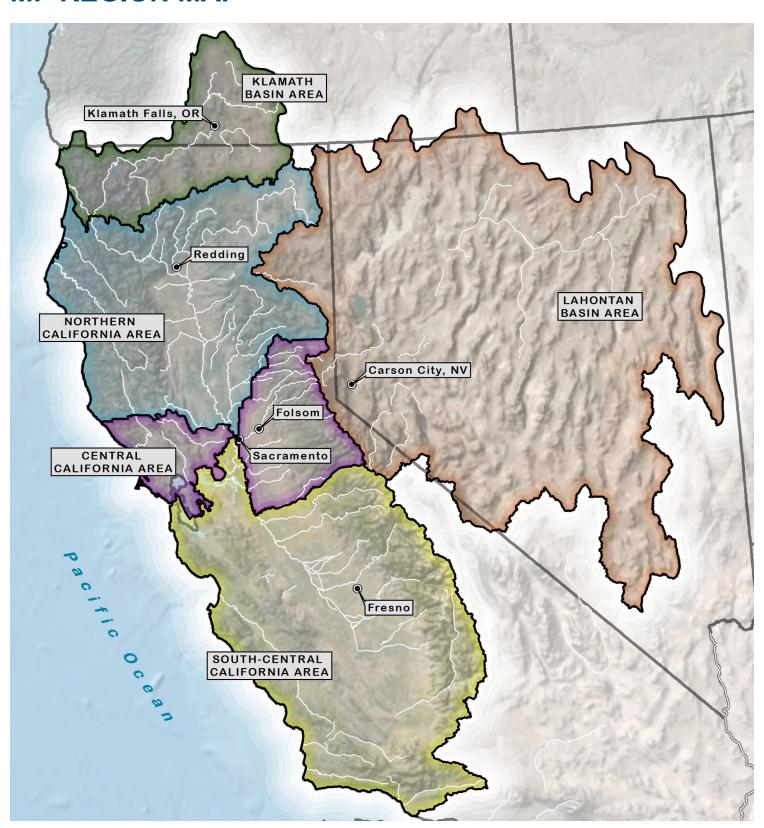
# RECLANIATION Managing Water in the West Mid-Pacific Region 2015 Report of Accomplishments

U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation Mid-Pacific Region

## **MP REGION MAP**



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#### THE MID-PACIFIC REGION

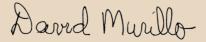
# Message from Mid-Pacific Regional Director David G. Murillo

It is without question that the last four years of drought have had severe impacts on our Regional resources. The start of 2016 has brought some relief as our water supplies have been replenished slightly, but the precipitation and snowpack we have received do not alleviate all the effects of multiple years of drought. In spite of these challenges, we are continuing to work together to develop creative solutions to help us stretch our water supplies and find flexibilities in the system. This allows us to adapt to ever-changing drought conditions and lessen the most severe impacts wherever possible.

Our Mid-Pacific Region's 2015 Annual Report of Accomplishments provides an insight into the work we have accomplished throughout the year and actions taken to preserve and maintain our water supply. Year after year, our priorities have remained the same: we continue to seek solutions and implement strategies with our partners, customers and stakeholders to manage water supplies and water shortages.

I greatly appreciate the cooperation of our contractors, stakeholders and partners and understand the difficulty many have faced during this time. My goal is to ensure that we continue to collaborate and cultivate relationships to ensure that federal, state and local government agencies, water and irrigation districts, power utilities, environmental communities, Native American tribes and other stakeholders are involved as we work to ensure every drop of water is used wisely.

I truly appreciate the way everyone has come to the table with their ideas and with a willingness to work together toward solutions.





Regional Director David Murillo

#### **Contact Us**

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#### The Mission

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

#### **DROUGHT - YEAR FOUR**

#### **2015 Drought Operations Plan**

In an effort to proactively address water year challenges, federal and state agencies have continued to work together to maximize regulatory flexibility to adjust quickly to changes in the weather and environment and bolster water supplies when possible while minimizing impacts to fish and wildlife.

Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) worked collaboratively with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to develop the 2015 Drought Contingency Plan, which outlined potential State Water Project and Central Valley Project (CVP) operations.

# Maximum Cooperation and Collaboration

#### **Agreement - Friant and Exchange Contractors**

Reclamation's South-Central California Area Office, the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority (Exchange Contractors), and the Friant Water Authority forged an innovative agreement on a combination of exchanges and transfers that provided much-needed water supplies to farmers in the CVP's Friant Division in summer 2015. Recognizing the dire situation faced in the Friant Division, the Exchange Contractors and its members – senior water right holders for water originating in the upper San Joaquin River basin – reached out to Reclamation and the Friant contractors to develop a collaborative plan.

Negotiations involving most Friant contractors, the Exchange Contractors, Westlands Water District, Reclamation and other agencies resulted in an agreement being reached May 7, 2015, which included:

- Friant Division contractors received about 60,000 acre-feet of water including 5,000 acre-feet of public health and safety water.
- In exchange, 45,000 acre-feet of water from the San Luis Reservoir and/or the Delta-Mendota Canal was made available for the Exchange Contractors' use.
- The agreement avoided 10,000 acre-feet of losses for the Friant Division.



Friant-Kern Canal, March 2015

#### Quote

"Working together continues to be our key strategy to persevere through the drought and maximize water supplies." David Murillo, MP Regional Director.



## Agreement - South San Joaquin and Oakdale Contractors

Reclamation, DWR, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, NMFS, and the South San Joaquin and Oakdale Irrigation Districts (senior water right holders on the Stanislaus River) came together in a plan to manage limited water resources from New Melones Reservoir through 2015, benefiting the districts, the river and salmon returning to spawn in the fall.

- The plan met state and federal flow and temperature requirements in the river for fish while fulfilling the needs of agriculture and more than 200,000 residential users.
- New Melones ended September with about 260,000 acre-feet (113,000 acre-feet more than had been predicted in April).



On July 7, 2015, the SWRCB approved Reclamation's Sacramento River Temperature Management Plan, which provided reasonable protection for winter-run Chinook salmon during the 2015 spawning and rearing period and considered other fisheries needs, including spring- and fall-run Chinook salmon. Due to limited cold water pool, concerns were raised regarding the Temperature Control Device gate operations. An emergency contract was awarded to install curtain barriers during the critical temperature season, which helped to prevent warmer water from flowing downstream.

#### **Lower Klamath Fall Flow Augmentation**

Releases were made from Lewiston Dam to supplement flows in the Lower Klamath River beginning late August through September. The releases were made to help protect returning adult fall-run Chinook salmon from disease outbreak and mortality.



Photo contest submission "New Melones Lake" by Dennis Finley



The Lahontan Basin Area Office's empty V-Line Canal headworks on the south side of the Carson Diversion Dam. The 2015 water year saw a 21 percent allocation for the Newlands Project, the lowest recorded allocation in the 110-year history of the project.





Commissioner Estevan López, Fresno Mayor Ashley Swearengin, Deputy Secretary Mike Connor, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Jennifer Gimbel in Fresno on June 18, 2015, to announce drought funding to help California



Photo contest submission "The American River" by Sarah Perrin



Secretary Sally Jewell and California Governor Jerry Brown discuss California's ongoing drought at a press conference on Feb. 6, 2015, at the State Capitol



Photo contest submission "Misty Beaches - Millerton Lake" by Michelle Noble



Photo contest submission "Old Parrott's Ferry Bridge" (emerged summer 2015 for the first time since 1992) by Dennis Finley



Photo contest submission "Up a Creek" by Lisa Carlson (on retired agricultural lands west of Fresno, Calif.)

#### 2015 REGIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#### **Bay-Delta Activities**

The Region's Bay-Delta Office coordinates Reclamation's responsibilities in the San Francisco Bay-Delta/Sacramento-San Joaquin estuary and helps integrate management of the Central Valley Project (CVP) and Delta issues and activities. Major accomplishments in 2015 included:

#### **Biological Support for CVP Operations**

Reclamation scientists continued to advance our understanding of the environment to help balance the water supply and the environment. Reclamation worked collaboratively with other agencies through the Interagency Ecological Program, which serves as the principal source for the physical, chemical and biological data that are essential to effectively manage and operate the CVP and State Water Project (SWP).

## California WaterFix (formerly Bay Delta Conservation Plan)

In April 2015, Reclamation, along with the state, announced a prudent, realistic, science-driven and achievable approach to fixing California's aging water delivery system while protecting the economy and public safety. The revised plan includes actions that are expected to substantially improve the health of California's fisheries, while increasing water supply reliability and addressing climate change. The Partially

Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/ Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was released on July 10, 2015. The Final EIR/EIS is scheduled for completion in 2016.

#### **Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement (SMPA)**

The updated 2015 SMPA, which finalized the agreement, was signed by Reclamation on Nov. 24, 2015. The objectives of the SMPA include assuring that Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources maintain a dependable water supply of adequate quantity and quality within the marsh to mitigate the adverse effects of the CVP and SWP and to improve marsh wildlife habitat to the extent that such improvement is compatible with other CVP and SWP purposes.



Proposed California WaterFix Clifton Court Forebay pumping



Suisun Marsh restoration



SJRRP fall-run Chinook salmon trap and haul study

#### **San Joaquin River Restoration Program**

The San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP) is a comprehensive, long-term effort to restore flows to the San Joaquin River from Friant Dam to the confluence of the Merced River. The goal of the SJRRP is to restore a self-sustaining Chinook salmon fishery in the river while reducing or avoiding adverse water supply impacts from restoration flows. Major 2015 accomplishments included:

- Completed Revised Framework for Implementation: Identified new, realistic schedule and budget for the SJRRP.
- Completed Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Improvements: Draft EIS/EIR and 30 percent design.
- Obtained remaining flowage easements in the Eastside Bypass to allow flows to be reconnected from Friant Dam to the Delta.
- Continued fall-run Chinook salmon trap and haul study, documenting a second year of successful spawning in spring 2015 and naturally spawned fall-run in the river.
- Completed the second direct release of spring-run Chinook salmon into the river in spring 2015.
- Completed the first spawning of spring-run Chinook salmon at the SJRRP's interim Salmon Conservation and Research Facility.
- Completed the Investment Strategy for Water Management Goal actions.
- Began construction on the Tulare Irrigation District's Cordeniz Groundwater Basin recharge project after completing all environmental compliance.



Tulare Irrigation District Cordeniz Groundwater Basin Groundbreaking, Deputy Regional Director Pablo Arroyave



Fall-run trap and haul study, San Joaquin River





#### **Division of Resources Management**

#### 2015-2024 Long-Term Water Transfers

On May 1, 2015, the Region signed the Record of Decision (ROD) implementing a long-term water transfer program which will provide environmental coverage for defined water transfers generally involving north-of-Delta sellers to buyers south of the Delta having less water reliability.

#### CVP Municipal and Industrial (M&I) Water Shortage Policy

Since 2009, the Region has been working with its contractors and stakeholders to update its policy on allocating CVP water supplies during periods of shortage. A notice was placed in the Federal Register in September 2015 for work that was completed on a revised policy. The revised policy defines water shortage for CVP water service contractors, establishes how Reclamation will make quantities of water available to M&I water service contractors with consideration to protecting public health and safety, and provides information to CVP water service contractors for use in water supply planning and development of drought contingency plans. A ROD on the updated policy was executed in November 2015.

# Office of Safety, Security and Emergency Management

#### 2015 Safety

Regional Director David Murillo served as the Executive Sponsor for the Safety Action Plan Team on Managing Employee Safety and Health (MESH) Training. MESH explains the principles of an effective safety and health management system and helps managers and supervisors in prevention instead of reacting to incidents. Specifically, the training defines how managers and supervisors can provide effective leadership for their employees and what their roles and responsibilities are within the organization. The team created a comprehensive training manual covering the eight required sections: Accident Investigation, Effective Communication, Job Hazard Analysis, Inspection for Hazardous Conditions, Effective Safety Meetings, Ergonomics, Improving Employee Safety and Health, and Special Compliance Concerns. As a Region, we have already piloted this training in the Lahontan Basin Area Office. Positive feedback was provided upon completion with the recommendation to offer additional training throughout the Region, which is currently being scheduled

#### **Central California Area Office**

#### Folsom Safety of Dams Mormon Island Auxiliary Dam (MIAD) Overlay Completion

Construction efforts begun at MIAD in 2007 were successfully completed in 2015. The completion of the project consisted primarily of placing cobble slope material to strengthen MIAD's embankment and final contouring of the construction-use areas downstream of the embankment. After heavy equipment and construction offices were removed from the project site, areas that had been disturbed as part of the construction work were stabilized and revegetated to help prevent soil erosion.

#### Joint Federal Project (JFP)

In 2015, Reclamation's Central California Area Office supported the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) with meeting all JFP objectives for Phases III, IV and V construction contracts. As the land owner and the Corps' federal partner, Reclamation played an integral role in managing land-use requests and issues, reviewing construction design changes, performing conflict resolution, conducting site visits, and assisting with various JFP construction activities.



Joint Federal Project, Dec. 2015



Aerial photograph of Mormon Island Auxiliary Dam during construction

#### **South-Central California Area Office**

#### **Contra Loma Reservoir and Recreation Area**

- Completed Resource Management Plan (RMP) and EIS. The RMP is a long-term plan to guide management of resources on federal lands.
- Balanced the protection of water quality and supply of Contra Loma Reservoir, managed recreational uses and natural and cultural resources.
- Recreation area consists of the reservoir, Contra Loma Regional Park and Antioch Community Park.
- Reclamation awarded the managing partner, East Bay Regional Park District, with a federal grant to help fund the boat launch facilities improvement project.

#### **New Powerplant at Friant**

Friant Power Authority (FPA) began construction of a new powerplant at Friant Dam. FPA will take advantage of the SJRRP's increased flows below Friant Dam to produce additional power.



#### **Northern California Area Office**

#### **Clear Creek Pulse Flows**

- Reclamation, along with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) made pulse flow releases from Whiskeytown Dam into Clear Creek in May and June 2015 to attract adult spring-run Chinook salmon to Clear Creek habitat for holding and spawning purposes.
- An 800 cubic feet per second (cfs) pulse flow from Whiskeytown Dam was provided to Clear Creek in May and another 360 cfs pulse flow was provided in June 2015. The primary purpose of these pulse flows was to encourage upstream movement of spring-run Chinook salmon per the NMFS Biological Opinion on the effects of the proposed long-term operations criteria and plan for the CVP. The larger May pulse significantly increased movement of spring-run Chinook salmon into Clear Creek as measured by the USFWS near the mouth of Clear Creek.

#### **Trinity River Restoration Program**

- Completed two river rehabilitation sites that included riparian revegetation efforts and increased salmon and steelhead habitat downstream of Upper Douglas City and Limekin Gulch.
- Developed and released 453,000 acre-feet with an innovative 8,500 cfs peak to effect geomorphic change in the river channel to compensate for a series of drought years that caused reduced peak flows.
- Provided riparian plants to the Hoopa Valley
   Tribe-California Department of Fish and Wildlife
   Supply Creek Riparian Restoration Project.
- Provided educational outreach to youth and the public at field days, environmental camps and Salmon Festivals with scientist-led river floats.



Limekin Gulch Restoration Site on the Trinity River

## Lower Klamath Long-Term Plan EIS Formulation

Reclamation is developing an EIS to evaluate the effects of the Long-Term Plan for the protection of adult salmon in the Lower Klamath River in Humboldt and Del Norte counties, Calif. Several public scoping meetings and tribal information meetings were held to solicit input from stakeholders regarding the Draft Long-Term Plan EIS.

- In 2015, a scoping report was produced.
- The proposed action included supplemental flows to prevent a disease outbreak and a contingency volume to be used on an emergency basis to avoid a significant die-off of adult salmon; approximately 47,000 acre-feet was released as part of the 2015 flow augmentation.

#### **Lahontan Basin Area Office**

- Celebrated Lahontan Dam's 100th
   Anniversary on June 13, 2015: One of the first four projects in Reclamation and the first to deliver water by the federal government.
- Completed Truckee Canal Risk Assessment: First of its kind risk assessment for continued operations of the Truckee Canal; created a risk management plan to measure stage levels during operations of the canal.
- Completed Value Planning Study for the Truckee Canal Extraordinary Operation and Maintenance (XM) Project: Completed a value planning study incorporating proposals from Reclamation and six key stakeholders. The proposals generated will be considered in the input/scoping process for the Truckee Canal XM EIS.
- Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA)
   Implementation: Orr Ditch Court approved
   TROA in Dec. 2015. TROA's implementation resolves more than a century of water rights conflicts and creates an interstate allocation between California and Nevada for the waters of the Lake Tahoe, Carson River and Truckee River Basins.
- Completed Transfer of a Portion of the Humboldt Project: Approximately 27,000 acres including Rye Patch Dam and Reservoir.
- Repaired V-Line Canal Breach: V-line delivers water to 60 percent of the Newlands Project customers; working with Truckee-Carson Irrigation District, repairs were completed in 13 days.



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Lahontan Dam 100th Anniversary on June 13, 2015: Ernest Schank, Rusty Jardine, David Murillo, Terri Edwards, Assemblywoman Robin Titus



LBAO's Derby Dam services both Newlands and Washoe projects, diverting water down the Truckee Canal to Lahontan Dam



V-Line Canal breach repairs

Marble Bluff Dam



This juvenile sucker collected during KBAO's A-Canal salvage effort is in the rarest life stage, between two and four years old



U.S. Geological Survey monitoring data from tagged fish, Upper Klamath Lake

#### Klamath Basin Area Office

Reclamation, in coordination with federal and state agencies, Klamath Basin tribes and water users, successfully operated the Klamath Project consistent with the 2013 joint Biological Opinion, addressed real-time fisheries disease concerns, and reduced the magnitude of involuntary water curtailments to the Klamath Project.

- Water Deliveries: Despite the drought, Reclamation made approximately 71 percent of a full Klamath Project supply (278,000 acre-feet) available for delivery to the Klamath Project.
- Additional Inflow: As a result of Reclamation's coordination with project water users, a request for the Oregon Water Resources Department to enforce project water rights allowed additional inflow to Upper Klamath Lake, allowing the delivery of additional project supply during the 2015 irrigation season.
- **Drought Response**: Implementation of the Water Users Mitigation Program (WUMP), administered by the Klamath Water and Power Agency in coordination with Reclamation, was critical in lessening the impact of the 2015 surface water shortage. The WUMP reduced project demand by approximately 96,488 acre-feet through demand management and supplemental groundwater pumping resulting in the delivery of approximately 18,900 acre-feet of water to the Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge.



Lost River Diversion Dam, Klamath Project

#### RESTORATION PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

# **Pritchard Lake Fish Screen and Intake Facility**

As authorized by the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA), the Region provided 50 percent cost-share funding for the construction of three retrievable cylindrical screens designed to prevent the entrainment of migrating salmon at a 150 cubic feet per second diversion operated by the Natomas Mutual Water Company on the Sacramento River.

#### **Knights Landing Outflow Gates Project**

The Region provided funding for and worked in collaboration with a local water district, Reclamation District 108, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the California Department of Water Resources on a project to modify an existing structure in order to prevent salmon from straying into a channel that has no connection back to the Sacramento River. This project supports the goals of the CVPIA to protect, restore and enhance Central Valley anadromous fish populations.



Pritchard Lake Fish Screen and Intake Facility



Concrete work in progress at Knights Landing Outfall Gates Project

# **Battle Creek Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Project**

The Battle Creek Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Project is among the largest cold-water restoration projects in North America. Construction has been underway since 2010 and is scheduled for completion in 2020. The North Fork Screens and Ladders (NFSL) Gate Actuator Modulation construction was completed. The NFSL completion contract final plans and specifications were completed, and the procurement process has begun. Reclamation constructed a hydraulic model and began constructing a sediment model to incorporate results into Inskip Diversion Dam fish screen and ladder designs. Lastly, the Coleman National Fish Hatchery (CNFH) Adaptive Management Plan efforts progressed, including the development of life cycle models, an analytical framework and a draft integrated Battle Creek Restoration Project - CNFH Adaptive Management Team Charter.

# Reclamation District (RD) 2035 and Woodland-Davis Clean Water Agency Joint Intake and Fish Screen

Construction on the RD 2035 and Woodland-Davis Clean Water Agency Joint Fish Screen/Intake proceeded through 2015. The facility is scheduled to be operational in spring 2016, with cleanup, demolition of old facilities and related work taking place thereafter.

# Water Conservation and Drought Grants

The Region awarded a number of water conservation related grants, including three WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for about \$1.5 million, five Bay-Delta Water-Use Efficiency grants for almost \$2.6 million, and four Agricultural Water Efficiency Grants for about \$2 million to qualifying districts to compliment on-farm grant funding provided through the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Region also awarded four new grants under the WaterSMART umbrella dedicated to Drought Response totaling almost \$1.2 million.

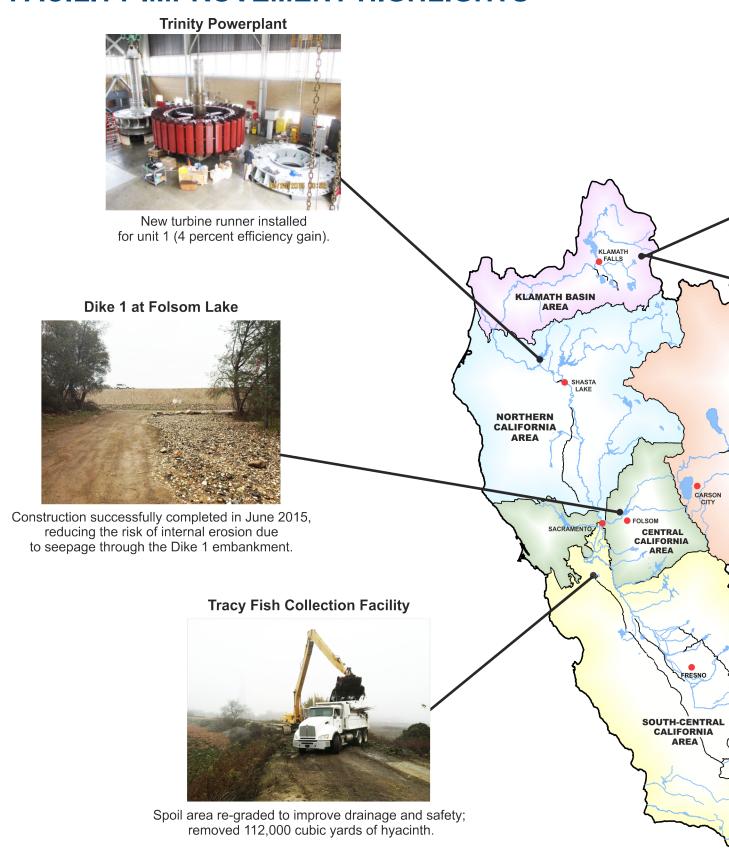


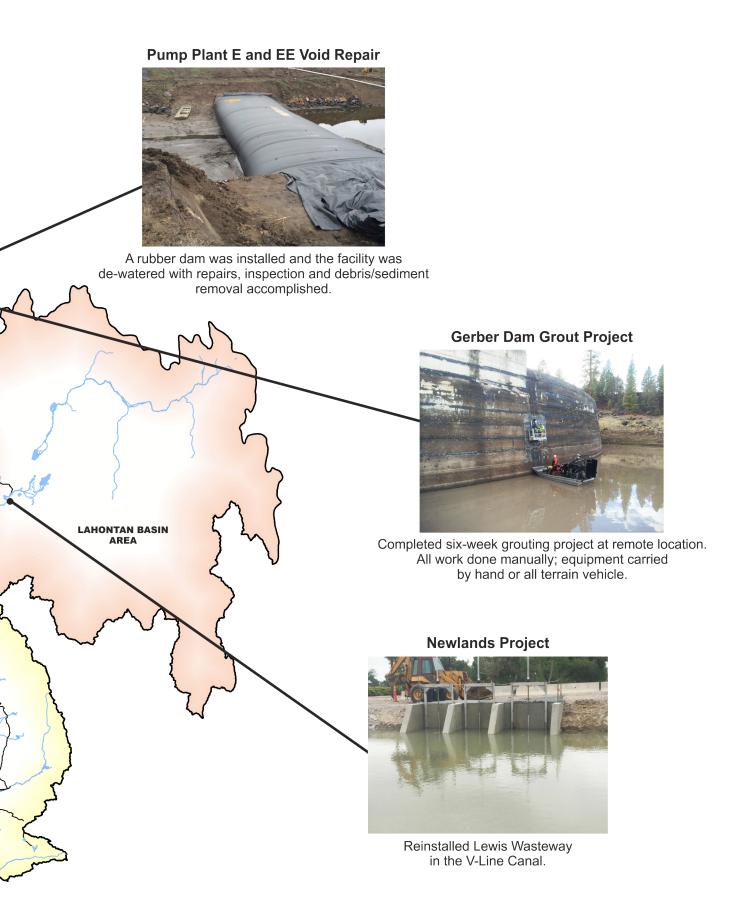
Battle Creek hydraulic model Inskip Diversion Dam fish ladder



Sacramento River Joint Intake RD 2035 fish screen construction

## **FACILITY IMPROVEMENT HIGHLIGHTS**





#### RECREATION

#### **2015 Recreation by the Numbers**

Reclamation plays a major role in meeting increasing public demand for water-based outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities. Recreation areas at Reclamation water projects are among the nation's most popular with over 60 recreation areas, including reservoirs, campgrounds, wildlife refuges, hiking trails and fish hatcheries.

- In 2015, the Region hosted over 6 million visitors.
- Some 16,000 volunteer hours were donated at Lake Berryessa, New Melones Reservoir and Shasta Lake.
- Nearly 7,000 pounds of trash and 418 pounds of recyclables were removed from Lake Berryessa and New Melones Reservoir during organized clean-up days (Coastal Cleanup, Great Sierra River Cleanup, National Public Lands Day (NPLD), and World Environment Day).
- In celebration of NPLD, native trees were planted at Lake Berryessa and New Melones Lake by 64 students.
- Reclamation's Northern California Area Office, in partnership with the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, hosted a clean-up event at Shasta Lake in honor of NPLD, during which 50 volunteers worked to remove litter, plant native trees and perform minor maintenance.
- Over 6,000 children participated in educational tours of Shasta Dam.
- Over 500 visitors were reached through the Monticello Interpretive Ranger Program at Lake Berryessa.

# "Catch a Special Thrill" (C.A.S.T.) for Kids Program

C.A.S.T. for Kids provides an environment where disabled and/or disadvantaged children, ages 5-18, can enjoy a day of fun on the water. Supplied with a fishing rod and reel, t-shirt, hat and tackle box, participants are partnered with an experienced volunteer angler, learn about proper fishing techniques and natural resources, and enjoy a BBQ lunch and awards ceremony.



Tree planting at Lake Berryessa



Photo contest submission "C.A.S.T. Event at Lake Berryessa" by Bethany Brown



C.A.S.T. for Kids, Shasta Lake, Northern California Area Office



C.A.S.T. for Kids, Shasta Lake, Northern California Area Office, June 20

 In 2015, 106 children participated in C.A.S.T. events at Lake Berryessa, New Melones Lake, and Shasta Lake with 350 volunteers assisting.

#### **Every Kid in a Park**

As part of President Barack Obama's commitment to protecting our nation's unique public lands and ensuring that every American has the opportunity to visit and enjoy them, the Every Kid in a Park initiative allows fourth graders nationwide to obtain a pass for free entry for them and their families to more than 2,000 federally managed lands and waters. Every Kid in a Park began on Sept. 1, 2015.

- More than 350 elementary students participated in water education programs, natural history, fishing and other ranger-led interpretive programs at Lake Berryessa, New Melones, and Shasta Lake.
- Reclamation's American River Water Education Center at Folsom Dam hosted 7,043 students onsite and conducted extensive outreach efforts.



4th graders show their Every Kid in a Park cards at New Melones, Sept. 25

#### Let's Move Outside!

Launched by First Lady Michelle Obama, Let's Move Outside! is administered by the Department of the Interior and was created to get kids and families to take advantage of America's great outdoors which abound in every city, town and community.

 Lake Berryessa hosted several "Paddle with a Park Ranger" kayak tours of the lake.



World Environment Day, New Melones, June 7



C.A.S.T. for Kids, Shasta Lake, Northern California Area Office



American River Water Education Center at Folsom Dam



Paddle with a Park Ranger at Lake Berryessa

### **PHOTO CONTEST**

#### PEOPLE'S CHOICE/WILDLIFE



"Wildlife Angels Screek Northern Harrier" by Patricia Sanders

#### FLORA



"Into the Clouds" by Loredana Potter

"Purple Wild Flower in Bloom, San Luis Refuge" by Micheale Easley

#### PEOPLE

**SEASONS** 



"Unbolting the Penstock" by Joaquin Mancias

#### LANDSCAPE



"Spanish Flat, Lake Berryesssa" by Andrew Burrows

#### JUDGE'S BEST OF SHOW



"Summer at San Joaquin River Gorge" by Mike Inthavong

#### **FACILITY**



"Shasta Dam Through a Window" by Vernon Simpkins



"Mother Rapid Stanislaus River" by Emmett Cartier



"Moonlight Lake" by Lauren Grahek



"Down the C-Flume" by Justin Roberts



"Sunrise on Lake Ewauna" by Brock Phillips



"Rye Patch Monster" by Stuart Angerer



"Friant Refraction" by Jennifer Lewis



"Liquid Gold" by Shannon Tostado



"Sun Burst" by Matt Podolinsky



"Subsidence Monitoring Sunrise" by Jim McCleary

