



MERIDIAN FARMS

WATER COMPANY

March 2021



Intake Consolidation and Fish Screen Project Sutter County, California

The Meridian Farms Water Company (MFWC) provides irrigation water to about 10,000 acres in three distinct service areas in Sutter County, bounded by Sutter Bypass on the east and north, Tisdale Bypass on the south and the Sacramento River. The average annual water use is about 35,000 acre-feet, provided by groundwater, drain water reuse, and surface water diversions from the Sacramento River.

MFWC has three diversions along the Sacramento River – Meridian, Drexler, and Grimes. All diversions were previously unscreened and posed potential

entrapment risks for Federally-listed fish species.

Since 2001, MFWC has engaged local interest groups, resource and regulatory agencies, and funding agencies for the **Intake Consolidation and Fish Screen Project**. MFWC will consolidate the three diversions into two, and install state-of-the-art fish screens at each consolidated intake. Because of the significant fishery protection benefits, the project has qualified for funding from the State's Ecosystem Restoration Program and the Federal Anadromous Fish Restoration Program under the Central Valley Project Improvements Act.

Due to a shortfall in federal appropriations, MFWC has only completed Phase 1 of the project with fish screen installation and associated conveyance improvement at the smaller Grimes intake, and conveyance improvements for Drexler Pipeline in anticipation of the Phase 2 project. The Phase 2 project is necessary to realize the full benefits of this project.

PROJECT BENEFITS

- >> Provide Federally-listed endangered fish species with protection from potential entrapment risks
- >> Satisfy the criteria for protection and recovery of fisheries and fish habitats per the 1992 Central Valley Project Improvement Act
- >> Enhance systemwide operational flexibility, water use efficiency, and drainwater reuse



- Phase 1 – Completed New Grimes Diversion, Drexler Pipeline,
- Phase 2 – Meridian Diversion, Conveyance



Implementation Schedule

Project Activities	Federal Fiscal Year												
	2003	2004-2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015-2021	2022	2023	
Feasibility Study (Completed 3/2002)													
Design Development													
Final Design & Specifications													
PHASE 1 Implementation (Grimes Intake, Drexler Pipeline)													
Environmental Review and Permitting													
Construction													
PHASE 2 Implementation (Consolidated Meridian Intake, Conveyance)													
Environmental Review and Permitting													
Construction													



Completed in 2010 with State and Federal funding support, the new 35-cfs Grimes Intake has a retractable, positive barrier fishscreen that provides necessary fish protection and operational flexibility.



To realize the full project benefits for Federally-listed endangered fishery protection, the Phase 2 work is needed on a new Intake with a state-of-the-art fishscreen.

MFWC completed the environmental review and permitting process in 2014 for Phase 2 Implementation. This included the Biological Opinion from National Marine Fisheries Service, received in November 2014. Phase 2 includes a new 135-cfs Meridian Diversion with two retractable cylindrical screens, and rehabilitation of existing conveyance system to accommodate the increased flows to eliminate the Drexler diversion. The estimated cost for construction and mitigation is about \$23 million.

In January 2021, MFWC was award a grant from State for \$15.7 million to complete Phase 2.

In response, the US Bureau of Reclamation has submitted a request for funding of \$5 million for FY21 and \$2.6 million for FY22.

MFWC requests Federal financial assistance of \$2.6 million for FY22 to support the US Bureau of Reclamation's request for funding.

Federal Fiscal Year	Funding by Source (in Million)			
	Federal	State	Local	Total
2001-2011	3.20	3.25	0.07	6.52
2021-2023	7.60	15.70	0.05	23.35
Total	10.80	18.95	0.12	29.87



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