

South Yuba Canal Fish Screen YCWA-05

I. Project Sponsor Contact Information

Lead Agency/Organization	Yuba County Water Agency
Name of Primary Contact(s)	Curt Aikens
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II. General Project Information

Project Title	South Yuba Canal Fish Screen
Project Total Budget	\$10,830,000
Project Funding Match	\$2,710,208 Local Match
Project Funding Request	\$8,119,792
Can a detailed cost estimate be provided upon request?	Yes
Project Location:	Daguerre Point Dam/South Yuba Canal
Latitude	39.2087354
Longitude	-121.4439211
Could you provide a map of the project location including boundaries upon request?	Yes
County	Yuba
City/Community	N/A
Watershed/subwatershed	Yuba/lower Yuba River
Groundwater Basin	Yuba Groundwater Basin
Project Type	Facility Construction

III. Project Description

The project will result in construction of a fish screen at the South Yuba Canal on the lower Yuba River that is compliant with Federal Fish Screen Criteria requirements and will include design features to minimize erosion of the existing island feature that would protect the screen itself from erosion or peak flow-related damage.

The fish screen replacement project is currently active and in the feasibility assessment phase in preparation for initiating the CEQA and environmental documentation process.

Project objectives are to construct and operate a replacement fish screen that will most effectively meet fishery and water service needs, specifically: a fish screen that meets applicable state and federal fish screen criteria; reasonable certainty that a fish screen that meets criteria will be implemented in a reasonable time frame; a fish screen that provides reliable long-term water diversions; a fish screen design that minimizes capital and operation and maintenance costs; a fish screen that minimizes risks due to flood damage and that minimizes flood damage repair/replacement costs; a fish screen that complies with requirements under the BO, D1644, federal and state Endangered Species Act, and other applicable statutory, regulatory and permit requirements; a fish screen that provides the basis for a new, long-term incidental takes permit under the federal Endangered Species Act; and a fish screen improvement process that preserves, as applicable, rights and obligations under existing agreements, e.g., Agreement South Yuba Water District/Department of Fish and Game February 1984 dated March 9, 1984 between the Department and South Yuba Water District, and water service facilities agreements between the Agency and South Districts.

IV. Project Rationale/Issues Statement

The need for study of a replacement of the gabion fish screen on the South Yuba Canal has been under consideration for many years. The need was part of the testimony in the hearings by the State Water Resources Control Board which led to Water Right Decision 1644 (D-1644), July 16, 2003. That decision requires local consultation with the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to develop plans to reduce fish losses resulting from diversion of water into the South Yuba Canal. In 2002, NOAA Fisheries approved a Biological Opinion (BO) under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) requiring development of a long-term plan to screen the South Yuba Canal consistent with state and federal criteria. (The BO was addressed to the U.S. Corps of Engineers which owns the land on which the screen is located, but compliance rests with their licensee, formerly South Yuba Water District, but now Yuba County Water Agency (YCWA), which purchased the canal and diversion structure from South Yuba Water District.)

Consultation on fishery issues with designated agencies and 13 other interested parties led to the Lower Yuba River Accord (Accord), a collaborative settlement initiative. While the Accord does not specifically deal with the South Yuba Canal fish screen, its construction will help fulfill the objectives of the Accord.

This project addresses the regionally identified issues of **fisheries** and **regulatory compliance**, which were also identified as conflicts with in the Yuba County IRWM region. The project also addresses **sediment management** by addressing the significant erosion challenges associated with the island feature in the project area.

V. Goals/Objectives/Performance Metrics

Goals Addressed by the Project	<p>Goal 2: Protect, restore and enhance water quality for water users and in support of healthy watersheds</p> <p>Goal 3: Preserve and restore watershed health and promote environmental stewardship</p> <p>Goal 6: Address climate vulnerabilities and reduce greenhouse gas emissions</p>
Objectives Addressed by Project	<p>2.1 Protect and improve water quality by mitigating for sediment run-off;</p> <p>2.5 Maintain and improve water quality required to restore and protect freshwater ecosystems, fisheries and groundwater-dependent habitat;</p> <p>2.6 Support regulatory compliance with current and future state and federal water quality standards;</p> <p>3.6 Support environmental protections to prevent the extinction of economically and culturally significant species;</p> <p>3.7 Steward the region’s ecological resources that directly provide opportunities for public access, recreation and education while maintaining the co-equal objectives of flood protection and preservation of agricultural lands;</p> <p>6.6 Promote regional and inter-regional collaboration to implement climate change adaptive management strategies.</p>
What performance metrics will be used to demonstrate that objectives are being met? Wherever possible, provide a quantitative measurement reflecting successful project outcomes.	TBD

VI. Resource Management Strategies

Improve Operational Efficiency and Transfers	
Conveyance—Regional/Local	The project modifies an existing local and regional conveyance facility on the lower Yuba River while addressing fisheries concerns.
Improve Water Quality	
Pollution Prevention	The project will address sedimentation issues associated with the erosion of the island feature in the project area.
Practice Natural Resources Stewardship	
Ecosystem Restoration	The project replaces a gabion fish screen with a more effective screen that meets state and federal fish screen criteria to reduce entrainment losses of juvenile salmonids.

VII. Statewide Priorities

Climate Change Response Actions

- Adaptation to Climate Change: Establish migration corridors, re-establish river-floodplain, hydrologic continuity, re-introduce anadromous fish populations to upper watersheds, enhance and protect upper watershed forests and meadow systems

Expand Environmental Stewardship

- Expand environmental stewardship to protect and enhance the environment by improving watershed, floodplain, and instream functions and to sustain water and flood management ecosystems

Protect Surface and Groundwater Quality

- Protecting and restoring surface water and groundwater quality to safeguard public and environmental health and secure water supplies for beneficial uses

Climate Change Adaptation

The project supports the implementation of the fisheries agreement of the Lower Yuba River Accord. In doing so, the project promotes regional and inter-regional collaboration with a diverse group of interested parties and regulatory state and federal agencies to implement climate change adaptive management strategies supporting anadromous fisheries.

GHG Emissions Reduction

A comprehensive and exhaustive feasibility assessment has been underway for several years. An initial assessment was completed in 2009 and a subsequent feasibility assessment was finalized in 2013. Currently, YCWA has engaged consultants to do a comparative analysis of the two assessments. This exhaustive process has identified various project alternatives. Energy use and consumption comprise criteria associated with the analysis of the various alternatives.

VIII. Project Status and Schedule

Project Stage	Description of Activities in Each Project Stage	Planned/Actual Start Date	Planned/Actual Completion Date
Planning	Feasibility Assessments		2009 Preliminary Assessment Completed; 2013 Secondary Assessment Completed
Design	Design recommended in 2013 Feasibility Assessment		
Environmental Documentation (CEQA/NEPA)		2014	2015

Permitting	TBD		
Tribal Consultation (if not applicable, indicate by N/A)	N/A		
Construction/ Implementation	Pending funding		

IX. Project Technical Feasibility

a. List the water planning documents that specifically identify this project.	Lower Yuba River Accord
b. List the adopted planning documents the proposed project is consistent with (e.g., General Plans, UWMPs, GWMPs, Water Master Plans, Habitat Conservation Plans, etc.)	Lower Yuba River Accord
c. List technical reports and studies supporting the feasibility of this project.	Yuba River – South Canal Diversion Fish Screen Alternatives Feasibility-Level Design Report, December 2013 2009 Feasibility Study NOAA Fisheries (NMFS) Biological Opinions
If you are an Urban Water Supplier:	
1. Have you completed an Urban Water Management Plan and submitted to DWR?	Yuba County Water Agency (YCWA) does not supply water for direct urban use and is not subject to the Urban Water Management Plan Act (UWMPA).
2. Are you in compliance with AB1420?	See above
3. Do you comply with the water meter requirements (CWC Section 525)?	See above
If you are an Agricultural Water Supplier:	
1. Have you completed and submitted an AWMP?	Yes
If the project is related to groundwater:	
1. Has GWMP been completed and submitted for the subject basin?	Yes