

Yuba IRWMP – YWA-05

Project Short Form¹

Please fill out the following information to the best of your ability/knowledge. Once the project has been received and a preliminary review completed, the project team will work with you to develop additional information.

Project Sponsor Contact Information

Lead Agency/Organization	Yuba Water Agency
Name of Primary Contact(s)	Scott Matyac
Mailing Address	Yuba Water Agency 1220 F Street Marysville, CA 95901
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Phone (###) ###-####	(530) 741-5017
Project Partners/Collaborators	YWA member units

General Project Information

Project Title	South Yuba Canal Fish Screen
Project Total Budget, based on current knowledge	\$15,000,000
Project Funding Match, if any	none
Total Project Funding Request	\$15,000,000
Can a detailed cost estimate be provided upon request?	Yes
Project Location (map if available)	Daguerre Point Dam/South Yuba Canal
City/Community	N/A
Watershed/subwatershed	Yuba/Lower Yuba River
Groundwater Basin	Yuba Groundwater Basin
Project Type (highlight in gray all that apply)	Conceptual Feasibility Study Study/Assessment Planning Engineering/Design Permitting CEQA/NEPA Facility Construction Restoration Monitoring Best Management Practices Acquisition Demonstration/Pilot Project

¹ Completed Project Short Forms should be sent via email to Katie Burdick at admin@burdico.net

Project Description

Write a narrative briefly describing the project components and/or characteristics (maximum of 300 words).

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 that would protect the screen itself from erosion or peak flow-related damage. The fish screen replacement project is currently active and in the process for completing CEQA and the 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.

I. Project Rationale/Issues Statement

Briefly describe the need for the project and the desired outcomes/deliverables (maximum of 200 words).

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 Water Agency (YWA), 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 within the Yuba IRWM region.