

REDUCING FISH CONFLICTS IN THE DELTA – THIS YEAR

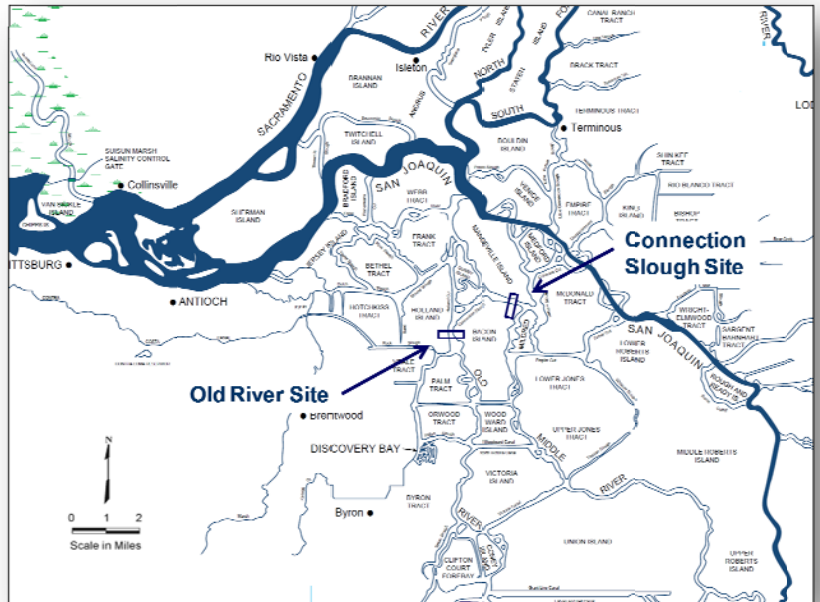
The 2-Gates Fish Protection Project

Background: New environmental regulations to address the endangered Delta smelt are dramatically reducing water supplies imported through the Delta for more than 3 million acres of farmland and two-thirds of California residents, including the Bay Area. Migration patterns of the two-inch smelt can pose conflicts with the movement of water supplies to the State Water Project and Central Valley Project in the southern Delta. Currently there are few near-term options other than reducing water supplies by restricting pumping levels.

The 2-Gates Project: Installing two temporary, removable gates at two key waterway locations in the southern Delta could significantly reduce conflicts between water supply movements and smelt migration patterns. Using real-time monitoring of smelt populations, the proposal calls for the gates to periodically close in the winter and spring during inbound tides when smelt populations are present. The goal is to reduce the take of Delta smelt at the water project facilities.

Other Potential Benefits:

- Improves water quality in the southern and central Delta.
- Does not require court action or impact summer boating/recreation



Locations of the 2-Gates Fish Protection Projects

Widespread Support: Democratic and Republican leadership in the California Legislature and state Congressional delegation have received briefings, as have South and Central Delta water interests, environmental groups and participants in the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. There is no known opposition to the project.

Funding:

- The estimated cost of the 2-Gates Project is \$29 million.
- To date, about \$5 million has been dedicated by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, Contra Costa Water District, and State Water Contractors.
- Future funding is potentially available from existing state sources (Proposition 84) and federal stimulus initiatives.

Status:

- Draft NEPA & CEQA documents available for public review in late July.
- CALFED Independent Science review in August.
- Document certification and permitting expected by October.
- Gate installation targeted for November.
- The Project could be completed and operating by early 2010.

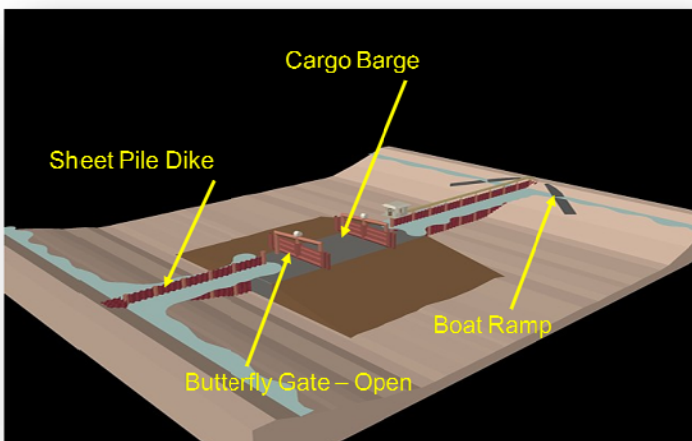


Diagram of Gates