Chapter 2 – Purpose and Need

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Chapter 2 Purpose and Need

2.1 Purpose and Need

The United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) operates the Central Valley Project (CVP), and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) operates the State Water Project (SWP) under the 1986 Coordinated Operation Agreement, as amended in 2018, between the federal government and the State of California, as authorized by Public Law 99-546. On September 30, 2021, Reclamation requested to reinitiate consultation on the Long-Term Operation of the CVP and SWP under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) due to anticipated modifications to the previous Proposed Action that may cause effects on ESA-listed species or designated critical habitat not analyzed in the current 2019 Biological Opinions. Modifications would address the review of the 2019 Biological Opinions required by Executive Order 13990 *Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis*, and voluntarily reconcile CVP operating criteria, as appropriate, with requirements for the SWP under the California Endangered Species Act.

The purpose of the action considered is to continue the operation of the CVP and the SWP, for authorized purposes, in a manner that:

- Meets requirements under federal Reclamation law; other federal laws and regulations; and State of California water rights, permits, and licenses pursuant to Section 8 of the Reclamation Act;
- Satisfies Reclamation contractual obligations and agreements; and
- Implements authorized CVP fish and wildlife project purposes and meets federal trust responsibilities to Tribes, including those in the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA).

Operation of the CVP and SWP is needed to meet multiple authorized purposes including flood control and navigation; water supply; fish and wildlife mitigation, protection, and restoration and enhancement; and power generation. Operation of the CVP and SWP also provides recreation and water quality benefits.

2.2 Study Area Location and Description

The study area includes areas that could be affected directly or indirectly by the action alternatives. The study area includes CVP service areas and CVP dams, power plants, diversions, canals, gates, and related federal facilities located on Clear Creek, the Trinity, Sacramento, American, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin rivers, and in the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta (Delta).

- A portion of the water from the Trinity River Basin is stored in Trinity Reservoir behind Trinity Dam, re-regulated in Lewiston Lake, and diverted through a system of tunnels and powerplants into Whiskeytown Reservoir on Clear Creek and then into the Sacramento River through Spring Creek upstream of Keswick Dam. Water is also released from Lewiston Dam to the Trinity River where it flows to the Klamath River.
- A portion of the water from the upper Sacramento River is stored in Shasta Reservoir and re-regulated in Keswick Reservoir. Water in Shasta Reservoir may be diverted at Shasta Dam or released into the Sacramento River. Water from the upper Sacramento River, imports from the Trinity River Basin, releases from other reservoirs owned or operated by local agencies, and other inflows that enter the Sacramento River, and may be diverted into the Tehama-Colusa and Corning Canals at the Red Bluff Pumping Plant.
- A portion of the water from the American River is stored in Folsom Reservoir and re-regulated in Lake Natoma. Water in Folsom Reservoir may be diverted at Folsom Dam, be diverted into the Folsom South Canal, or be released into the American River.
- A portion of the water from the Stanislaus River is stored in New Melones Reservoir. Water in New Melones Reservoir may be released into the Stanislaus River.
- A portion of the water from the upper San Joaquin River is stored in Millerton Reservoir behind Friant Dam. Water is diverted into the Madera and Friant-Kern Canals or released into the San Joaquin River.
- The Sacramento River and San Joaquin River carry water to the Delta. As water moves down the mainstem of the Sacramento River, gates at the Delta Cross Channel are operated for water quality and flood management.
- Water in the Delta may be pumped into the Contra Costa Canal at Rock Slough and delivered to Contra Costa Water District. The C.W. Bill Jones Pumping Plant is at the southern end of the Delta, lifting water into the Delta-Mendota Canal (DMC). CVP water is conveyed in the DMC for direct diversion or for delivery to the San Luis Reservoir. Water from the San Luis Reservoir is also conveyed through the San Luis Canal and Pacheco Tunnel. The DMC-California Aqueduct Intertie connects the CVP and SWP conveyance facilities after export from the Delta. Prior to the Jones Pumping Plant, the Tracy Fish Collection Facility salvages salmonids and other species.

The study area includes SWP service areas downstream of the Feather River and SWP facilities in the Delta, Cache Slough Complex, and Suisun Marsh. Operations of the Oroville Reservoir and Oroville Dam are not addressed as part study area.

- In the Cache Slough Complex the Barker Slough Pumping Plant lifts water into the North Bay Aqueduct.
- In Montezuma Slough, the Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates are tidally operated to maintain fresh water in Montezuma Slough and the Suisun Marsh.
- The Harvey O. Banks Pumping Plant at the southern end of the Delta, behind Clifton Court Forebay, lifts water into the California Aqueduct, which conveys water to the San Luis Reservoir for storage and to the South Bay Aqueduct for deliveries to the SWP

contractors. The DMC-California Aqueduct Intertie connects the CVP and SWP conveyance facilities after export from the Delta. Prior to the Banks Pumping Plant, the Skinner Delta Fish Protection Facility salvages salmonids and other species.

- When the systems have capacity, the SWP also pumps water through the Harvey O. Banks Pumping Plant and conveys it through the California Aqueduct to the Cross-Valley Canal for CVP water service contractors.

Figure 2-1, Study Area Map, shows these areas.

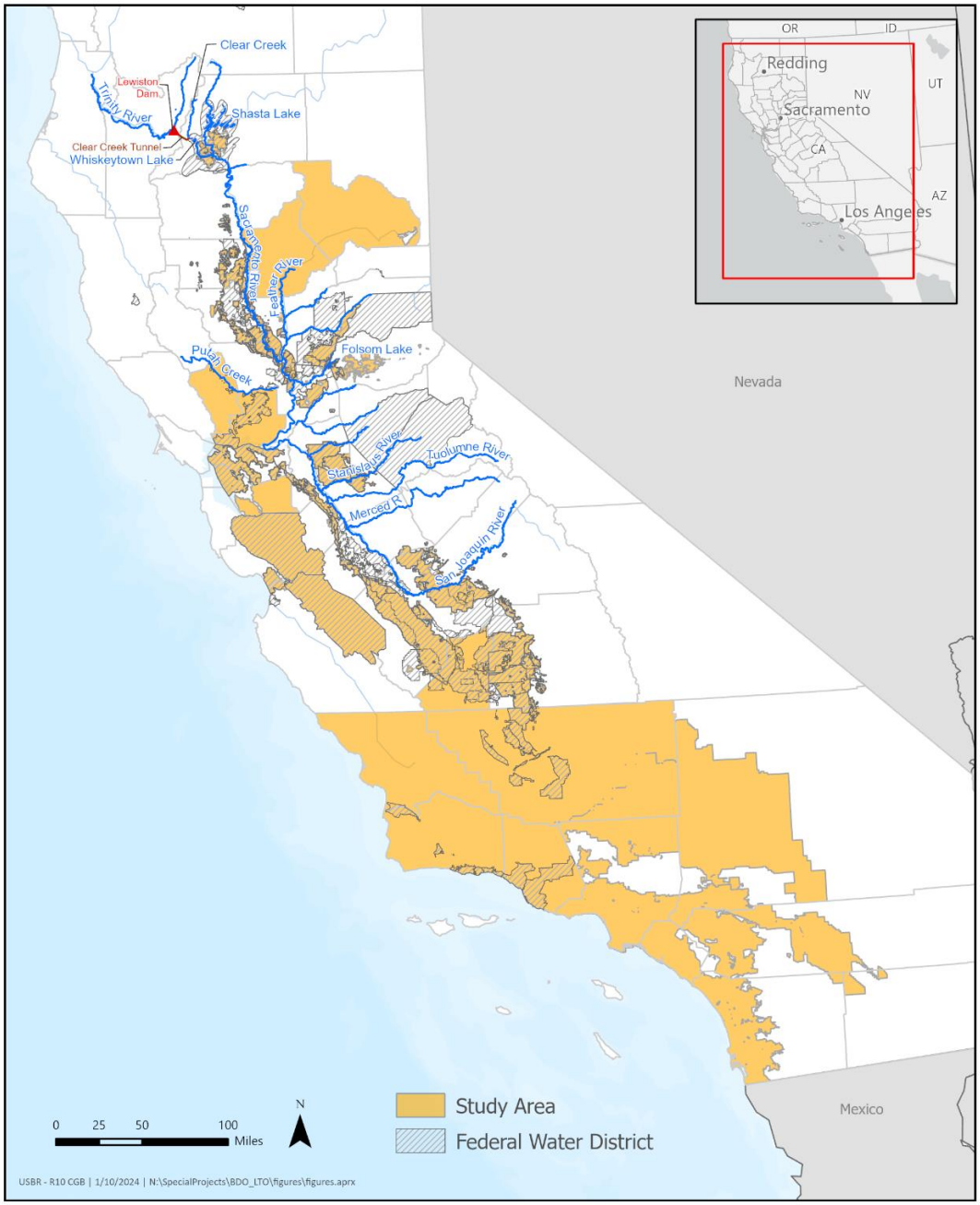

Figure 2-1. Study Area Map