

Interim North Delta Program Highlights

Purposes

To improve State Water Project reliability through reduction in reverse flow and to improve flood protection in the lower Mokelumne River system.

Additional Benefits

Improved water quality, reduced fishery impacts, greater SWP flexibility, improved wildlife habitat, and improved recreational opportunities. In addition, the program is providing practical information from demonstration projects which will be helpful in the long-term Delta solution-finding process, and providing for future SWP planning flexibility.

History

Draft EIR/EIS for the North Delta Program released in November 1990. It defined a through Delta conveyance solution based on Delta Cross Channel enlargement and major channel enlargement (levee setbacks and dredging) of lower Mokelumne River channels. Estimated 1990 cost \$290 million.

In April, 1992 the Governor set forth his water policy, which delegated the long-term Delta solution finding process to BDOC. Also listing of the winter run chinook salmon and delta smelt, as well as potential for listing other native species intensified the need for interim and long-term solutions to fishery declines.

The North Delta Program was redesigned to be consistent with and supportive of the BDOC process, while providing interim benefits consistent with program purposes. Accordingly it was renamed the "Interim North Delta Program".

Program Elements

The INDP includes interim measures to address acute short-term concerns and long-term planning support actions to facilitate the long-term Delta solution-finding process:

Interim Measures

Georgiana Slough Test Barrier Project 1992

Support for acoustic barrier testing, 1993 and 1994

Cooperation with Corps on study of measures to improve fish migration success, including a fish ladder to allow adult salmon to escape the Sac. Deep Water Ship Channel

Preparation of Interim North Delta Program EIR/EIS and companion documents for Mokelumne River channel improvements and improved diversions from Sacramento River ; anticipated draft release November 1995.

Long-Term Planning Support Measures

Purchase of 482 acre Grizzly Slough property and cooperation with Cosumnes River Preserve to secure borrow materials and a mitigation/enhancement site for Delta projects

Development of workplan and planning efforts to reduce fishery impacts of Sacramento River diversions

Efforts to purchase property near Hood to protect a range of diversion options
Develop GIS and information base for long-term solution finding process
Coordinate with USFWS on Stone Lakes Wildlife Refuge (Record of Decision and MOU)
to assure compatibility of refuge and potential future SWP facilities
Evaluation and development of management strategy for existing borrow pond properties