



MERIDIAN FARMS

W A T E R C O M P A N Y

March 2023



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 new low-flow criteria at Wilkins Slough (3,250 cfs)
- > Satisfy the criteria for protection and recovery of fisheries and fish habitats per the 1992 Central Valley Project Improvement Act
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- > 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	2015-2023	2024-2026	
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, Phase 2 will construct a new diversion (135 cfs) with state-of-the-art fish screens.

MFWC completed the environmental review and permitting process in 2014 for Phase 2 Implementation which includes a new 135-cfs Meridian Diversion with two retractable cylindrical screens capable of operating under the new low-flow criteria for Sacramento River, and rehabilitation of the existing conveyance system to provide additional capacity to eliminate the Drexler diversion. Construction contract documents have been updated and ready to bid the project in 2023. The current estimated cost for Phase 2 is approximately \$57.5 million.

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

In response, the US Bureau of Reclamation has committed \$9 million towards completion of Phase 2.

Due to the post-pandemic inflationary impacts on material costs and the current bid environment, MFWC request an additional \$19.3 million of federal funds in FY24 to construct the project.

Federal Fiscal Year	Funding by Source (in Million)			
	Federal	State	Local	Total
2001-2011	3.20	3.25	0.07	6.52
2021-2026	28.70	28.70	0.05	57.45
Total	31.90	31.95	0.12	63.97



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