



# Update on Bay-Delta

State and Federal Water Projects, Delta Conveyance, State Water Supply

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Municipal Water District of Orange County  
January 5, 2022

## Overview

- Background: Bay-Delta Regulatory Review
- Interim Operations
- Long-Term Operations
- Voluntary Agreement
- Next Steps
- Delta Conveyance Project
- State Water Supply

# Background

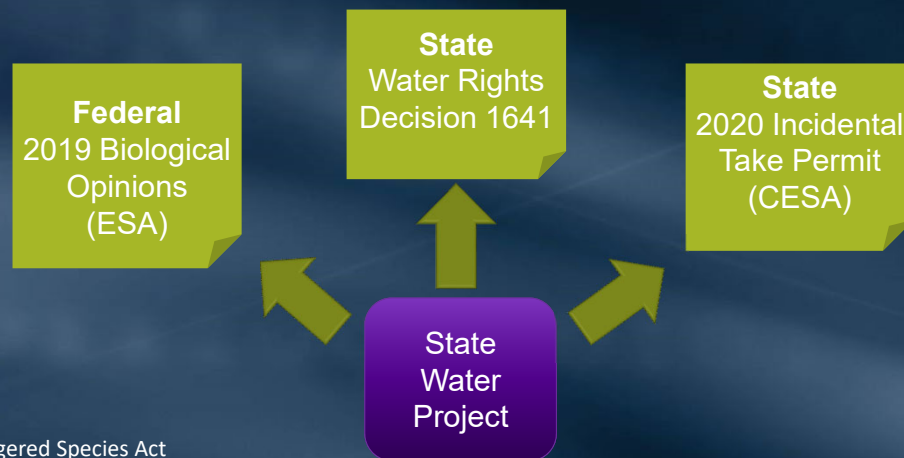
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## Background: Regulatory Review

### Key Permits and Standards Governing Project Operations

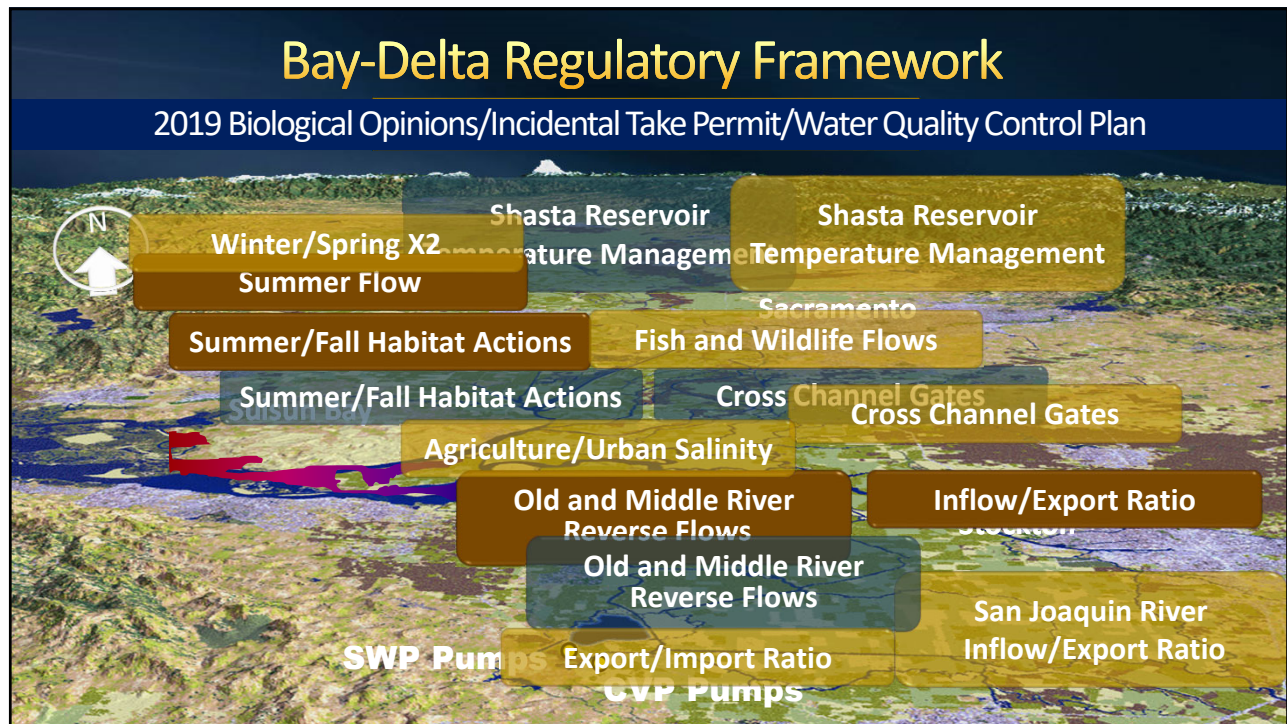


ESA = Endangered Species Act  
CESA = California Endangered Species Act

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## Interim Operations

## Interim Operations Plan

- “Take” authorization must continue during consultation
- 2019 Biological Opinions continue to be operable unless modified
- Operations during the reinitiated consultation would be modified by the Interim Operations Plan
- September 2021 Interim Operations Plan has not been subject to further permitting

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## Interim Operations Plan

**Term Sheet:** Interim Operation Plan issued on September 27, 2021 by Federal and State Government and includes:

### Near-Term Interim Operations (approximately 1 year)

- Changes in Shasta Reservoir operations
- Changes in Federal Project export operations
- New spring outflow
- Excess Flow Requirements Modified (March –June)

### Long-Term Consultation Process

- New operations goal statement (viability and distribution)
- Consultation timeline

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## Complexities of Interim Operations



2019 Biological Opinions contain drought planning and response actions



Changes in project operations require compliance with environmental permitting requirements



Changes in project operations without appropriate permitting can have unintended environmental consequences



WIIN Act requires that federal agencies include water contractors in the consultation

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## Response to Interim Operations Plan

- State Water Contractors and Federal Water Project Contractors provided feedback early October
- Congressional letters to state and federal agencies from:
  - Costa, Garamendi, Harder October 14<sup>th</sup>
  - Feinstein, Costa, Garamendi, Harder October 20<sup>th</sup>
  - Calvert, Garcia, Issa, Kim, La Malfa, McClintock, Nunes, Obernolte, Steel October 21<sup>st</sup>

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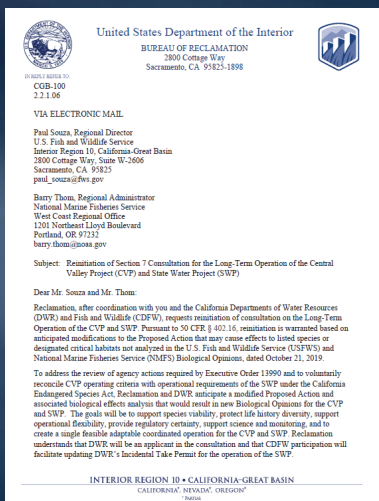
# Long-Term Operations

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## Reinitiation of Section 7 Consultation Long-Term Operations for Central Valley Project and State Water Project




- **January 2021** President Executive Order 13990 issued: *"Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis"*
- **May 2021** **Federal Government Agencies<sup>1</sup>** responded via written response acknowledging a process to "reconcile" BiOps 2019 with State's permit (ITP) was underway
- **Oct 1, 2021** **US Bureau of Reclamation** initiated consultation of long-term Operations of both federal and state project
- **Oct 5, 2021** MWD submitted letter requesting Water Infrastructure Improvement (WIIN) act participation in Reinitiation

<sup>1</sup> US Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)

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Overview: Reinitiation of Section 7  
Consultation Long-Term Operations for  
Central Valley Project  
and State Water Project

Initiate or  
Reinitiate  
Consultation

Biological  
Assessment

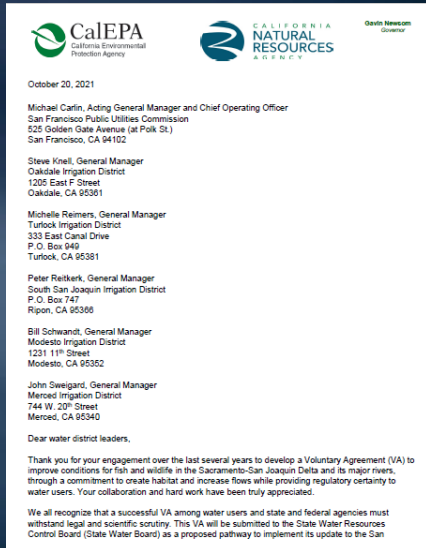
Biological  
Opinion

Typically a Multiple Year process

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## Voluntary Agreements

## Voluntary Agreement (VA)



### October 20, 2021 Letter from Secretary Bloomfield and Secretary Crowfoot to Phase I Tributary Water District Leaders

“proposed voluntary actions by water agencies on the San Joaquin River tributaries have fallen short of needed flow and habitat improvements, and viable proposals are not being offered at this time.”

“we will focus our efforts on advancing a VA with the Sacramento River basin water users and water agencies who contract with the State and Federal water projects”

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## Next Steps

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## Next Steps

Interim  
Operations

- Engagement between State and Federal Gov't with State and Federal Water Contractors

Long-Term  
Operations

- Participate in the development of Biological Opinions under WIIN Act

Voluntary  
Agreements

- Participate in development efforts with State and Water Users across the state

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## Delta Conveyance Project

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## Delta Conveyance Project

- In 2021 DWR provided 4 informational webinars about how the Draft EIR is being prepared
  - Operations of State Water Project and Delta Conveyance July 14
  - Fisheries August 3
  - Climate Change August 25
  - Environmental Justice September 16

### Delta Conveyance Project Timeline

Draft EIR for Public Comment	Mid-2022
Final EIR/EIS	Late 2023
Permits	2023-Mid-2024

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## State Water Supply

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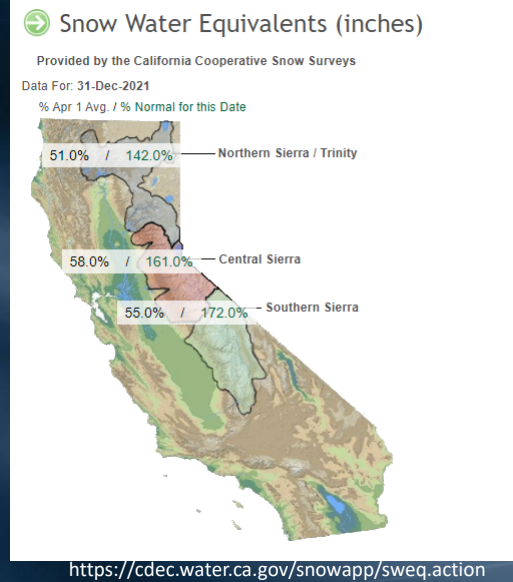
# State Water Supply

## • Snow Surveys: (as of 12/31/21)

- Average SWE is 15.3"
- Percent of April 1 Average 55%
- Percent of normal 157%

## • End of Year Storage

- San Luis Reservoir: 517 TAF
- Oroville Reservoir: 1.359 MAF



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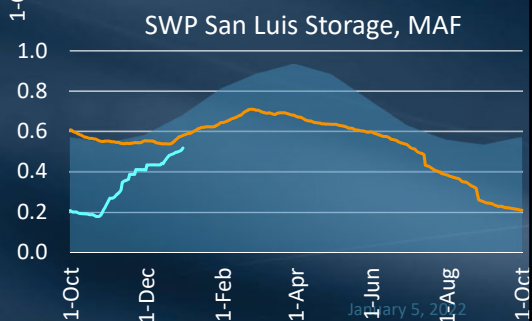
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# Below Average, Despite Gains

## STORAGE



EOY storage of:  
1.359 MAF Oroville  
517 TAF San Luis



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Back up slides

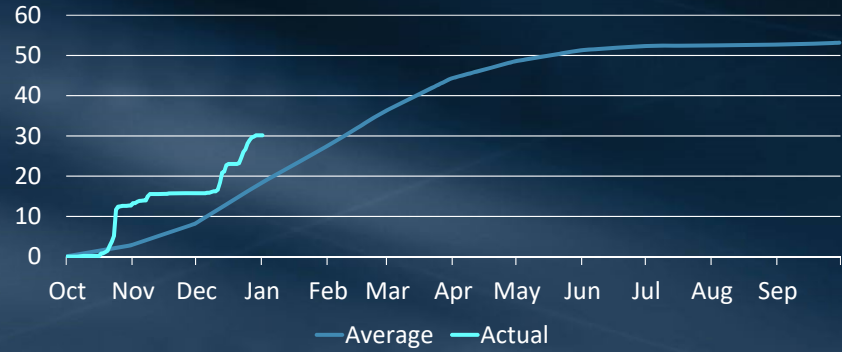


# Wet Start to Water Year 2022

## PRECIPITATION



Cumulative Eight-Station Index, inches



30.2 inches, 166% of average

15<sup>th</sup> wettest Oct-Dec  
in 103 years

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