FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

FOR THE

BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN/
CALIFORNIA WATERFIX

VOLUME I. FINAL EIR/EIS FOR THE BDCP/CALIFORNIA WATERFIX

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Introduction to Final EIR/EIS

The California WaterFix planning process began in 2006 when updates to the State Water Project (SWP) and coordinated operations of the Central Valley Project (CVP) were initially proposed as the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP). The BDCP envisioned updating the SWP by adding new points of diversion in the north Delta and by providing for large-scale species conservation through a 50-year habitat conservation plan (HCP)/natural communities conservation plan (NCCP). The HCP/NCCP was intended to comply with Section 10 of the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and to achieve compliance with the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) through the California Natural Community Conservation Planning Act (NCCPA). In December 2013, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) released the BDCP Draft Environmental Impact Report/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIR/EIS) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), along with a Draft BDCP document.

In July of 2015, DWR and Reclamation issued a Partially Recirculated Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS (RDEIR/SDEIS) that included for consideration three additional alternatives that would update the SWP without the large-scale conservation efforts in an HCP/NCCP. These alternatives were proposed to achieve compliance with the ESA through Section 7 and compliance with CESA through an incidental take permit under Section 2081(b) of CESA. The lead agencies proposed that one of these non-HCP alternatives, known as California WaterFix (Alternative 4A), be identified as the preferred alternative in replacement of the BDCP alternative (Alternative 4). The RDEIR/SDEIS also included updates to the BDCP alternative as well as other revisions and updates to the 2013 Draft EIR/EIS analyses. In addition, the state proposed as a separate program, apart from the RDEIR/SDEIS and this Final EIR/EIS, California EcoRestore to provide restoration efforts for species conservation independent of the SWP facility upgrades. As presented in the RDEIR/SDEIS and this Final EIR/EIS, the California WaterFix Project consists of new water conveyance facilities with three new diversion points in the north Delta, tunnel conveyance and ancillary facilities, operational elements, and habitat restoration and other environmental commitments to mitigate construction- and operation-related impacts of the new conveyance facilities. As with the RDEIR/SDEIS, DWR continues to be the CEQA lead agency and Reclamation is the sole NEPA lead agency for this Final EIR/EIS for the California WaterFix.

This Final EIR/EIS presents all of the analyses contained in the Draft EIR/EIS combined with the RDEIR/SDEIS analyses and other content required under CEQA and NEPA. The Final EIR/EIS includes the following material.

- Revisions based on comments on the content of the Draft EIR/EIS and RDEIR/SDEIS or based on additional information received since circulation of the RDEIR/SDEIS.
- A list of persons, agencies, and organizations commenting on the Draft EIR/EIS and RDEIR/SDEIS.
- Copies of comments received during public review on the Draft EIR/EIS and RDEIR/SDEIS.
- Responses to all of the substantive comments on the proposed project and alternatives and on environmental analysis contained in the Draft EIR/EIS and RDEIR/SDEIS and received during the applicable public review periods.

This Final EIR/EIS is organized into two main parts. Volume I contains all of the revised analyses included in the Draft EIR/EIS and RDEIR/SDEIS, organized by chapters originally presented in the Draft EIR/EIS, including revisions and additions to appendices. Volume II contains all of the comments received on the Draft EIR/EIS and RDEIR/SDEIS, along with responses to all of the comments. Volume II also contains introductory information on the public review process and approach to responding to all the comments, a list of commenters, master responses to broad resource comments, responses to individual comments in tabular form, and an appendix with all of the original comment letters received on the Draft EIR/EIS and RDEIR/SDEIS.

The lead agencies have prepared a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), released concurrent with the Final EIR/EIS, that describes how the mitigation measures, environmental commitments, and avoidance and minimization measures for the preferred alternative would be implemented. The MMRP describes in detail the actions presented to reduce adverse/significant environmental impacts and specifies who will implement the action, when the action will take place, and how the action will be implemented.

The lead agencies also have prepared a Biological Assessment for the preferred alternative that provides additional information on listed species potentially affected by the project, consistent with the analysis in the Final EIR/EIS. The Biological Assessment is available at https://www.californiawaterfix.com.