

Fish Passage Improvement Project

at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam

Release of Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report is Here!

August 30, 2002 marks the release of the Fish Passage Improvement Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for public review and comment. Completion of the Draft EIS/EIR is a significant step forward for the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority (TCCA) and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (USBR) effort to address upstream and downstream fish migration as well as agricultural water supply issues at Red Bluff Diversion Dam. Over two years of cooperation and effort by the project team, TCCA, USBR, the Stakeholder Working Group of community members, and the Technical Assistance Group of agency representatives have culminated in publishing this Draft EIS/EIR. The project alternatives have been narrowed to six proposed options ranging from the current 4-month gates-in conditions, 2-month gates-in operations, to gates-out year round, which would eliminate Lake Red Bluff.

What is a Draft EIS/EIR?

The Draft EIS/EIR is required by Federal and California law, under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), respectively. NEPA was developed for federal agencies to provide the public and partnering agencies with details of project scope, potential environmental impacts, and potential methods to mitigate the impacts of each alternative.

CEQA applies to state and local agencies and has similar requirements to NEPA; thus the preparation of a document that satisfies both. The Draft

EIS/EIR is a disclosure document that outlines the potential impacts of actions being considered by the co-lead agencies, TCCA and USBR. Comments on the Draft EIS/EIR are incorporated into a Final EIS/EIR on which the co-lead agencies make their final decision regarding a potential project. Comments are typically accepted as written letters or as verbal comments at a public meeting (details right). The purpose of public review is to allow concerned citizens to participate in project planning and government decision making.

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*Comment
Period Extends
to October 30th*
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Public Hearing/Open House!

When:

**Wednesday, September 25, 2002
4:00-8:00p.m.
(7:00p.m. start of verbal comment period)**

Where:

**Red Bluff Community/Senior Center
Gymnasium at 1500 South Jackson in
Red Bluff**

This is an excellent opportunity for discussion of this important project with the project proponents. Help shape the future of the Red Bluff Diversion Dam by actively providing your input on the Draft EIS/EIR.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, the formal public comment period is open until **October 30, 2002**. You may submit written comments directly to:

**Art Bullock/Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority
P.O. Box 1025
Willows, CA 95988
Fax: (530) 934-2355
E-mail: tcwaterman@aol.com**

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The Draft EIS/EIR is available for public review at local libraries and online through the project website at:

www.tccafishpassage.org

The complete document can also be found at these locations:

- Chico Branch Public Library
1108 Sherman Avenue, Chico, CA
- Shasta County Public Library
1855 Shasta Street, Redding, CA
- Tehama County Library
645 Madison Street, Red Bluff, CA

Fish Passage Improvement Project
at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam
c/o CH2M HILL
P.O. Box 492478
Redding, CA 96049-2478

SEPTEMBER 25TH PUBLIC HEARING - We want to hear from you!

On September 25, 2002, TCCA and USBR will host a Public Hearing/Open House to discuss the proposed alternatives aimed at improving fish passage and developing reliable agricultural water supply at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam, and the impacts of these alternatives. This is an opportunity to meet with agency representatives, learn more about the projects and provide comments on the Draft EIS/EIR. The open house format is designed to provide direct access to the project team involved with technical details of the project and the impact analysis developed for the Draft EIS/EIR. The meeting will include various stations regarding the alternatives, impacts, proposed mitigation, and the current project schedule.



Formal public comment will be accepted via both comment sheets, and an opportunity for community members to voice their views during the verbal

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***Public Hearing
& Open House
September 25th***
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comment portion of the meeting (public hearing) starting at 7:00 pm. You are invited to attend and participate anytime during the Public Hearing/Open House hours and provide written or verbal feedback on the Draft EIS/EIR. We need to hear from you on this important project.

The Next Steps in the EIS/EIR Process

While the completion and release of the Draft EIS/EIR is a significant milestone, considerable work lies ahead. Following the end of the public comment period on October 30, 2002, responses to all formally submitted comments will be incorporated into the Final EIS/EIR. Your comments combined with ongoing study and analysis through the NEPA/CEQA process will yield a preferred alternative. The release of the Final EIS/EIR is anticipated in Spring 2003.

**Questions on the project or the Public Hearing/Open House please contact:
Mike Urkov/CH2M HILL at (530) 229-3238 or e-mail Murkov@ch2m.com**