

Notice of Determination

Appendix D

To:

Office of Planning and Research

U.S. Mail: P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
Street Address: 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113
Sacramento, CA 95814

County Clerk

County of: _____
Address: _____

From:

Public Agency: Department of Water Resources
Address: P.O. 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001
Contact: Dean F. Messer, Chief
Email: ROConLTO@water.ca.gov

Lead Agency (if different from above):

Address: _____
Contact: _____
Phone: _____

SUBJECT: *Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.*

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2019049121

Project Title: Long-term Operation of the California State Water Project

Project Applicant: Department of Water Resources (DWR)

Project Location (include county): State Water Project (SWP) storage and export facilities located within the Delta and vicinity, including the SWP service areas (multiple counties). Figure 1 presents the locations of these facilities.

Project Description:

The underlying purpose of the Project is to obtain incidental take authorization from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act to allow DWR to continue the long-term operation of the SWP consistent with applicable laws, contractual obligations, and agreements. Consistent with this underlying purpose, DWR’s project objectives are to store, divert, and convey water in accordance with DWR’s existing water rights to deliver water pursuant to water contracts and agreements up to full contract quantities and to optimize water supply and improve operational flexibility while protecting fish and wildlife based on the best available scientific information.

The Project (referred to as “Refined Alternative 2b” in the Final Environmental Impact Report) consists of multiple elements that characterize future operations of SWP facilities including Banks Pumping Plant, Skinner Fish Protection Facility, Clifton Court Forebay, Barker Slough Pumping Plant, and Suisun Marsh facilities; modify ongoing programs being implemented as part of SWP operations; improve specific activities that would enhance protection of special-status fish species; and support ongoing studies and research on these special-status species to improve the basis of knowledge and management of these species.

The Project includes a dedicated "block" of water for summer or fall Delta outflow and spring maintenance flows, which through the adaptive management plan could be shifted for use in the summer-fall period of the current year or spring-fall of the subsequent year. In addition, the Project would: (1) result in the total amount of SWP water exported from the Delta to generally be expected to remain the same as under existing conditions; (2) provide CDFW with authority in the real-time decision making process and implement decisions from the Water Operations Management Team or CDFW; (3) include a behavioral modification barrier at Georgiana Slough to minimize emigrating juvenile Chinook Salmon entrance into the Central Delta; (4) include Spring-run Chinook Salmon loss thresholds to manage flows at Old and Middle rivers and minimize entrainment at the SWP export facilities; and (5) and include adaptive management actions.

This is to advise that the Department of Water Resources has approved the above described
(Lead Agency or Responsible Agency)
project on March 27, 2020 and has made the following determinations regarding the above
(date)

described project:

1. The project [will will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2. An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
 A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures [were were not] made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [was was not] adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations [was was not] adopted for this project.
6. Findings [were were not] made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at: the DWR website
<http://www.water.ca.gov> and from the DWR Lead CEQA contact person, identified above.

Signature (Public Agency): Karl A. Nemej Title: Director

Date: 3-27-20

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Authority cited: Sections 21083, Public Resources Code.
Reference Section 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.

MAR 30 2020
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

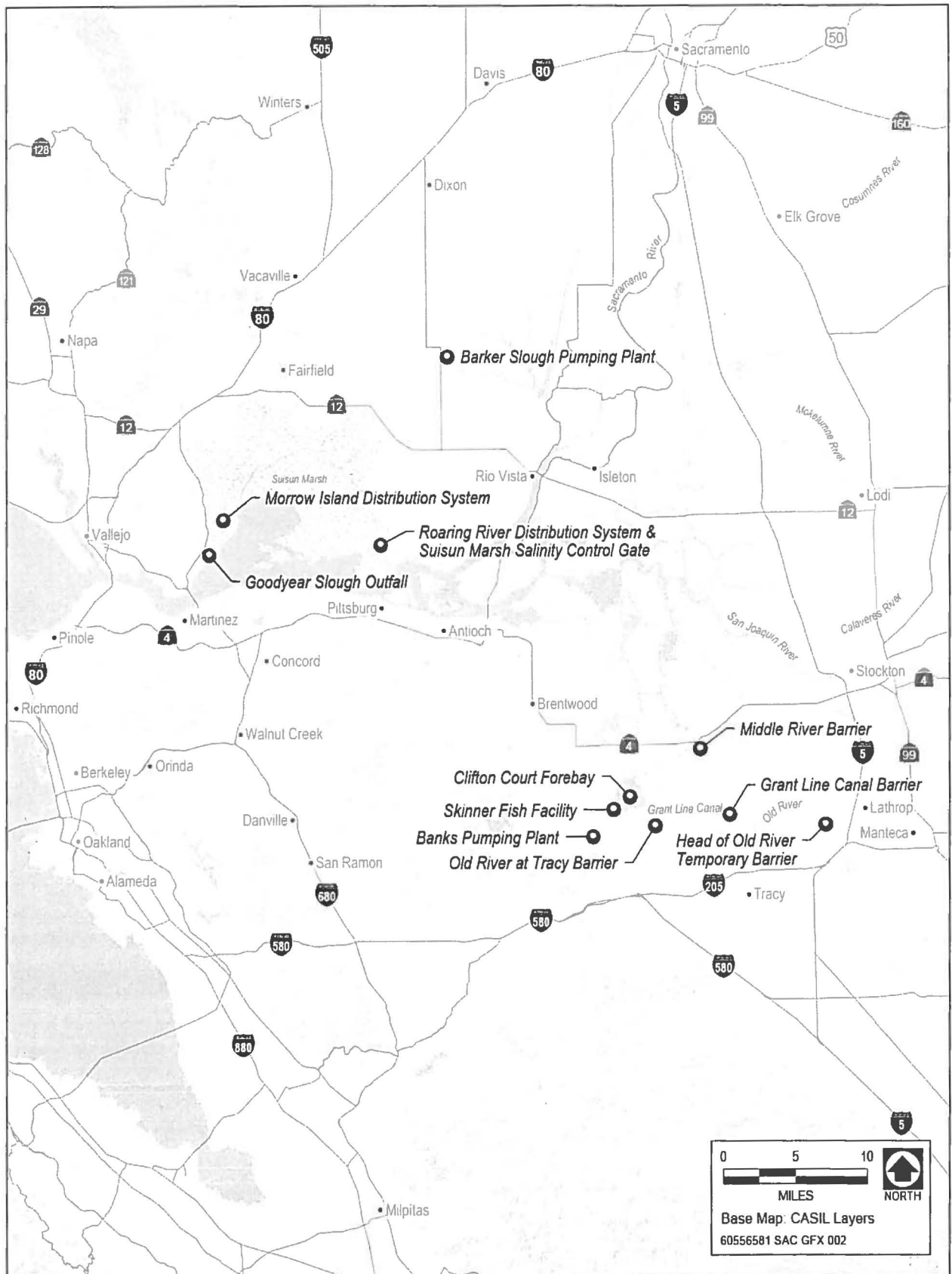


Figure 1. Locations of State Water Project Facilities in the Delta, Suisun Marsh, and Suisun Bay