



Media Release

Bureau of Reclamation's Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basin Study Predicts How Climate Change Will Impact the Sacramento and San Joaquin Delta

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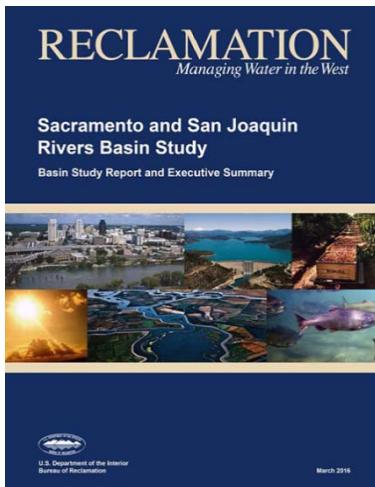
EL DORADO COUNTY – The El Dorado County Water Agency has been working collaboratively with the United States Bureau of Reclamation, the State of California Department of Water Resources, Stockton East Water District, California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley and Madera County Resource Management Agency on the [Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers Basin Study](#).

Under Bureau of Reclamation leadership, the [Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers Basin Study](#) found climate change will cause earlier runoff and refill reservoirs earlier in the year, potentially affecting reservoir operations and water storage.

This study examines climate change impacts and adaptation actions for the Sacramento River Basin, San Joaquin River Basin and the Tulare Lake Basin. These basins flow into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta which is the largest estuary on the west coast of the United States.

The study found that warming conditions will cause a median sea level rise of 36 inches, which will increase the difficulty of conveying water through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Temperatures will most likely increase by 1.6 degrees Fahrenheit in the early 21st century to almost 4.8 degrees Fahrenheit by late in the 21st century. Precipitation may increase in the areas north of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta with very little change projected in the Tulare Lake Basin where some of the greatest agricultural demands exist. Evapotranspiration is expected to increase with warming temperatures. Snowpack will decline with warming temperatures, particularly in the lower elevations of the mountains surrounding California's Central Valley.

Reclamation, along with its partners and stakeholders, has developed management actions to address these findings. The study reveals conservation, groundwater and surface water augmentation projects and operational improvements may improve the reliability and sustainability of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project systems to meet current and future water needs.



The report identifies potential next steps to resolve current and future imbalances. These next steps are grouped into the following categories: Institutional Flexibility, Municipal and Industrial and Agricultural Water Use Efficiency, River Temperature Management, Forest Health, Groundwater and System Conveyance.

The *Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers Basin Study* is a part of WaterSMART, the Department of the Interior's sustainable water initiative that uses the best available science to improve water conservation and help water resource managers identify strategies to narrow the gap between supply and demand. The report is available at www.usbr.gov/watersmart/bsp. For more information on the WaterSMART program, visit: www.usbr.gov/WaterSMART.

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About the El Dorado County Water Agency

The El Dorado County Water Agency leads the county on water-resource issues, representing the long-term interests of our community, purveyors and residents through a dedicated team of professionals, responsive and accountable to the public we serve. The El Dorado County Water Agency is authorized by Chapter 96 of the 1959 Water Agency Act. The establishment of the El Dorado County Water Agency allows the agency to develop a countywide water plan and to participate in statewide water planning. The agency is empowered to negotiate contracts with the Department of Water Resources, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and other local, state and federal agencies for water management and facility construction.

About the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is the largest wholesale water supplier and the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the United States, with operations and facilities in the 17 Western States. Its facilities also provide substantial flood control, recreation and fish and wildlife benefits. Visit USBR's website at www.usbr.gov