

Appendix E. Central Valley Project Improvement Act Programmatic EIS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR. CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT IMPROVEMENT ACT PROGRAMMATIC EIS. PROPOSED DRAFT 1996.

Purpose

The purposes of the actions proposed by the U.S. Department of Interior (Interior) include protecting, restoring, and enhancing fish and wildlife, improving the operational flexibility of CVP, and achieving a reasonable balance among competing demands for use of CVP water. These purposes respond to the need to improve the existing water management practices of CVP as a result of the declines in fish and wildlife habitat and populations. CVPIA identifies a number of specific measures to meet these new purposes, sets a broad goal of sustaining natural populations of anadromous fishes produced in Central Valley rivers and streams at double their average levels from 1967 to 1991, and directs the Secretary of the Interior to operate CVP and renew existing CVP water service and repayment contracts consistent with these purposes.

Need

This EIS is being prepared in response to Public Law 102-575, Title 34, CVPIA, which amends the authorization of Interior's CVP to include fish and wildlife protection, restoration, and mitigation as project purposes having equal priority with irrigation and domestic uses, and fish and wildlife enhancement as a purpose equal to power generation.

Alternatives

The CVPIA Program EIS has identified five alternative approaches to implementation of CVPIA, as well as the No-Action Alternative. The alternatives represent a range of water management and water acquisition options linked with different implementation options for water pricing, changes in water delivery to refuges during drought periods, habitat and structural restoration, and Delta 'fixes'. Each alternative also includes an identical set of policies and/or actions that reflect the implementation options identified for single-option provisions of CVPIA.

Level of Detail of Analysis

Included in this appendix are tables from the CVPIA Depth of Analysis Report (June 1994) that summarize and categorize the level of detail of analysis, as well as a table summarizing alternatives for the CVPIA Programmatic EIS.