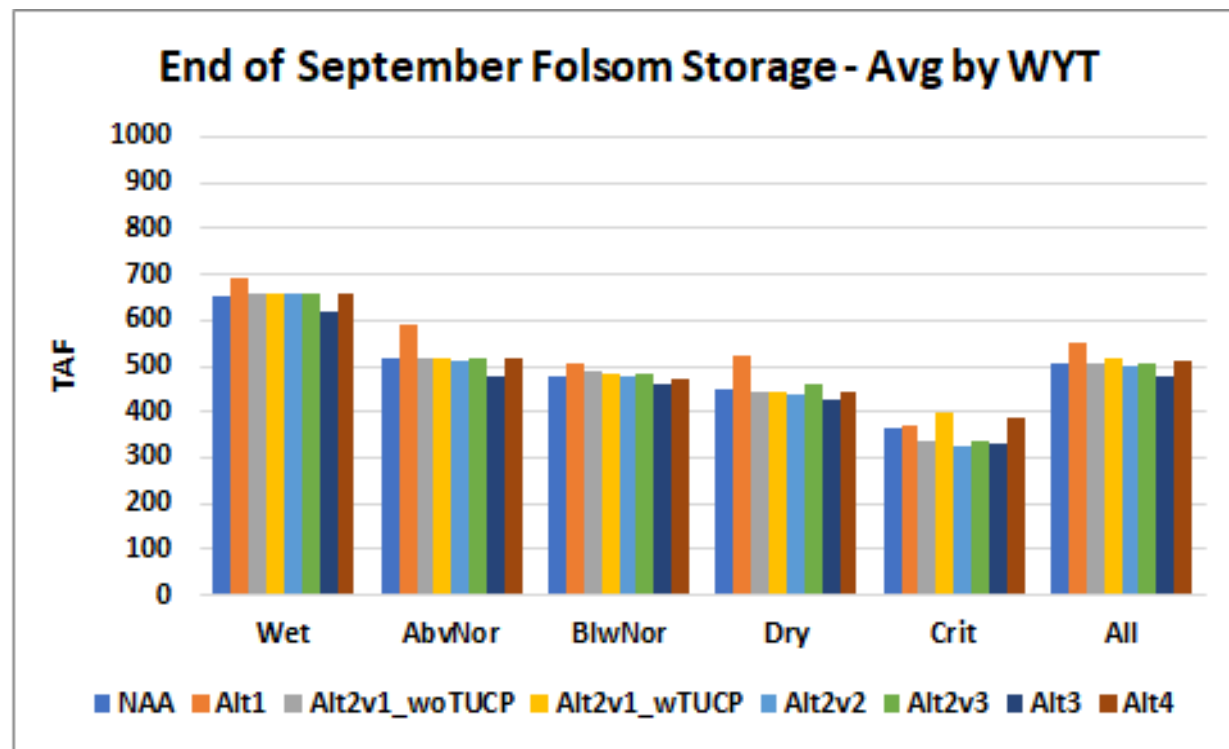
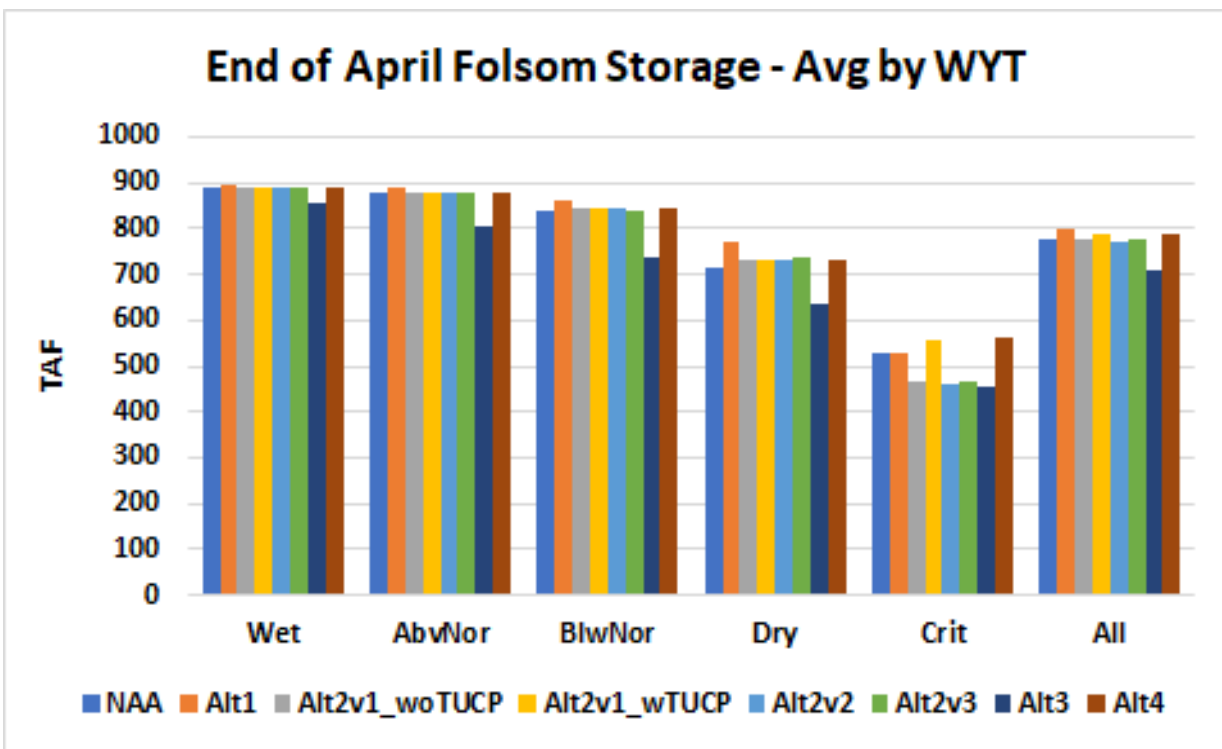


End of September Shasta Storage - Avg by WYT



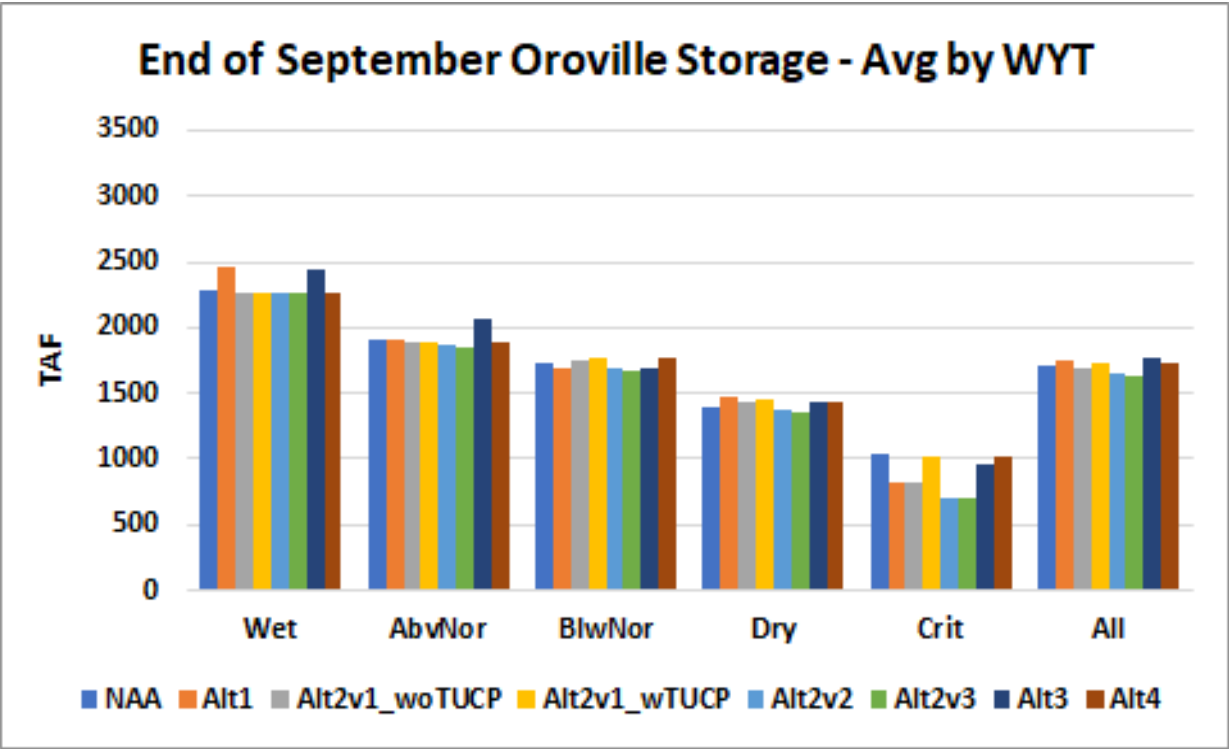
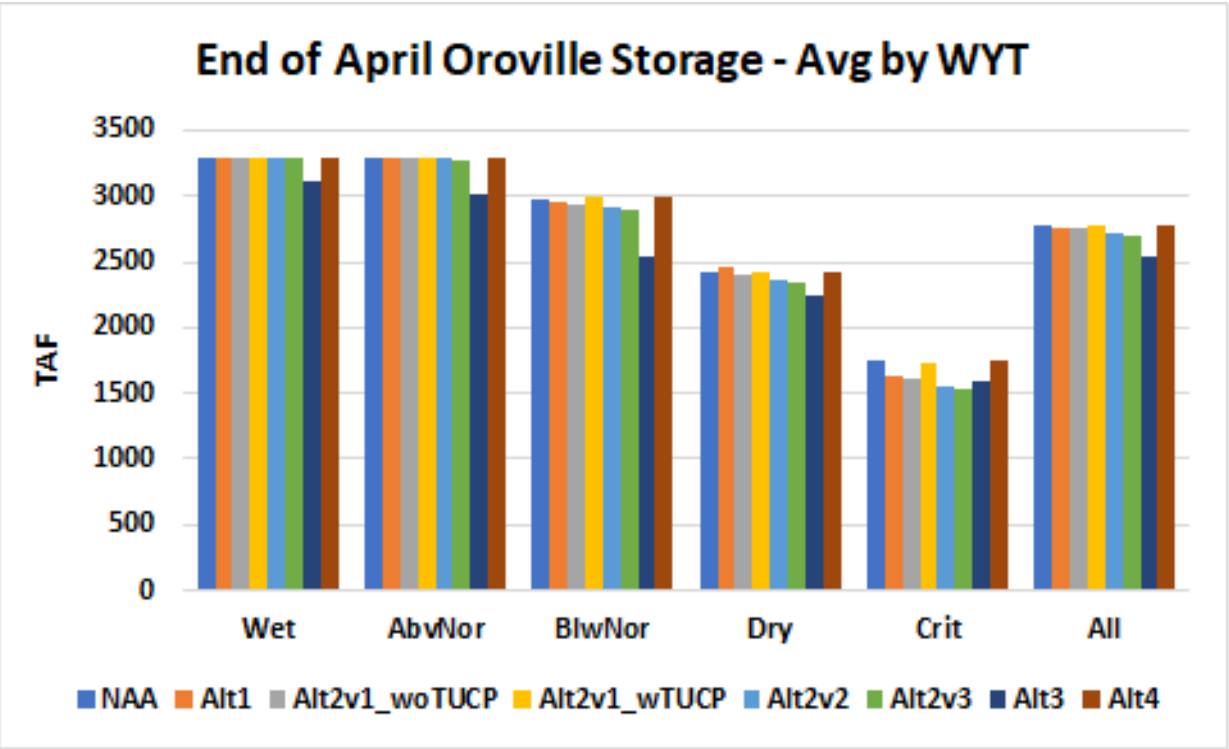
Modeling Results

- Folsom Storage (April and September/December)



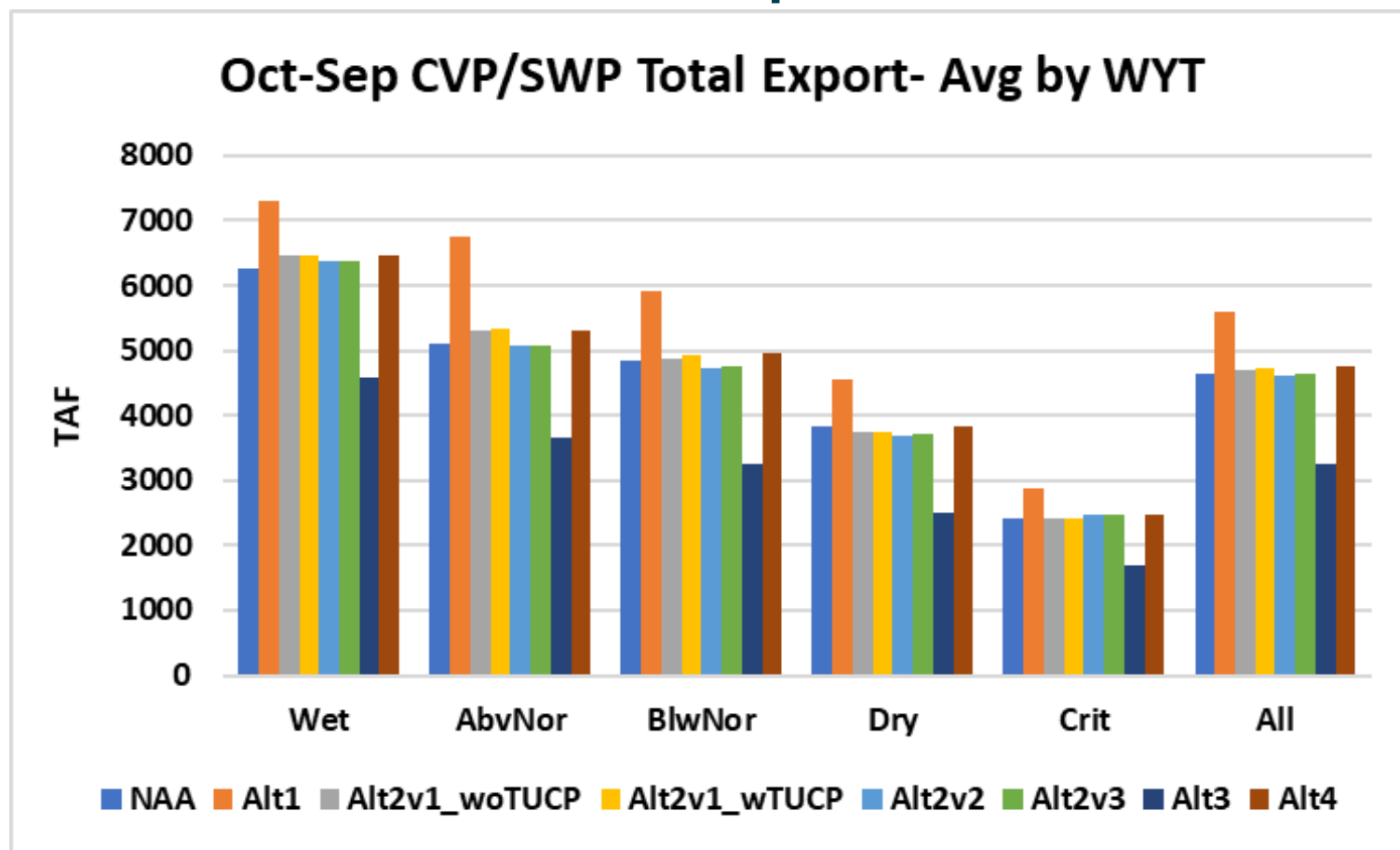
Modeling Results

- Oroville Storage (April and September)



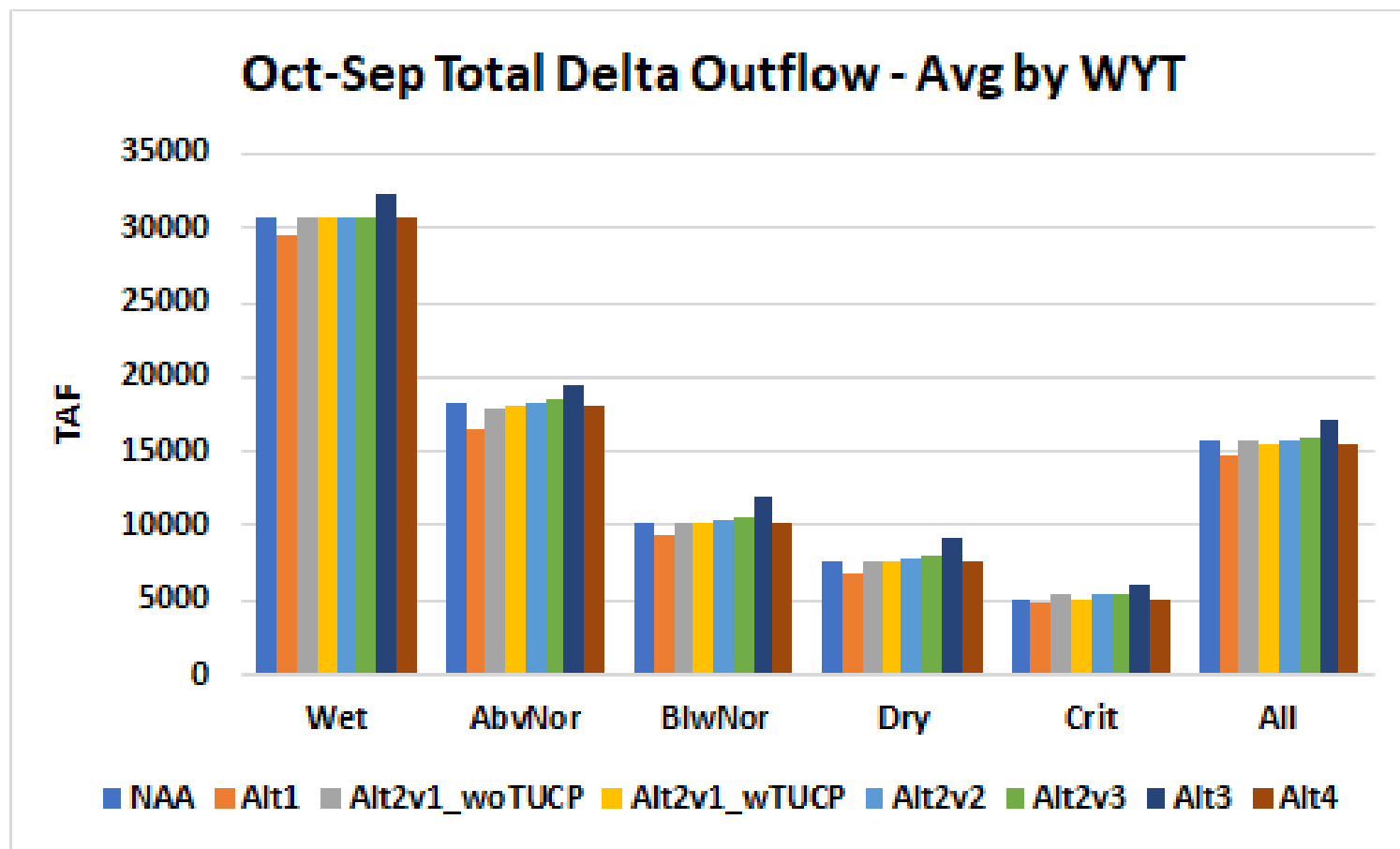
Modeling Results

- Total Annual CVP/SWP exports



Modeling Results

- Total Delta Outflow



Modeling Results

- Total Delta Outflow

	NAA	Alt1	Alt2v1_woTUCP	Alt2v1_wTUCP	Alt2v2	Alt2v3	Alt3	Alt4
Wet	30816	29621	30677	30693	30701	30743	32355	30685
AbvNor	18239	16501	17965	18046	18213	18463	19478	18022
BlwNor	10257	9405	10161	10192	10309	10560	11933	10187
Dry	7659	6898	7683	7682	7786	7959	9118	7609
Crit	5005	4830	5379	5083	5350	5414	5964	5029
All	15667	14725	15638	15612	15726	15870	17077	15579
		Change from No Action Alternative (Alt - NAA)						
Wet		-1194	-139	-122	-114	-72	1540	-131
AbvNor		-1738	-274	-193	-26	224	1239	-217
BlwNor		-852	-97	-66	51	302	1676	-71
Dry		-761	24	23	127	300	1459	-50
Crit		-176	373	78	344	408	959	24
All		-942	-29	-55	59	203	1410	-88



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Cooperating Agency Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Groundwater

- Groundwater as a Water Supply Resources
- Methods and Tools



Groundwater Pumping Station



USGS California Groundwater Map



Water Quality

- **Constituents of Concern** includes Salinity, Mercury, Selenium, Nutrients, Dissolved Oxygen, and Pesticide, etc.
- **Methods and Tools**
- **Bay-Delta Region Specific** includes DSM2-QUAL, CalSim II and Calsim 3



Water quality sampling from the river



River water quality monitoring and sampling



Water Supply

- Sources (Precipitation and Imports) of Water in California
- Methods and Tools includes CalSim 3
- Analysis of Changes in Water Supply Deliveries



Shasta Reservoir



Keswick Dam and Power Plant



Terrestrial

- **Methods:**

- Land Cover estimated using USGS, State of California and University geospatial databases
- Federally listed species and critical habitat – USFWS, NMFS
- Special status species – USFWS, CDFW

- **Resources**

- Water (rivers, lakes, wetlands, open water)
- Vegetation, wildlife
- Emphasis on special status species within the affected resource area



California Clapper Rail



Power

- CVP power facilities include 11 hydroelectric powerplants and have a total maximum generating capacity of 2,103 MW
- Methods include using CalSim and LTGen and SWP Power tools
- Analysis of changes in operations that may affect power generation

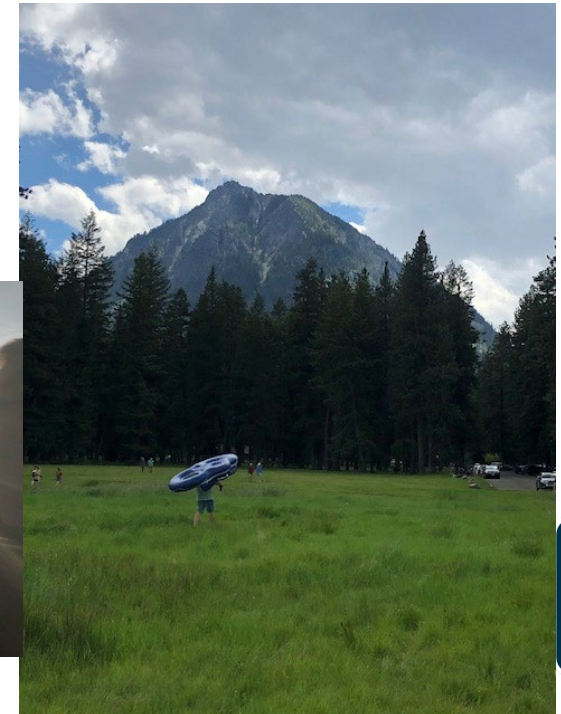


Powerplant at Shasta Dam



Recreation

- Opportunities at over 18 CVP and SWP Service Areas
- Methods include CalSIM 3, IMPLAN
- Analysis of changes in Recreational opportunities



NEPA Milestones

- Cooperating Agency Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- Release of Public Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- Comment period and public meetings (3 virtual; 3 In-person: Sac, Los Banos, Redding)
- Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision



People working together



Richard Nixon – National Environment Policy Act



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Draft Biological Assessment Comments

Comment Themes of Agencies

- Effects on Stressors vs Individuals
- Proposed Action Scope
 - Inclusion of Voluntary Agreements
 - Inclusion of Sties Reservoir and Delta Conveyance Projects Programmatic Framework
- Environmental Baseline Approach



NOAA
FISHERIES



Comment Themes of Interested Party

- Analyses Relating to Proposed Action
 - Minimum flows, inflows, water temperatures, and export ratio
 - Water quality requirements under D-1641 for tributaries
- Temporary Urgency Change Petitions included in the Environmental Baseline
- PA Modeling
 - Water operations and modeling tools
 - Shasta operations relating to flood control, response downstream and power production
 - Alt 2 with VA modeling efforts



New Melones Reservoir



San Luis Power Plant





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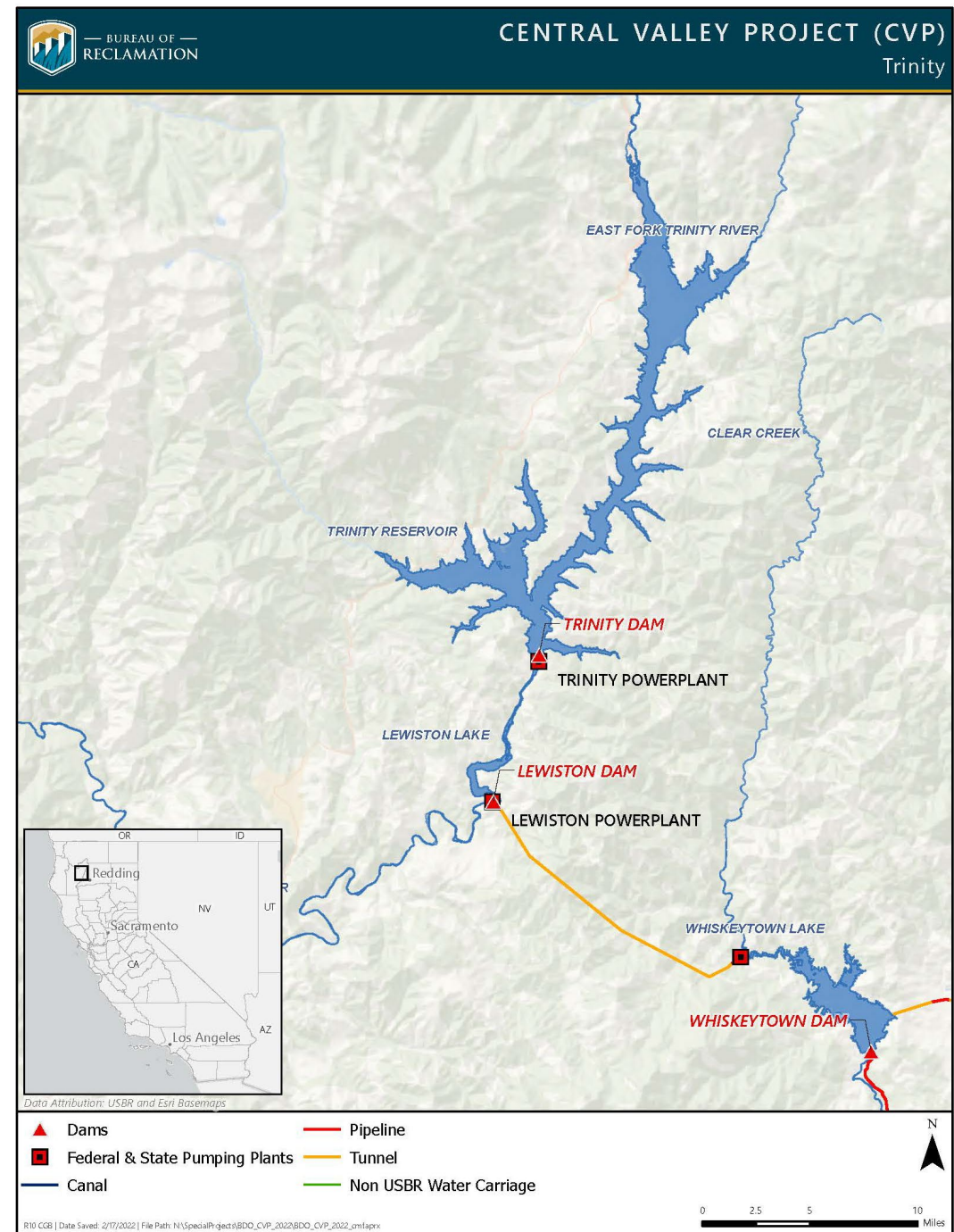
Trinity River Division Update

Trinity River Division

- Key Facilities

- Trinity Dam
- Lewiston Dam
- Clear Creek Tunnel
- Whiskeytown Dam

- Tribal Joint Lead Status



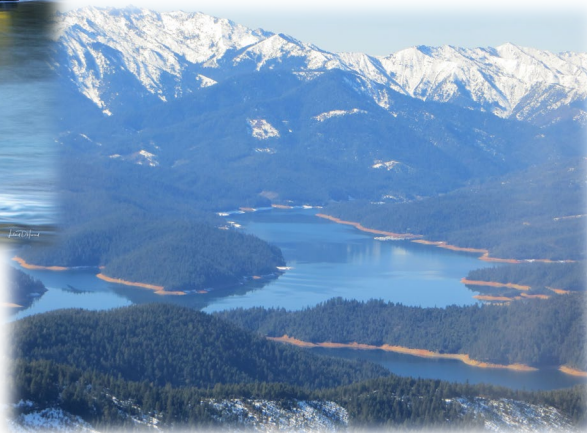
Trinity River Alternatives Development



Lewiston Dam



Trinity River



Trinity Reservoir

- Interested Party Meetings
- Components
 - Storage
 - Flow Management
 - Temperature Management
- Draft Preliminary Alternatives



Trinity River Division Upcoming Tasks

- Reviewing purpose and need
- Modeling preliminary alternatives
- Applying screening criteria
- Preparing public draft EIS alternatives
- Preparing Biological Assessment



Coho salmon (NOAA Fisheries).



Anticipated Next Steps

- Biological Assessment
 - Public Draft EIS
 - Final EIS
 - Record of Decision
-
- Next WIIN Act Quarterly Meeting – December 12, 2023



National Academies Committee

- Nominations for experts to serve on committee to review LTO alternatives and investments
 - Continue our additive approach to promote broad collaboration
- Longer timeframe than current consultation
- Seeking expertise in (examples):
 - fisheries science
 - freshwater and stream ecology
 - habitat restoration
 - water resources management
- Nominations due September 22, 2023
- [Review of the Long-Term Operations of the Central Valley Project | National Academies](#)



Questions

Please reach out to:

sha-MPR-BDO@usbr.gov

Additional information:

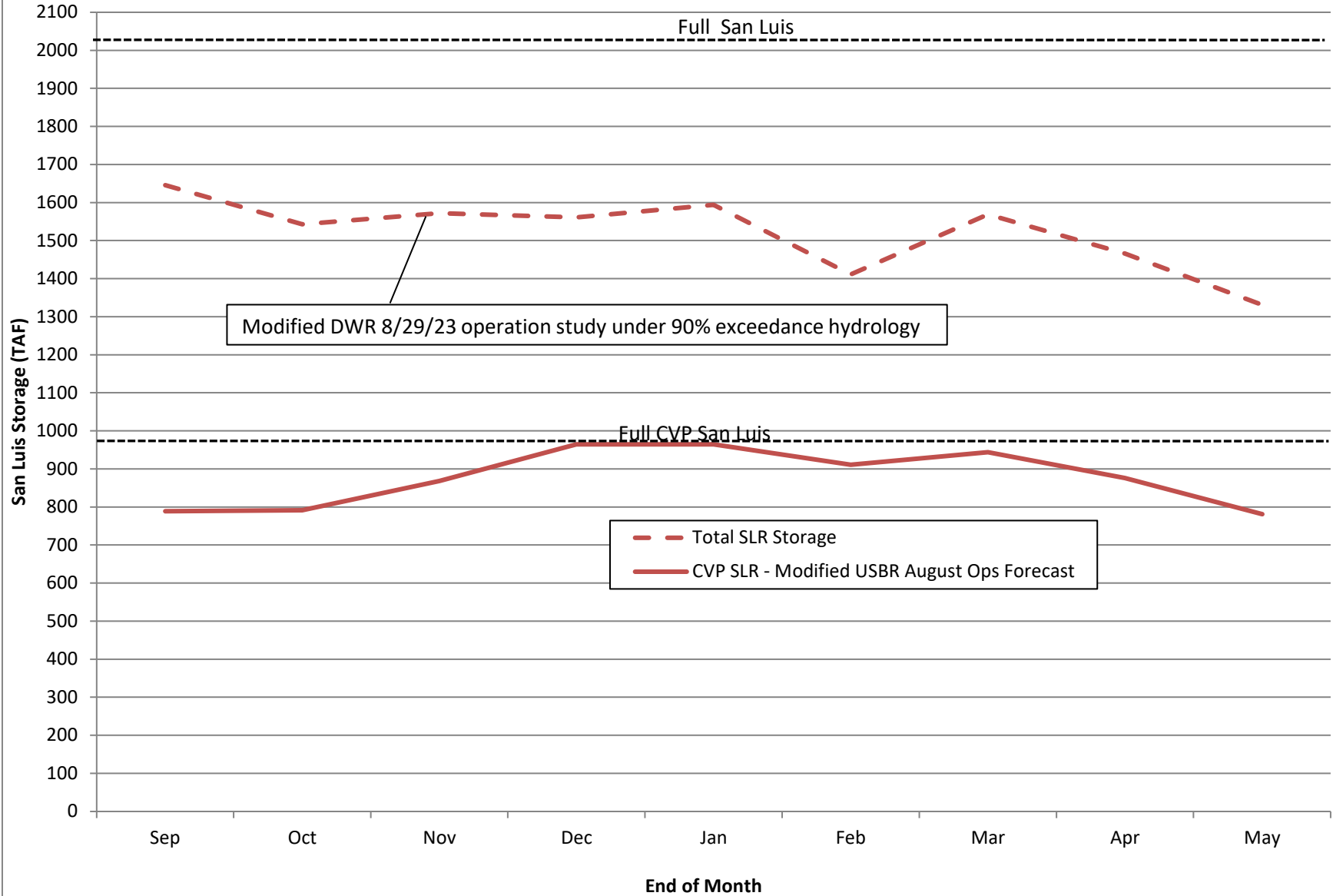
<https://www.usbr.gov/mp/bdo/lto/index.html>



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2023-24 San Luis Storage Projection

90% Exceedance Hydrology



2023-24 San Luis Storage Projection

90% Exceedance Hydrology

