





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





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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





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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





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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





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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*



