

Executive Summary

The California State Water Project (SWP) is a water storage and delivery system of reservoirs, aqueducts, power plants, and pumping plants extending more than 700 miles—two-thirds the length of California. Planned, constructed, and operated by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), the SWP is the nation’s largest state-built, multi-purpose, user-financed water project. It supplies water to more than 27 million people in Northern California, the San Francisco Bay Area, the San Joaquin Valley, the Central Coast, and Southern California. SWP water also irrigates about 750,000 acres of farmland, mainly in the San Joaquin Valley. In addition to water supply, the SWP was designed to provide multiple benefits, including:

- Flood control—The flood of 1955, which submerged Yuba City, was the impetus for the construction of Lake Oroville.
- Power generation—The SWP produces hydroelectric power to operate pumping facilities required to move water from Northern to Southern California. The SWP sells power when it generates a surplus of electricity.
- Recreation—SWP lakes and reservoirs provide opportunities to swim, picnic, waterski, boat, fish, hike, bicycle, camp, and ride horses. Visitors are also welcome at three visitor centers located at Lake Oroville, San Luis Reservoir, and Pyramid Lake.
- Fish and wildlife habitat—The SWP is operated to protect fish and wildlife with fish hatcheries, fish screens and passages, mitigation agreements, fish surveys and monitoring, a fish salvage facility, habitat restoration, and restricted pumping schedules.

The SWP operates to balance the needs of water delivery and environmental protection. In cooperation with the federal Central Valley Project (CVP), DWR operates the SWP to limit salinity intrusion into the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta (Delta) and Suisun Marsh by supplementing freshwater outflows to the ocean and limiting water exports from the Delta during certain times of the year. The sustainability of California’s water resources depends on the environmental health of the Delta.

The SWP is subject to multiple layers of state and federal regulation. The State of California regulates the SWP directly through the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), and through the State Water Resources Control Board under California’s Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act and California’s implementation of the federal Clean Water Act. The State of California also has influence over various aspects of DWR’s activities in managing the SWP through its boards and councils, including, but not limited to, the Delta Stewardship Council and California Fish and Game Commission. The federal government also regulates the SWP through the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and through the authority of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers over navigable waterways.

DWR works cooperatively with regulatory agencies to develop interim and long-term operations solutions that are responsive to state and federal law. DWR implements habitat restoration projects that preserve and protect special-status species affected by SWP operations. DWR also assesses, evaluates, and proposes solutions to improve system water management performance through improved operational agreements, economic analyses, and other methods.

Over the last decade, scientific knowledge about the Delta ecosystem and its relationship to water operations has grown, largely due to new science that has been developed through collaborative processes since the issuance of the existing ESA and CESA authorizations for current SWP operations. The Long-Term Operations of the SWP facilities in the Delta, Suisun Marsh, and Suisun Bay (Proposed Project) incorporates this new science, as well as information about the current status of listed species, to develop updates to the operating criteria of the SWP. The operational updates are designed to minimize adverse environmental effects, particularly with respect to listed species and water quality, by implementing operational restrictions based on potential effects on CESA-listed species, as well as on environmental conditions such as salinity and turbidity. For example, the Proposed Project would provide for pumping restrictions for the protection of listed species to be triggered in most water year types. The Proposed Project also would allow operational flexibility where appropriate but would incorporate specific bounds providing for regulatory oversight. In addition, an adaptive management program would evaluate the long-term SWP operations and identify a process to ensure continued operations are consistent with applicable legal requirements. The end result is a Proposed Project that is better tailored than the existing operational scenario to continue long-term SWP operations to provide environmental protection and meet water delivery needs.

This Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is intended to support DWR's decision regarding ongoing SWP operations and CDFW's issuance of a CESA Incidental Take Permit (ITP) under Section 2081 of the California Fish and Game Code. It includes a robust analysis of the Proposed Project and considers actions that potentially could minimize environmental effects on long-term SWP operations. The EIR also identifies other actions that are occurring in or affecting the Delta, such as water supply, water management, and water quality projects and actions and habitat improvement projects and actions, to consider a broad perspective of cumulative impacts. The EIR evaluates the applicable resource areas and determines that, with respect to each resource area, the Proposed Project has either no impact or a less-than-significant impact on the environment. Because the Proposed Project would not result in any significant impacts, no mitigation is required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The EIR also analyzes three project alternatives in addition to the "no project" alternative. Pursuant to CEQA, the EIR includes sufficient information about each alternative to allow meaningful evaluation, analysis, and comparison with the Proposed Project.

ES.1 Purpose of this Environmental Impact Report

This EIR has been prepared to comply with the requirements of CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines (Chapter 3 of Title 14, California Code of Regulations). As described in Section 15121(a) of the State CEQA Guidelines, an EIR is a public information document that objectively assesses and discloses potential environmental impacts of a proposed project and identifies mitigation measures and alternatives to the proposed project that would reduce or avoid identified significant adverse environmental impacts. CEQA requires that lead, responsible, or trustee agencies consider the environmental consequences of projects over which they have discretionary authority.

As the lead agency for the Proposed Project, DWR will use the information in this EIR to evaluate the Proposed Project's potential environmental impacts; determine whether any feasible mitigation measures and alternatives are necessary and available to reduce potentially significant environmental impacts; and approve, modify, or deny approval of the Proposed Project. This document also may be used by (1) the CDFW, as a responsible agency as defined by CEQA, in its discretionary approval process and consideration to issue a new ITP pursuant to Section 2081 of the California Fish and Game Code for the Proposed Project, and (2) the State Water Resources Control Board, as a responsible agency as defined by CEQA, in its discretionary approval process and consideration to issue a water rights time extension for DWR's Feather River/ Delta water right permits 16478, 16479, 16481, 16482, 16477, and 16480 to allow long-term operations consistent with the diversion rates and quantities evaluated in this EIR.

ES.2 Project Background

The Proposed Project would continue DWR's ongoing, long-term SWP operations consistent with applicable laws, contractual obligations, and agreements. DWR proposes long-term operations of the SWP that will allow DWR to continue to store, divert, and convey water, in accordance with its existing water rights, to deliver water pursuant to water contracts and agreements up to full contract quantities. DWR is seeking to optimize water supply and improve operational flexibility while protecting fish and wildlife.

The Project area includes the Sacramento River from the confluence with the Feather River to the Delta, the Delta, and Suisun Marsh and Suisun Bay. Figure ES-1 shows the Project area and SWP facilities in the Delta, Suisun Marsh, and Suisun Bay.

DWR operates the SWP in coordination with the CVP, under the Coordinated Operation Agreement between the federal government and the State of California (authorized by Public Law 99-546). The CVP and SWP operate pursuant to water rights permits and licenses that are issued by the State Water Resources Control Board. The CVP and SWP water rights allow appropriation of water by directly using and/or diverting water to storage for later withdrawal and use or use and re-diversion to storage farther downstream for later consumptive use. Among the conditions of those water rights are requirements for projects either to bypass or withdraw water from storage and to help satisfy specific water quality, quantity, and operations criteria in source rivers and within the Delta.

DWR also operates the SWP in compliance with the existing ESA and CESA authorizations for long-term SWP operations, including:

- CDFW 2020 ITP for the Long-Term Operation of the SWP in the Delta (ITP No. 2081-2019-066-00)
- NMFS 2019 Biological Opinion on Long-Term Operation of the CVP and the SWP
- USFWS 2019 Biological Opinion for the Reinitiation of Consultation on the Coordinated Operations of the CVP and SWP

As a part of ongoing litigation, a federal court has issued orders temporarily modifying certain ESA operational requirements, with which DWR's SWP operations also comply.

DWR is seeking a new ITP from CDFW, pursuant to Section 2081 of the California Fish and Game Code. The new ITP will cover species that are listed under CESA and are subject to incidental take from long-term operation of the SWP. The four CESA-listed fish species covered in the ITP application include Delta Smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*), Longfin Smelt (*Spirinchus thaleichthys*) Bay-Delta Distinct Population Segment, Sacramento River winter-run Chinook Salmon evolutionarily significant unit (ESU; *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), and Central Valley spring-run Chinook Salmon ESU (*O. tshawytscha*). In addition, White Sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*) might obtain protection under CESA as a candidate species in 2024 and potentially may become a CESA-listed species in 2025. Therefore, DWR is also seeking to include White Sturgeon in the new ITP to conservatively prepare for the species being protected as a candidate for listing and potentially becoming CESA-listed during the duration of the ITP. CDFW is expected to rely on this EIR when issuing a decision on the DWR ITP application.

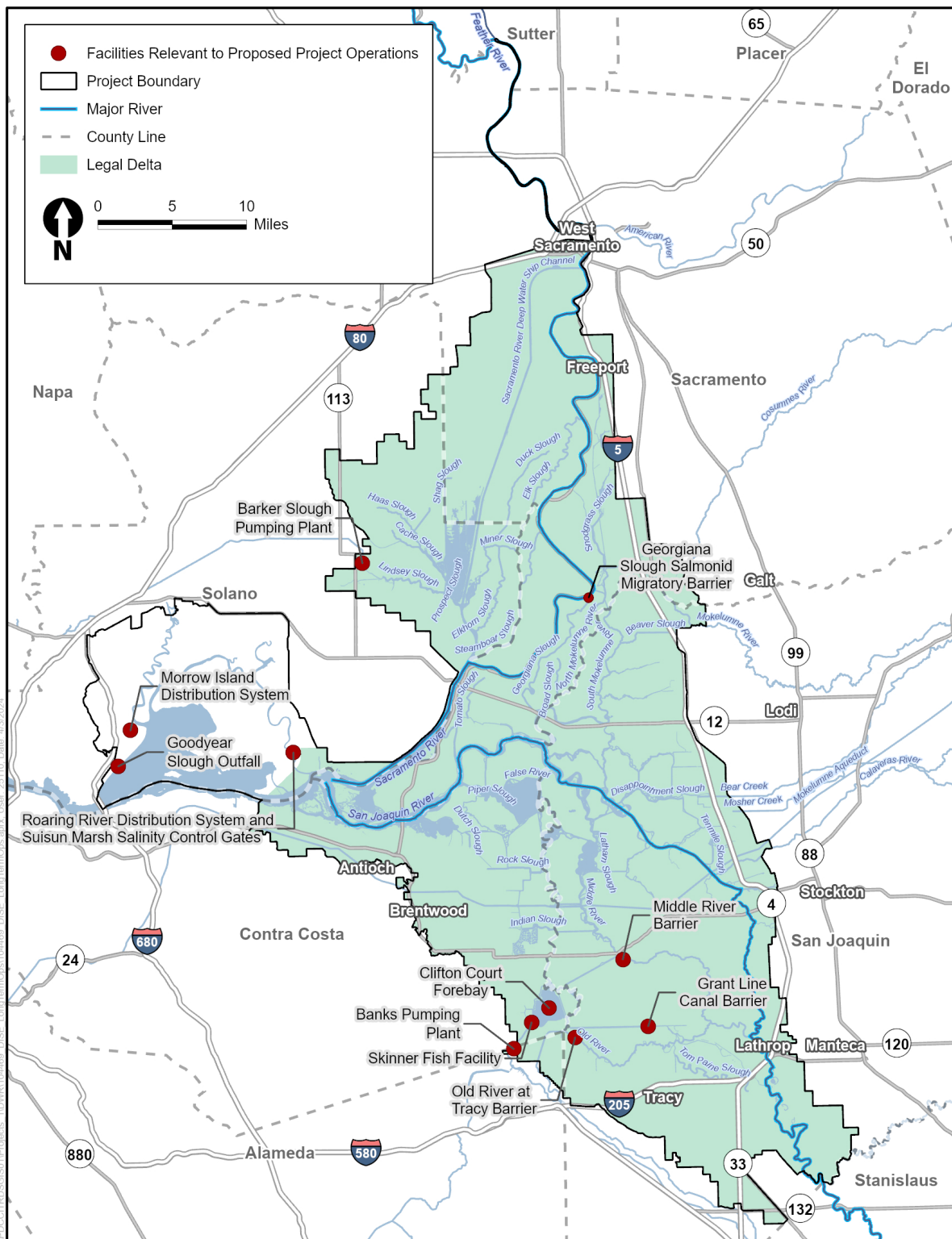


Figure ES-1. Locations of Facilities Relevant to Proposed Project Operations in the Delta, Suisun Marsh, and Suisun Bay

ES.3 Summary of Proposed Project

The Proposed Project would consist of multiple elements that are expected to characterize future operations of SWP facilities, would modify ongoing programs being implemented as part of SWP operations, would improve specific activities to enhance protection of special-status fish species, and would support ongoing studies and research on these special-status species to improve the basis of knowledge and management of these species. These elements are intended to continue operation of the SWP and deliver up to the full contracted water amounts while minimizing and fully mitigating the take of listed species, in compliance with CESA requirements.

Table ES-1 shows the Proposed Project's operations and actions.

Table ES-1. Proposed Project Elements

Facility or Action	Proposed Project Actions	Action Goal or Objective
Existing Regulatory Requirements	Comply with D-1641 and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permit 2100.	Continue to comply with existing limits and permit requirements to protect water quality for the beneficial uses of fish and wildlife, agriculture, and urban uses.
Minimum Export Rate	The combined CVP and SWP export rates at Jones Pumping Plant and Banks Pumping Plant will not be required to drop below 1,500 cfs.	Establish minimum export rate to protect human health and safety.
Expansion of the Clifton Court Forebay Increased Winter Diversion Window	Expand to December 1 through March 31 the period when diversions into Clifton Court Forebay may be increased by one-third of the San Joaquin River flow at Vernalis when those flows exceed 1,000 cfs.	Increase operational flexibility.
Old and Middle River Flow Management	Manage Old and Middle River reverse flows based on species distribution, modeling, and risk analysis, with provisions for capturing storm flows.	Implement real-time Old and Middle River management to minimize entrainment and aquatic species loss during water operations at Banks Pumping Plant.
Spring Delta Outflow	Implement Voluntary Agreements to increase Delta outflow through export reductions and supplemental flow purchases.	Generate water for Delta outflow volumes to benefit native fish populations, including listed species.
Delta Smelt Summer-Fall Habitat	DWR and Reclamation will maintain a 30-day average $X2 \leq 80$ km from September 1 through October 31. DWR will operate the Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates for 60 days from June through October to improve Delta Smelt habitat.	Implement action to improve Delta Smelt habitat.

Facility or Action	Proposed Project Actions	Action Goal or Objective
Barker Slough Pumping Plant	Continue operating the Barker Slough Pumping Plant to minimize effects on Delta Smelt and Longfin Smelt and continue implementing sediment removal and aquatic weed management actions as part of normal operations at Barker Slough Pumping Plant.	Implement actions as components of facility maintenance for continued water supply deliveries.
Agricultural Barriers	Continue operation of three South Delta Temporary Barriers according to existing terms and conditions.	Maintain ongoing annual installation of three South Delta Temporary Barriers with goal of maintaining surface water levels and circulation in the South Delta.
Georgiana Slough Salmonid Migratory Barrier Operations	DWR will update and operate to the Georgiana Slough Salmonid Migratory Barrier Operations Plan (Appendix 2F) and associated operating criteria in collaboration with CDFW, USFWS, and NMFS under the Adaptive Management Program (Appendix 2B).	Minimize migrating juvenile winter-run and spring-run Chinook Salmon routing from the Sacramento River into Georgiana Slough, and the Central and South Delta.
Suisun Marsh	Operate the Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates, Roaring River Distribution System, Morrow Island Distribution System, and Goodyear Slough Outfall in compliance with D-1641.	Operate the Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates to improve habitat conditions for the benefit of Delta Smelt.
Water Transfers	Water transfers could be contained between July through November, with volumes up to 600,000 acre-feet.	Increase SWP operational flexibility.
John E. Skinner Delta Fish Protective Facility	Continue implementing studies to better understand and continuously improve the performance of the John E. Skinner Delta Fish Protective Facility, including: (a) developing an Alternative Loss Pilot Study Implementation Plan, and (b) continued refinement and improvement of the fish sampling procedures and infrastructure to improve the accuracy and reliability of data and fish survival.	Continue ongoing fish salvage at the John E. Skinner Delta Fish Protective Facility, implement actions to reduce post-salvage predation, improve the accuracy and reliability of data, and improve fish survival.
Clifton Court Forebay Weed Management	Control weeds to reduce impacts on SWP physical facilities (clogging screens) and predator abundance.	Continue weed management to reduce mortality of listed fish species and maintain efficiency of SWP physical facilities.
Habitat Restoration	Continue to implement restoration projects to satisfy mitigation requirements for operations related impacts on Delta Smelt and Longfin Smelt.	Continue to comply with existing restoration requirements identified in the 2008 and 2019 USFWS Biological Opinions (8,000 acres) and the 2020 State ITP (396.3 acres).

Facility or Action	Proposed Project Actions	Action Goal or Objective
Monitoring	Undertake ongoing monitoring to inform long-term SWP operations.	Determine and help avoid and minimize the effects of the Proposed Project, including minimizing anticipated incidental take and informing specific real-time actions.
Drought	Starting each October, Reclamation and DWR, through the Drought Relief Year (DRY) Team, will meet at least monthly to determine whether it would be appropriate to pursue actions to respond to current or anticipated drought and dry year conditions using the Drought Toolkit.	Maintain operational and permit requirements during drought years.
Additional Actions Retained from 2020 ITP	Continue actions that originated before or as part of the 2020 ITP for the Long-Term Operations of the SWP Facilities in the Delta including (a) the Georgiana Slough Migratory Barrier, (b) Sutter and Steamboat Slough Guidance Structures, (c) Salmon Rearing Habitat in the Bay-Delta, and (d) Yolo Bypass Salmonid Habitat Restoration and Fish Passage Project.	Maintain species protections required under the 2020 ITP.
Adaptive Management Program	The Adaptive Management Program will be carried out to evaluate the efficacy of the operations and activities proposed to be implemented by DWR (all other actions described in the Project description).	The goal of the Adaptive Management Program is to ensure that actions implemented by DWR meet their intended objectives.
Delta Smelt Supplementation	Supplement the wild Delta Smelt population with cultured fish. Supplement up to 500,000 adult equivalents by 2030.	Supplement the wild Delta Smelt population to increase species abundance in the wild.
Longfin Smelt Culture Program	Continue to fund the Longfin Smelt Culture Program to maintain a robust, genetically managed captive population of Longfin Smelt.	The Longfin Smelt culture program has two primary goals: 1) to buffer against extinction and 2) to provide a source of fish for research, as guided by the Longfin Smelt Science Plan.
Special Studies	Implement various special studies to address the areas of scientific uncertainty associated with water management actions.	Inform the effectiveness of measures to minimize or mitigate impacts on CESA-listed species.
Governance	Implement a governance framework that facilitates decision making for SWP operations.	Improve communication and coordination among water management and regulatory agencies in the Delta.

cfs = cubic feet per second; Reclamation = U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

ES.4 Summary of Environmental Consequences

This EIR presents an analysis of potential environmental impacts that would result from the Proposed Project. This analysis focuses on the following five environmental resource categories:

- Surface Water Hydrology
- Surface Water Quality
- Aquatic Biological Resources
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Environmental Justice

The Initial Study, provided in Appendix 3A, “Initial Study,” of this EIR, concluded that the Proposed Project would not result in significant impacts on hydrology or surface water resources. However, because the Proposed Project would alter existing hydrology, such changes could result in impacts on resources dependent upon hydrologic conditions. These resources include water quality and aquatic biological resources.

To provide the reader with an understanding of the potential Project impacts on water quality and aquatic biological resources, this EIR presents a description of the existing hydrologic setting and compares it with the estimated hydrology associated with the Proposed Project.

This EIR also discusses the effects of climate change on SWP operations and the SWP’s resiliency under climate change. In addition, the EIR addresses the potential for the Proposed Project to result in growth-inducing impacts that may result in secondary environmental impacts. Furthermore, this EIR considers whether the Proposed Project would result in or contribute to significant, cumulative environmental impacts when combined with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects.

ES.5 Summary of Findings

Table ES-2 presents a summary of the environmental impact analysis findings for the Proposed Project presented in this EIR. A detailed discussion of these findings, corresponding to each environmental resource topic, is presented in Chapter 4, “Surface Water Hydrology,” Chapter 5, “Surface Water Quality,” Chapter 6, “Aquatic Biological Resources,” Chapter 7, “Tribal Cultural Resources,” and Chapter 8, “Environmental Justice.” Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines does not include climate change resiliency in the environmental factors potentially affected and, therefore, it is not included in Table ES-2. However, Chapter 9, “Climate Change Resiliency and Adaptation,” includes discussions of the long-term trends associated with climate change and effects of those trends on the SWP.

Table ES-2. Summary of Impacts of the Proposed Project

Resource Topic	Impact Category	Significance of Impact	Mitigation Measures	Significance of Impact After Mitigation
Surface Water Hydrology	Sacramento River Flow at Freeport	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Surface Water Hydrology	Delta Outflow	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Surface Water Hydrology	Old and Middle River Flow	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Surface Water Hydrology	SWP Banks Pumping Plant Exports	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Surface Water Quality	Electrical Conductivity	Less-Than-Significant Impact	None Required	N/A
Surface Water Quality	Chloride	Less-Than-Significant Impact	None Required	N/A
Surface Water Quality	Cyanobacteria Harmful Algal Blooms	Less-Than-Significant Impact	None Required	N/A
Aquatic Biological Resources	Delta Smelt	Less-Than-Significant Impact	None Required	N/A
Aquatic Biological Resources	Longfin Smelt	Less-Than-Significant Impact	None Required	N/A
Aquatic Biological Resources	Winter-run Chinook Salmon	Less-Than-Significant Impact	None Required	N/A
Aquatic Biological Resources	Spring-run Chinook Salmon	Less-Than-Significant Impact	None Required	N/A
Aquatic Biological Resources	White Sturgeon	Less-Than-Significant Impact	None Required	N/A
Aquatic Biological Resources	Other aquatic federally- listed species, recreationally or commercially important species, or other special-status species	Less-Than-Significant Impact	None Required	N/A
Tribal Cultural Resources	Delta Tribal Cultural Landscape Tribal Cultural Resource	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Tribal Cultural Resources	Individual Tribal Cultural Resources	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Environmental Justice	Environmental Justice Communities	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Aesthetics	Scenic Vista	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Aesthetics	Scenic Resources	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Aesthetics	Public Views of the Site	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Aesthetics	Light or Glare	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Agriculture and Forestry	Conversion of Farmland	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Agriculture and Forestry	Agriculture Zoning Conflicts	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Agriculture and Forestry	Forestland Zoning Conflicts	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Agriculture and Forestry	Forestland Loss or Conversion	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Agriculture and Forestry	Other Changes in the Existing Environment	No Impact	None Required	N/A

Resource Topic	Impact Category	Significance of Impact	Mitigation Measures	Significance of Impact After Mitigation
Air Quality	Conflict with Implementation of the Applicable Air Quality Plan	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Air Quality	Cumulative Increase in Criteria Pollutants	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Air Quality	Sensitive Receptor Exposure to Pollutants	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Air Quality	Other Adverse Admissions	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Terrestrial Biological Resources	Special Status Species	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Terrestrial Biological Resources	Riparian Habitat	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Terrestrial Biological Resources	Wetlands	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Terrestrial Biological Resources	Native Species' Migratory Movements	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Terrestrial Biological Resources	Conflicts with Local Biological Resource Policies	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Terrestrial Biological Resources	Conflict with Habitat Conservation Plan or Other Approved Plan	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Cultural resources	Historical Resource	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Cultural resources	Archaeological Resource	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Cultural resources	Human remains	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Energy	Energy Resource Consumption	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Energy	Renewable Energy or Energy Efficiency Plan	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Geology and Soils	Earthquakes/Landslides	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Geology and Soils	Soil Erosion	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Geology and Soils	Expansive Soil	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Geology and Soils	Wastewater Disposal	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Geology and Soils	Paleontological Resource/Geologic Feature	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Applicable Policy Conflict	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Hazards and Hazardous Materials	Transport of Hazardous Materials	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Hazards and Hazardous Materials	Hazardous Material Emissions	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Hazards and Hazardous Materials	Hazardous Emissions Near a School	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Hazards and Hazardous Materials	Proximity to a Hazardous Material Site	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Hazards and Hazardous Materials	Proximity to an Airport Land Use Plan	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Hazards and Hazardous Materials	Emergency Response Plan Interference	No Impact	None Required	N/A

Resource Topic	Impact Category	Significance of Impact	Mitigation Measures	Significance of Impact After Mitigation
Hazards and Hazardous Materials	Wildfires	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Land Use and Planning	Established Community Division	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Land Use and Planning	Interference with a Land Use Plan	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Mineral Resources	Loss of Mineral Resource	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Mineral Resources	Loss of Mineral Resource Recovery Site	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Noise	Ambient Noise	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Noise	Groundborne Vibration or Noise	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Noise	Noise Near a Public Airport	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Population and Housing	Unplanned Population Growth	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Population and Housing	Population Displacement	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Public Services	Altered Governmental Facilities	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Recreation	Regional Park Use	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Recreation	Recreational Facility Expansion	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Transportation/Traffic	Transportation Circulation System	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Transportation/Traffic	CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Transportation/Traffic	Traffic Hazards	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Transportation/Traffic	Emergency Access	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Utilities and Service Systems	Relocation or Expansion of Utilities and Service Systems	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Utilities and Service Systems	Sufficient Water Supplies	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Utilities and Service Systems	Wastewater Treatment Capacity	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Utilities and Service Systems	Solid Waste Generation	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Utilities and Service Systems	Federal, State, and Local Compliance	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Wildfire	Emergency Plan Interference	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Wildfire	Increase Wildfire Risks	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Wildfire	Infrastructure Expansion	No Impact	None Required	N/A
Wildfire	Public Safety Risks	No Impact	None Required	N/A

The findings summarized in Table ES-2 address aquatic biological resources based on the detailed evaluation of specific life stages for each species being assessed. These detailed life-stage evaluations, discussed in Chapter 6, “Aquatic Biological Resources,” make up the basis for the species-level impact findings shown in Table ES-2.

The EIR addresses the long-term trends associated with climate change and effects of those trends on the resource categories affected by hydrologic changes that are influenced by the SWP. As discussed in Chapter 9, “Climate Change Resiliency and Adaptation,” the influence of climate change on surface water hydrology, water quality, and aquatic biological resources is greater than the influence of the SWP operations under a modeled future climate scenario. Additionally, the Proposed Project allows DWR operators to adapt to future conditions and build resilience by enhancing flexibility and the ability to manage extreme events.

The EIR addresses the incremental contribution of the Proposed Project in combination with other related past, present, and future plans and projects. As discussed in Chapter 10, “Other CEQA Discussions,” Section 10.1, “Cumulative Impacts,” the EIR finds that while ecological conditions in the Delta have been degraded because of past actions and activities, the Proposed Project’s contribution to this cumulative impact is not cumulatively considerable, and the Proposed Project would not contribute to cumulatively significant impacts when viewed in combination with other reasonably foreseeable plans or projects.

The EIR addresses the potential growth-inducing impacts of the proposed long-term SWP operations. As discussed in Chapter 10, Section 10.2, “Growth-Inducing Impacts,” while the Proposed Project has the potential to increase average annual water supply yields, any potential additional water supply would be within the historic range of water supply deliveries. In addition, any increase in water would be allocated between the 24 SWP water agencies south of the Delta and would not significantly increase water deliveries within areas serviced by these agencies. Thus, the Proposed Project would not remove a water-related obstacle to growth and would not induce growth in the areas served by SWP water agencies beyond what is already planned by the various local jurisdictions.

Because no significant impacts associated with the Proposed Project were identified, no CEQA mitigation measures are required.

ES.6 Areas of Controversy

This section is included in this Summary as required by State CEQA Guidelines Section 15123(b)(2). Numerous comments were received in response to the Notice of Preparation that was issued at the onset of this Draft EIR preparation. Comments identified various issues, including technical questions, procedural inquiries, and some matters that were found to be outside the scope of this analysis. Comments received in response to the Notice of Preparation were considered in the preparation of this EIR.

Areas of controversy identified by the public and other agencies in response to the NOP include:

- Whether alternatives that incorporate actions to reduce demand for water from the Delta should be considered.
- Whether alternatives that incorporate actions to reduce impacts on fish species should be considered.
- Surface water hydrology and water quality impacts due to the operations of the Proposed Project should be considered.
- Climate change effects, floods, and drought should be considered in relation to the operations of the Proposed Project.
- Long-term effects and future water needs due to the operations of the Proposed Project should be considered.

ES.7 Issues to be Resolved

This section is included in this Summary as required by State CEQA Guidelines 15123(b)(3). No issues requiring resolution have been identified.