

CALIFORNIA WATERFIX TAKES CRITICAL STEP FORWARD WITH ISSUANCE OF BIOLOGICAL OPINIONS

After extensive consultation with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) have released their biological opinions for the proposed construction and operation of California WaterFix. These agencies are responsible for the protection of species listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The goal of WaterFix is to balance the needs of California residents with the needs of Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta fish and wildlife by modernizing infrastructure to secure water supplies and better protect the Delta's ecosystem. Both biological opinions found the construction and operation of WaterFix as proposed would not jeopardize the continued existence of ESA-listed species or destroy or adversely modify critical habitat for those species.

Completion of these biological opinions allows WaterFix to take a critical step forward. The biological opinions will serve as important components in several ongoing environmental review and regulatory activities.

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