MONTEREY COUNTY WATER RESOURCES AGENCY

1947

Salinas River Operations HCP

November 2025 Update on the status of the Salinas River Operations Habitat Conservation Plan and future financial needs

Salinas River Operations HCP

Progress to Date

- Technical studies, species surveys, and habitat model development have been completed

- Reservoir reoperation modeling has been completed

- Draft reoperation protocols have been completed

- Currently working to finalize the Covered Activities

- Working on 2nd Administrative Draft HCP

  - To be completed in grant deliverable form by EOM

Salinas River Operations HCP

Stakeholder Outreach

- Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

  - Brought together individuals with related expertise

  - Development and evaluation of reservoir release protocols

  - Met 5 times (Dec 2023 – Apr 2025)

- Stakeholder Working Group

  - 16 members from a range of interests

  - Open to public participation

  - Met 3 times (June 2023 – present)

  - Most recent meeting Sept 9

  - Additional 2026 meetings if funding allows

Salinas River Operations HCP

Active Grant Funding

- Proposition 1 IRWM (State of CA funding)
  - Funding Agreement (Aug 2021 – June 2027)
- 2021 Section 6 HCP Grant (USFWS funding)
  - Funding Agreement (Apr 2022 – Nov 2025)
- 2025 Section 6 HCP Grant (USFWS funding)
  - Application submitted (pending)
  - Less certainty related to federal funding commitment
  - Review further delayed by government shutdown

Salinas River Operations HCP

Future Needs

- Short term (FY26)
  - Agency needs $100k in funding to continue work
    - Refinement of AMMs
    - Refinement of mitigation needs
    - Completion of monitoring plan
    - Development of implementation funding plan
    - Submit 2nd Admin Draft for review
      - *Federal Agency coordination required for all but funding plan*
  - Ongoing work to be funded from Agency Fund 111
    - May require a budget amendment in the spring

Salinas River Operations HCP

Future Needs

- Beyond FY26
  - Requested $1M through the 2025 Section 6 funding opportunity
    - High level of uncertainty
  - Grant award would fund:
    - Public and tribal outreach
    - Response to comments on 2nd Admin draft HCP
    - Administrative drafts of NEPA and CEQA documents
    - *NEPA process has a time limit*
      - *Secure funding is critical before starting the clock*

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