RECLAMATION Managing Water in the West

Red Bluff Fish Passage Improvement Project

Project Description

The Red Bluff Diversion Dam (RBDD), located on the Sacramento River, features a series of large gates that, when lowered (gates in), form Lake Red Bluff and provide for gravity diversion of irrigation water from the Sacramento River into the Tehama-Colusa and Corning Canals. Although the RBDD was initially operated to provide continuous diversion, the annual gates-in diversion period has been reduced over the years to less than four months to improve fish passage of several salmonid species and now green sturgeon, recently listed under the Endangered Species Act. The construction of a screened pumping plant will improve fish passage conditions while ensuring continued water deliveries to 150,000 acres of high-value cropland. The new feature of the project will include construction of a flat-plate fish screen, intake channel, 2,500 cubic feet per second (cfs) capacity pumping plant, access bridge and discharge conduit to divert water from the Sacramento River into the Tehama-Colusa and Corning Canals.



Project Benefits

Construction of a pumping plant will:

- Allow the RBDD to be operated in a manner that allows unimpeded upstream and downstream passage for five runs of listed salmon species and the green sturgeon.
- Alleviate a long-standing fish passage concern.
- Provide irrigation water to approximately 150,000 acres of high-value cropland.
- Provide 2,180 cfs initially, with capability for adding pumps to deliver 2,500 cfs, the full capacity of the canals.



Budget Information

Recovery funding: \$109.8 million.

For more information

Pete Lucero, Public Affairs Officer Mid-Pacific Region (916) 978-5100