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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Fish and Wildlife Service

Long-Term Environmental Water Account, San Francisco Bay/
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, CA

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation and Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement/
environmental impact report (EIS/EIR) and notice of public scoping
meetings.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and
the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Bureau of
Reclamation (Reclamation), the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and the
California Department of Water Resources (DWR) intend to prepare an
EIS/EIR for implementing the Long-Term Environmental Water Account
(EWA). Reclamation and the FWS are the joint lead Federal agencies and
NOAA Fisheries is a cooperating agency. DWR is the lead State agency
and the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) is the responsible agency and
trustee agency. A Draft EIS/EIR is expected to be available December
2005.

The EWA has been established to provide water for the protection
and recovery of fish beyond water available through existing regulatory
actions related to the Central Valley Project/State Water Project
(Project) operations. The EWA is a cooperative management program whose
purpose is to provide protection to the fish of the Bay-Delta estuary
through environmentally beneficial changes in project operations. This
approach to fish protection requires the acquisition of alternative
sources of Project water supply, called "assets," which will be used
to augment streamflows and Delta outflows, modify exports to provide
fishery benefits, and repay the Project contractors whose supplies have
been interrupted by actions taken to benefit fish. The period of
analysis for the purposes of the EIS/EIR is through 2030.