





Salinas River Operations HCP

MCWRA is currently working on the development of the Salinas River Operations Habitat Conservation Plan

- The completed HCP will include:
 - A revised flow prescription for operations of Nacimiento and San Antonio Dams
 - A sandbar management plan that addresses the needs of steelhead, tidewater goby, and western snowy plover at the Salinas River Lagoon
 - Operation and maintenance of select MCWRA facilities





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Grant Funding

- 2019 Non-Traditional Section 6 HCP Grant
 - Awarded in Apr 2020
 - Funding agreement (Feb 2022 - Mar 2024)
- Proposition 1 Integrated Regional Water Management Implementation Grant
 - Awarded in Jul 2020
 - Funding agreement (Aug 2021 – Mar 2027)
- 2021 Non-Traditional Section 6 HCP Grant
 - Awarded in Oct 2021
 - Funding agreement (Apr 2022 – Nov 2025)





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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





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Categories of Covered Activities

Water Supply and
Flood
Management
Facilities

Water Supply and
Flood
Management
Operations

Maintenance
Activities

Other Agency
Activities

Conservation
Strategy





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Water Supply and Flood Management Facilities

- The facilities used by the Agency to manage water supply and mitigate flood risk
 - Nacimiento Dam and associated facilities
 - San Antonio Dams and associated facilities
 - SRDF
 - CSIP distribution system
 - Flood conveyance pump stations
 - OSR slide gate
 - Potrero tide gates





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Water Supply and Flood Management Operations

- The way the Agency operates facilities to manage water supply and mitigate flood risk
 - Storage and release of water from Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs
 - Flood control
 - Conservation operations
 - Fish migration and habitat releases
 - SRDF impoundment and withdrawal
 - Distribution of water through CSIP system
 - Salinas Lagoon management
 - Slide gate operations
 - Sandbar management
 - Low flow and flood conveyance through the Reclamation Ditch and other waterways





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Maintenance Activities

- Inspection, maintenance, repair, and replacement of Agency Facilities
 - Water supply and flood management facilities
 - Dams
 - Spillways structures and gates
 - Plunge pool
 - Low and high level outlets
 - Hydroelectric plant
 - OSR slide gate
 - Potrero tide gates
 - San Lorenzo Creek floodwall
 - Maintenance of roads, culverts, and levees
 - Sediment and vegetation management
 - Trash and debris removal





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Other Agency Activities

- Single points, less programmatic activities that involve passive operation and less frequent maintenance
 - Gonzales Slough Pump Station
 - Bryant Canyon Channel
 - San Lorenzo Creek Floodwall
 - Moss Landing Tide Gates
 - Groundwater Monitoring Program
 - ALERT Flood Warning System
 - Grazing Leases





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Conservation Strategy

- Activities related to the conservation strategy that are likely to result in incidental take of a covered species
 - Conservation strategy is under development but could include:
 - Mitigation projects
 - Habitat restoration or improvement
 - Invasive plant removal
 - Fish passage barrier removal
 - Monitoring activities
 - Fish and wildlife surveys
 - Fish capture and tagging



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Next Steps

- Conservation strategy
 - Mitigation actions
 - Monitoring program
- Stakeholder engagement workshop (September 9th)
 - Reservoir reoperation protocols
 - Covered activities
- Administrative Draft HCP by EOY
- Funding Concerns
 - No Agency funds dedicated to HCP this FY
 - Consultant work pauses when current grant funding is exhausted
 - Grant application under review
 - Review and response to comments on admin draft
 - Environmental review
 - Uncertain award date
 - Need to develop long term implementation funding
 - HCP needs to be complete to develop an accurate cost estimate



