

## Red Bluff Fish Passage Improvements and Pumping Plant

The Red Bluff Fish Passage Improvements and Pumping Plant Project received \$112.6 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding, the largest single outlay of ARRA funds in the Department of the Interior. In addition, \$56 million was provided from other federal sources, and the state of California provided \$12 million.

As designed, the Red Bluff Diversion Dam formed Lake Red Bluff in Northern California and diverted Sacramento River water to irrigation canals by gravity. The diversion dam also created a barrier to migrating fish, some of which were listed under the Endangered Species Act including winter and spring-run Chinook salmon, Central Valley steelhead and green sturgeon.

The project involved construction of a pumping plant, screened to protect fish, that pumped water from the Sacramento River to the irrigation canals. The pumping plant replaced the diversion dam. In 2011, the dam's gates were permanently placed in the open position for free migration of fish.

In 2012, construction was completed on the key components of the new facility. Features of the project included a 1,118 foot flat plate fish screen, intake channel, 2,000 cubic-feet-per-second capacity pumping plant and discharge conduit to divert water from the Sacramento River into the Tehama-Colusa and Corning canals.

Jointly constructed through a partnership undertaken by Reclamation and the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority, the pumping plant is operated and maintained by the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority through an agreement with Reclamation and provides water to the 17-member water districts throughout a four-county service area. NOAA Fisheries and the state of California were also partners in the project.

The project provides irrigation water to approximately 150,000 acres of high-value cropland with an economic benefit of more than \$1 billion annually on average.

