

## 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.

### Project Status

- In June 2009, a \$5.25 million Cooperative Agreement was awarded to Tehama Colusa Canal Authority, Willows, Calif. Which went toward construction of an interim pumping plant to deliver irrigation water while the gates are raised, thus providing unimpeded fish passage until the permanent pumping plant can be installed.
- In December 2009, a \$21 million contract was awarded to West Bay Builders of Novato, Calif., for construction of the bridge and siphon that will connect the new and existing facilities.
- In January 2010, a \$6.9 million contract was awarded to Moving Water Industries of Deerfield Beach, Florida, to supply pumps and motors.
- In May 2010, a \$67 million contract was awarded to Balfour Beatty, Inc. of Fairfield, Calif., for construction of the fish screen, forebay and pumping plant.

The project is anticipated to be completed by December 2012.

## **Budget Information**

The initial Recovery funding available for the project was \$109.8 million. Additional funding for the project has been approved so the project budget is now \$118.9 million

## **For more information**

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