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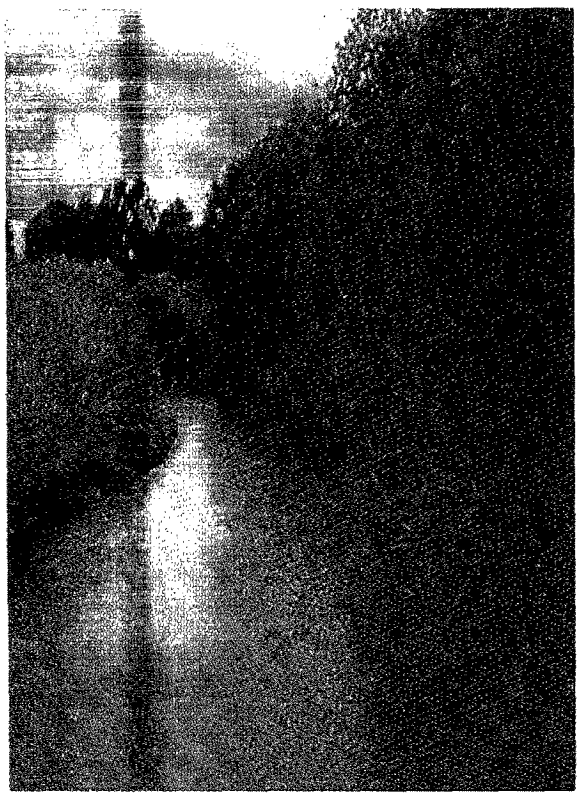
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/ ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIR/EIS)

INTERIM SOUTH DELTA PROGRAM (ISDP)
Volume I



Prepared for:

Department of Water Resources (DWR)
State Lead Agency
Sacramento, California

Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)
Federal Lead Agency
Folsom, California

by: ENTRIX, Inc.
Sacramento, CA

and

Resource Insights
Sacramento, CA

July 1996

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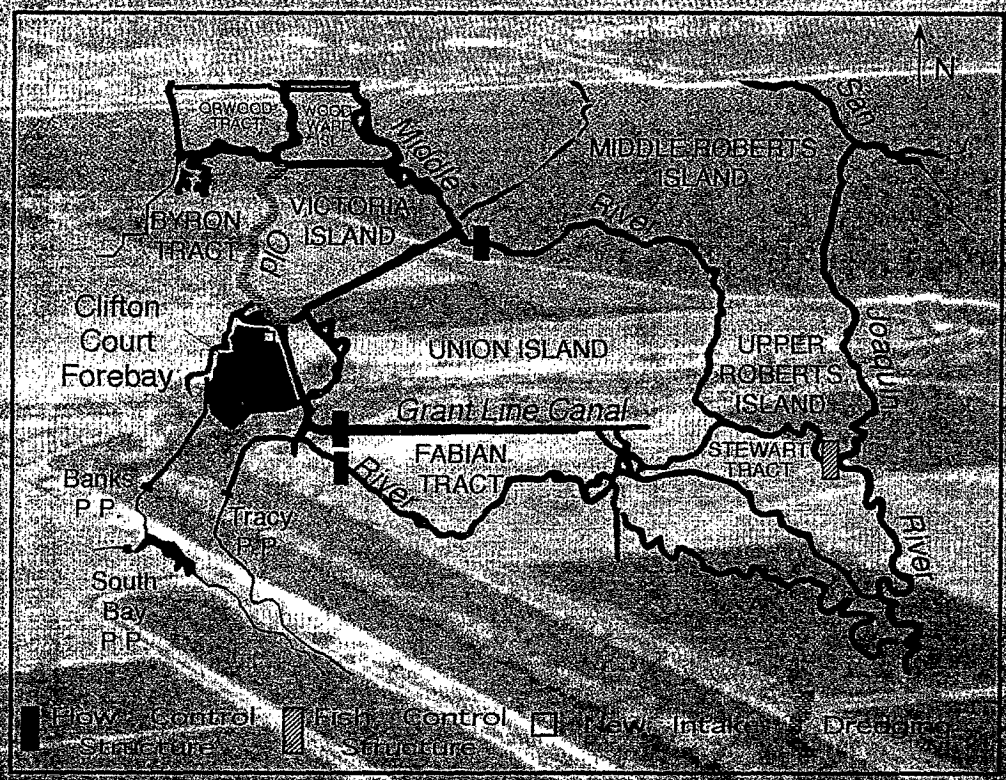
INTERIM SOUTH DELTA PROGRAM

PURPOSE

Improve water levels and circulation in the South Delta channels for local agricultural diversions

Improve South Delta hydraulic conditions to increase the diversion into Clifton Court Forebay to maximize the frequency of full pumping at the Harvey O. Banks Pumping Plant



PREFERRED PROJECT

Construct a new intake structure at Clifton Court Forebay

Dredge a 4.9-mile reach of Old River from the intake to Highway 4

Construct three flow control structures on Middle River, Old River near Tracy and Grant Line Canal

Construct an operable fish barrier at the head of Old River

Increase diversions into Clifton Court Forebay to maximize pumping at the Banks Pumping Plant

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INTERIM SOUTH DELTA PROGRAM PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

Enlargement of Clifton Court Forebay, construction of two intake structures, increased export, and construction of permanent barriers

- Enlarge Clifton Court Forebay (at North Victoria Island) to 5,000 surface acres
- Two new intake structures on North Victoria Island
- Flow and fish control structures described in Preferred Project
- Increase diversions into Clifton Court Forebay

Reduction of SWP/CVP Exports and Management or Reduction of Demand for SWP Water

- Management of CVP/SWP Delta exports accomplished by restricting April - September exports to 500 cfs for SWP, and 1,000 cfs for CVP.
- Management/reduction of pumping demand accomplished by various programs including, but not limited to: conservation, reclamation (use of gray water, recycling), and land retirement.

Modification of CVP/SWP exports, consolidation of agricultural diversions, extensions of existing agricultural diversions, and increased pumping at Harvey O. Banks up to 10,300 cfs

- Rock barrier at Head of Old River (Fall operation only)
- Maximum export rate of 50 percent of flows at Vernalis or 1,100 cfs, whichever is greater
- Consolidate and screen 40 diversions, and extend and screen 44 diversions in south Delta channels
- New intake structure at Clifton Court Forebay
- Dredge 4.9-mile reach of Old River

ISDP with additional Clifton Court Forebay intake at Italian Slough

ISDP without northern intake, but with expanded southern intake

- Expand existing southern intake at Clifton Court Forebay
- Dredge 4.9-mile reach of Old River and a 2-mile reach of West Canal
- Flow and fish control structures described in Preferred Project
- Increase diversions into Clifton Court Forebay

Preferred Project barriers with additional Clifton Court Forebay intake at Italian Slough

- Three flow control structures (Middle River, Old River near Tracy, and Grant Line Canal)
- Fish Control Structure at the head of Old River
- Additional intake at Italian Slough

No Action Present

- Conditions as they exist today without ISDP

No Action Future

- Conditions, policies, laws, regulations, ordinances, programs and projects that exist or are likely to exist in the future without ISDP. This alternative assumes that projects with certified EIRs and construction permits will become operational in the future.

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING
INTERIM SOUTH DELTA PROGRAM DRAFT EIR/EIS

On August 14, 1996, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) released a draft environmental impact report/draft environmental impact statement for the Interim South Delta Program. The **deadline for comments (originally December 6, 1996) is extended to January 31, 1997,** to enable more extensive review by interested parties. **Another public hearing will be held on January 22, 1997** from 7:00 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. at the Tracy Inn, 30 West Eleventh Street, Tracy, California. This will be an opportunity for additional comments, especially from those people that did not attend one of the two prior hearings. Comments already given at the hearings or submitted in writing are part of the official record and will be responded to in the final EIR/EIS.

People may review the draft EIR/EIS at the Sacramento Main Library, 8th and I Streets, Sacramento; the Resources Building--Water Information Center, 1416 Ninth Street, Room 115, Sacramento (8:00 A.M. To 4:00 P.M.); the Tracy Public Library, 20 E. Eaton Avenue, Tracy; and the following locations in the greater Stockton area: the Delta Field Division on West Kelso Road in Byron; the Stockton Main Library, 605 N. El Dorado Street, Stockton; San Joaquin Delta College, Goleman Library, 5151 Pacific Avenue, Stockton; and the Department of Fish and Game's Bay-Delta Division headquarters office, 4001 N. Wilson Way, Stockton.

The proposed ISDP facilities are designed to improve water levels and circulation in the south Delta channels to benefit local agriculture and fish habitat and to allow the State Water Project (SWP) to increase winter water diversions into Clifton Court Forebay. The forebay is adjacent to the SWP's Harvey O. Banks Delta Pumping Plant, where water is pumped into the California Aqueduct. The proposed project will enable the Banks plant to take advantage of high winter flows and expand pumping from 6,700 to 10,300 cubic feet per second. These surplus flows could then be stored in reservoirs south of the Delta for delivery later in the year.

The basic components of the program are:
-three permanent flow control structures in the south Delta, one on Middle River 1/2 mile upstream of the confluence of Middle River, Trapper Slough, and North Canal; one on Old River 1/2 mile upstream of the Delta-Mendota Canal intake; and one on Grant Line Canal 1/2 mile east of Old River;
-a fish control structure on Old River 1/2 mile downstream of the confluence with San Joaquin River;
-a new intake structure at the north end of Clifton Court Forebay; and
-dredging of approximately five miles of Old River, north of the forebay.

To receive a copy of either the Executive Summary or the entire draft EIR/EIS, contact Judy Fong, DWR, (916) 653-3496, fax (916) 653-6077. For additional information on the program or the public hearing, contact Steve Roberts, DWR, (916) 653-2118, Lee Kerin, DWR, (916) 654-6515, or Al Candlish, Reclamation, (916) 979-2310.

11/26/96

August 6, 1996

Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement on the Interim South Delta Program, California

Attached for your review and comment is a copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Interim South Delta Program, California.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources as lead agencies under the National Environmental Policy Act and the California Environmental Quality Act have prepared the enclosed DEIR/DEIS. The proposed alternatives are designed to: (1) improve water levels and circulation in south Delta channels for local agricultural diversions; and (2) improve south Delta hydraulic conditions to increase diversion into Clifton Court Forebay to maximize the frequency of full pumping capacity at Banks Pumping Plant. The document evaluates seven alternatives against two no-action alternatives.

We would appreciate receiving your comments on or before December 6, 1996, as indicated on the cover page of the DEIR/DEIS. Public workshops and hearings are being scheduled during October in Sacramento and Tracy. The exact dates and locations of the hearings will be announced later. Please send any written comments to Mr. Stephen Roberts, DWR, 1416 Ninth Street, Room 215-20A, Sacramento, California 95814. For additional information, please contact Mr. Al Candlish, Reclamation, at (916) 989-7255, or Mr. Stephen Roberts, DWR, at (916) 653-2118.

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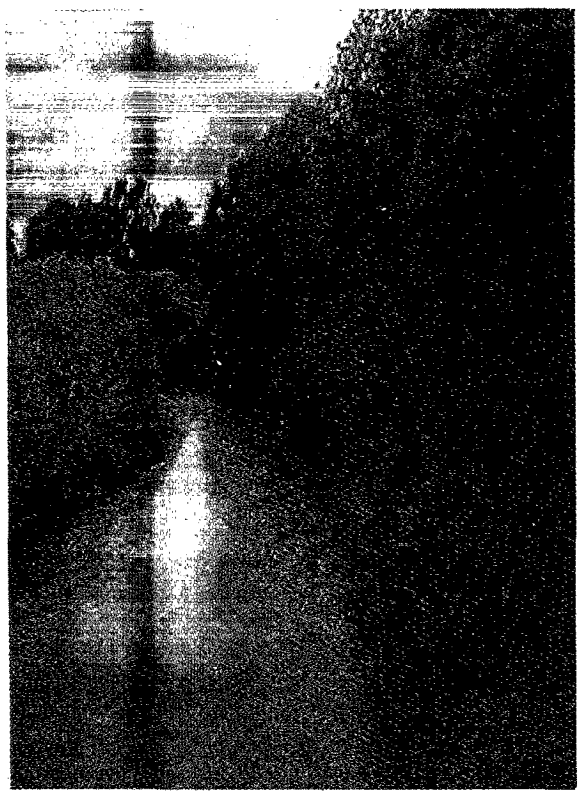

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ENTRIX, Inc., 3416 American River Drive, Ste. A, Sacramento, CA 95864

SUMMARY OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/ ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIR/EIS)

INTERIM SOUTH DELTA PROGRAM (ISDP)

Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta, California

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Abstract: The Interim South Delta Program (ISDP) is a proposed action to settle pending litigation against Reclamation and DWR and enhance the existing water delivery capability of the State Water Project. The ISDP would cost $53.9 million to construct and includes five project components: (1) construction and operation of a new intake structure at the SWP Clifton Court Forebay; (2) channel dredging along a reach of Old River just north of Clifton Court Forebay; (3) construction and seasonal operation of a barrier in spring and fall to improve fishery conditions for salmon migrating along the San Joaquin River; (4) construction and operation of three flow control structures to improve existing water level and circulation patterns for agricultural users in the south Delta; and (5) increased diversions into Clifton Court Forebay up to a maximum of 20,430 acre-feet per day on a monthly averaged basis resulting in the ability to pump an average of 10,300 cfs at Banks Pumping Plant (with additional annual average SWP water deliveries of 46,000 acre feet per year).

State Clearinghouse Number 9002-0721
Public Comments due by December 6, 1996
to one of the contacts listed above.

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