

News Release

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Mid-Pacific Region
Sacramento, CA

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Reclamation Extends Public Review Period for the Draft EA/FONSI for 2-Gates Fish Protection Demonstration Project

The Bureau of Reclamation has extended the public review and comment period from Tuesday, November 17, 2009, to Monday, November 30, 2009, for the Draft Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact (EA/FONSI) for the proposed 2-Gates Fish Protection Demonstration Project (Demonstration Project).

The proposed Demonstration Project is a 5-year experiment to validate a new delta smelt behavioral model and study the effects of modifying flows in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) to protect delta smelt and other sensitive aquatic species from entrainment in Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP) export pumps. Research suggests that the pre-spawning migration of adult delta smelt is tied to sediment/suspended particles in the water (turbidity). Temporary gates would be placed across Old River and Connection Slough in the central Delta and operated from December to March to keep turbid water away from the CVP and SWP export pumps, thus keeping adult delta smelt away from the pumps, and in March and June to prevent larvae and juvenile delta smelt from being entrained by the export pumps.

Public meetings were held to provide information on the proposed Demonstration Project in Fresno on October 26, in Discovery Bay on October 27, and in Stockton on October 28, 2009. The Draft EA/FONSI may be viewed at http://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/nepa_projdetails.cfm?Project_ID=4472. If you encounter problems accessing the document online, please call 916-978-5100 (TDD 916-978-5608) or e-mail mppublicaffairs@usbr.gov.

Written comments on the Draft EA/FONSI are due by close of business Monday, November 30, 2009, and should be mailed to Mr. Mario Manzo, Bureau of Reclamation, 2800 Cottage Way, MP-730, Sacramento, CA 95825, or e-mailed to mmanzo@usbr.gov, or faxed to 916-978-5094. For questions or a copy of the Draft EA/FONSI, please call 916-978-5060 (TDD 916-978-5608). For additional information, please visit <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/2gates/>. To be added to the Demonstration Project mailing list, please contact Ms. Janet Sierzputowski at 916-978-5112 (TDD 916-978-5608) or e-mail jsierzputowski@usbr.gov.

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