



## Shasta Dam & Reservoir Expansion Project: Frequently Asked Questions

### What are the goals of the Shasta Dam and Reservoir Expansion project?

California is in critical need of additional water storage. Over 40 percent of the nation's fruits, nuts and other table foods are grown in the Central Valley, much of that using water from the Central Valley Project (CVP), which includes its key facilities, Shasta Dam and Shasta Lake. Shasta Lake is also the largest reservoir in the CVP and comprises 41 percent of the CVP's total 9 million acre-feet of storage.

#### Goals for the 18.5-foot dam raise include:

- Increasing Shasta Dam's water storage capacity by 630,000 acre-feet for the environment and for water users,
- Improving water supply reliability for agricultural, municipal and industrial, and environmental uses,
- Reducing flood damage, and,
- Improving Sacramento River temperatures and water quality below the dam for anadromous fish survival.

In addition, the project would enlarge the cold-water pool and increase the seasonal carryover storage in Shasta Reservoir. The increased volume of cold water would increase the ability of Shasta Dam to make cold water releases to improve water temperatures in the upper Sacramento River for anadromous fish.

### Where is the project located?

Shasta Dam and Reservoir are located about 9 miles northwest of Redding on the Sacramento River in Shasta County in Northern California. Built during the seven-year period between 1938 and 1945, the dam is a 602-foot-high concrete gravity dam, which provides flood control, power and water supply benefits. The reservoir is also used extensively for recreation.

**Involved rivers and precipitation data.** Shasta Reservoir is fed by the Sacramento, Pit and McCloud rivers, with additional water coming from Squaw Creek. This drainage area receives an average of 62 inches of annual precipitation, which in pre-dam years was a major contributor to frequent floods in the valley below.

## **What communities and stakeholders will be impacted?**

An 18.5-foot raise would inundate an additional 2,500 acres. Approximately 200 parcels (under an 18.5-foot dam raise) of non-federal land would be acquired, mostly in the community of Lakehead.

## **What phase is this project in and what is currently occurring?**

This project is in the pre-construction and design phase, and activities include:

Completing environmental processes, culminating in a Record of Decision for the entire project

Finalizing an engineering design for the 18.5-foot dam raise

Concluding real estate planning for the impacts from the 20.5-foot pool raise

Coordinating with federal, state and local agencies

Conducting public involvement and stakeholder outreach

Developing cost-share partner(s) agreement(s)

## **How is this project being funded?**

Congress passed the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN) Public Law 114-322 in December 2016. The Act includes Section 4007, which addresses water storage, and Section 4008, which addresses recreational facilities. Those sections also discuss federally owned facilities, criteria for construction and cost-share opportunities.

Congress appropriated \$20 million for Shasta pre-construction activities in March 2018.

## **When will the dam raise be completed?**

Reclamation's schedule calls for completion of the Shasta Dam and Reservoir Enlargement Project by February 2024.

## **Will there be any adverse impacts to the environment, including air quality?**

The simple answer is that most projects have impacts. The project's environmental impacts, including air quality impacts, were identified in the final Environmental Impact Statement released in 2015. This report's air quality finding states that short-term emissions of criteria air pollutants and precursors will occur during project construction.

Learn more about air quality impacts by clicking on this link:

[https://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/includes/documentShow.php?Doc\\_ID=22671](https://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/includes/documentShow.php?Doc_ID=22671).

## **What federal agencies are involved and what are their roles?**

Reclamation is the lead agency for designing and overseeing the dam raise's construction. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is involved due to National Forest System lands and recreational residences that will be affected by the dam raise.

Cooperating agencies, in addition to Reclamation and the USFS that were involved in preparing and providing information for the project's impacts, include: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Colusa Indian Community Council of the Cachil Dehe Band of Wintun Indians and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

## **Who are the agency contacts for acquisition processes, contracting opportunities, or other questions?**

Reclamation – Public Affairs Officer, 916-978-5100

U.S. Forest Service – Lesley Yen, District Ranger, 530-275-1587

Reclamation lands and acquisition processes Scott Springer – 916-978-5266

## **How will the federal government compensate or mitigate impacts to local businesses during dam raise construction? Will the marinas be relocated?**

Since this project falls under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, the following considerations apply:

Any new or modified Reclamation water storage project construction that destroys or otherwise adversely affects any existing marina, recreational facility or other water-dependent business will be compensated by the appropriate Secretary of Interior (if Reclamation) or Agriculture (if USFS).

The owner of the affected marina, recreational facility or other water-dependent business, under mutually agreeable terms and conditions, will be afforded the right of first refusal to construct and operate a replacement marina, recreational facility or other water-dependent business, on United States land associated with the new or modified water storage project.

## **What are some examples of cost-share partners?**

According to the WIIN Act, the federal government can cover up to 50 percent of the cost of the project, and a non-federal cost share partner is required to come up with the rest of the funding. A non-federal cost share partner could be water agencies, groups of water users, state agencies or private entities.

## **What is the project's effect on the McCloud River?**

According to Reclamation studies, up to 3,500 feet of the lower McCloud River above the McCloud River Bridge and within a special state designation would be occasionally inundated if Shasta Dam were modified. This area would be inundated only during peak water levels, primarily in the spring

of wet years. Reclamation is aware that some entities have raised concerns about the implications of Section 5093.542 of the California Public Resources Code and are working with the state to address them.

## **What is the project's effect on tribal lands? How does Reclamation plan to address those effects?**

Reclamation will work with affected tribes and Native American organizations to better understand its' concerns and develop mitigation strategies as appropriate.

## **What is the easiest way to learn more about the Shasta Dam raise project?**

Visit the Bureau of Reclamation website to read about the project's history, timeline, maps and the acquisition process:

<https://www.usbr.gov/mp/ncao/shasta-enlargement.html> and  
<https://www.usbr.gov/mp/ncao/shasta-lake.html>.

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