



# CALIFORNIA WATERFIX: A HEALTHIER DELTA

After 10 years of analysis, dialogue and scientific inquiry, the California WaterFix remains the most feasible approach to not only securing water supplies but also protecting native fish in the Delta. For fish, this means lessening the impact of pumping water solely from the southern part of the Delta estuary and restoring more natural flow conditions.



## FISH PROTECTION

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries have affirmed that the construction and operation of WaterFix would not jeopardize the continued existence of species protected by the Endangered Species Act or destroy or adversely modify critical habitat for those species. WaterFix will also contribute to implementation of both the Delta Smelt Resiliency Strategy and Sacramento Valley Salmon Resiliency Strategy.



## COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) have finalized extensive environmental analyses that describe actions to avoid, minimize and mitigate potential impacts to local Delta communities and the environment.



## REAL-TIME OPERATIONS

Water managers at DWR and the Bureau can operate the new water delivery system in response to real-time conditions. This makes the project more immediately responsive to fish, water quality, and water supply needs, and smarter and more efficient in the long run.



## WATER QUALITY AND MONITORING NETWORK

In addition to many specific water quality mitigation measures, the project includes multiple locations where water quality will be measured regularly to ensure water quality standards are met. This protects fish species as well as downstream Delta residents and communities.



## ADJUSTING TO SEASONAL CONDITIONS

Based on actual hydrology, the project will have the ability to export during high flow events—take a big gulp of water—when fish agencies perceive there is no harm to fish. It will also have specific criteria, including spring outflow targets to improve conditions for fish as they migrate through the estuary.



## MULTI-AGENCY ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

WaterFix complements the California EcoRestore program to restore 30,000 acres in the Delta. Both will employ rigorous adaptive management approaches so that restoration and project operations are based on the best available science. There is significant detail and a specific funding commitment for a multi-agency adaptive management program that will use research, monitoring and real-time tracking of fish to guide operations. This program will be launched well before construction begins.



**A MULTI-PRONGED, COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION FOR FISH PROTECTION**

The new Delta water conveyance system under California WaterFix will improve fish habitat in four major ways.

**1**

**PROVIDE SPRING OUTFLOW**

New criteria to provide spring outflow to San Francisco Bay

**2**

**PROVIDE DIVERSION FLEXIBILITY**

Provide flexibility to avoid water diversions at locations that harm fish

**3**

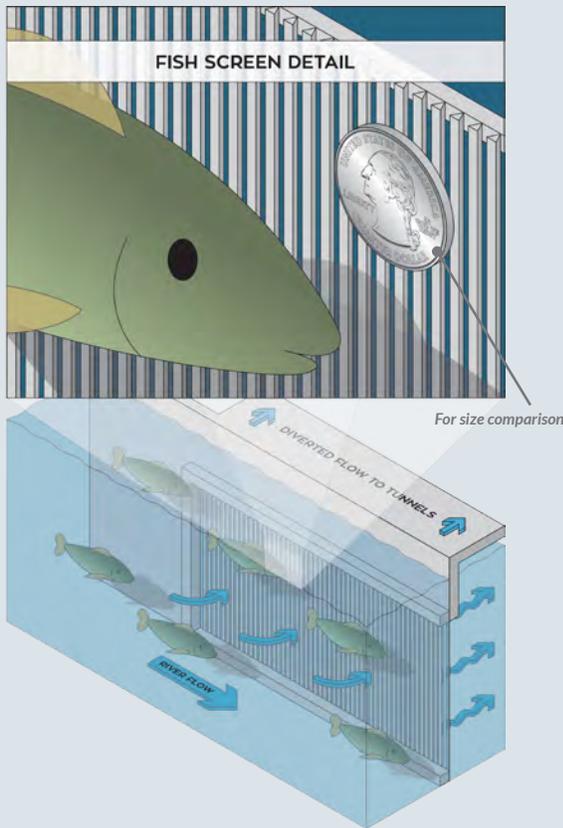
**IMPROVE NATURAL FLOWS**

Allow for more natural south Delta flow patterns.

**4**

**NEW FISH SCREENS**

Protect fish with state-of-the-art fish screens.



**PROPOSED WATERFIX INTAKES**

The new northern intakes will be optimized for flow velocities to guide fish past the screens. The intakes will be constructed with state-of-the-art fish screens that minimize impacts to fish, such as salmon, during passage from the Delta to the ocean and their return to upstream tributaries.

Bypass flows will be set to ensure enough water flows past the intakes to create safe passage for fish.

The addition of three intakes and modern screens will result in less fatigue and provide young fish the greatest protection during diversions.

