STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Budget Change Proposal - Cover Sheet
DF-46 (REV 03/25)

Fiscal Year	Business Unit Number	Department
2026-27	3860	Water Resources

Hyperion Budget Request Name	Relevant Program or Subprogram
3860-143-BCP-2026-GB	Click or tap here to enter text.

Budget Request Title
San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement State Obligations – Eastside Bypass Control Structure Fish Passage Rock Ramp Project

Budget Request Summary
The Department of Water Resources requests $9.5 million Proposition 1 to implement the Eastside Bypass Control Structure Fish Passage Rock Ramp project to further the work towards the State obligated San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP). This funding will be combined with the requested $15.5 million Proposition 4 in the consolidated Proposition 4 rollout plan to support up to nine existing positions to develop plans and specifications, complete the permitting, and construct the project that includes modification of a control structure and construction of a rock ramp to improve fish passage for adult salmon and other native fish within the San Joaquin River (SJR).

Requires Legislation (submit required legislation with the BCP)	Code Section(s) to be Added/Amended/Repealed
☐ Trailer Bill Language ☐ Budget Bill Language ☒ N/A	Click or tap here to enter text.

Does this BCP contain information technology (IT) components? ☐ Yes ☐ No *If yes, departmental Chief Information Officer must sign.*	Department CIO	Date
	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap to enter a date.

For IT requests, specify the project number, the most recent project approval document (FSR, SPR, S1BA, S2AA, S3SD, S4PRA), the approval date, and the total project cost.

Project No. Click or tap here to enter text.
Approval Date: Click or tap to enter a date.
Project Approval Document: Click or tap here to enter text.
Total Project Cost: Click or tap here to enter text.

If proposal affects another department, does other department concur with proposal? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Attach comments of affected department, signed and dated by the department director or designee.

Prepared By	Date	Reviewed By	Date
Paul Gosselin	1/9/2026	Brian Fuller	1/9/2026
Department Director	**Date**	**Agency Secretary**	**Date**
Cindy Messer	1/9/2026	Amanda Martin for Sec.Crowfoot	1/9/2026

Department of Finance Use Only

Additional Review: ☐ Capital Outlay ☐ ITCU ☐ FSCU ☐ OSAE ☐ Dept. of Technology

Principal Program Budget Analyst	Date submitted to the Legislature
Andrew Hull	1/9/2026

A. Problem Statement

The construction of Friant Dam in the 1940s, and its subsequent operation, diverted the majority of SJR flow into the Friant-Kern and Madera canals, dewatering portions of the river and effectively blocking migration for anadromous and other fish. The SJRRP was established as a result of the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement reached in 2006 due to a lawsuit filed by the Natural Resources Defense Council against the Reclamation and the Friant Water Users Authority in 1988. The federal legislation known as the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act, was passed in 2009 authorizing federal agencies to implement the Settlement to restore and maintain fish populations in good condition in the main stem of the SJR. The Settlement includes an agreement among Settling Parties that participation of the State of California is required to successfully implement the Settlement. The Settling Parties concurrently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with four State agencies including, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), DWR, California Department of Fish and Game (now known as the Department of Fish and Wildlife), and California Environmental Protection Agency. The MOU states that the State agencies should play a major collaborative role in the planning, design, funding and implementation of the actions on the SJR called for by the Settlement.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) continues to champion and fund the federal portion of the SJRRP by investing hundreds of millions in federal appropriations and the Restoration fund for large scale, high priority infrastructure projects including screening major diversions and providing fish passage at key structures along the mainstem of the SJR to further the actions of the Settlement. Reclamation will be executing a contract in July 2025 for approximately $100 million to construct fish screens at the Arroyo Canal and fish passage modifications to Sack Dam. The implementation of the DWR project in this BCP is critical in the overall success of the SJRRP.

Resource History
(Dollars in thousands)

Program Budget	**PY – 4 19/20**	**PY-3 20/21**	**PY -2 21/22**	**PY-1 22/23**	**PY 23/24**	**CY 24/25**
Authorized Expenditures	$6,728	$12,461	$3,497	$4,617	$4,970	$2,730
Actual Expenditures	$3,730	$11,795	$3,294	$2,803	$1,858	$2,900
Revenues	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Authorized Positions	17.0	17.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Filled Positions	17.0	17.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Vacancies	0	0	0	0	0	0

B. Justification

The requested funds are needed to meet the state's commitment of $200 million and the continued obligation of helping to bring salmon back to the SJR. This requested funding combined with the previous funding provided to DWR and Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) from Propositions 13, 84, and 1 will provide support for the construction of a key project for the success of the implementation of the SJRRP.

A summary of the state's funds used to directly support the SJRRP from each funding source is shown below.

Funding Source	DWR Funds (in millions)	DFW Funds (in millions)
Proposition 13	$20.2	$3.7
Proposition 84	$60.0	$40.0
Proposition 1	$27.0	$18
General Funds	Not Applicable	$1.9
Total	$107.2	$63.6
Total Towards Obligation	$170.8	

One of the two goals of the SJRRP is to restore fish back to the SJR above the Merced River confluence to maintain a self-sustaining, naturally reproducing Chinook salmon fishery. The Eastside Bypass Control Structure Rock Ramp Fish Passage project will support the SJRRP in achieving a critical milestone of volitional Chinook salmon fish passage in the upper SJR system. Currently, the Eastside Bypass Control Structure is the first major barrier to fish passage for salmon, as well as other native fish migrating into the Restoration area. Because this structure is within the State Plan of Flood Control, DWR is best suited through its expertise and experience to design and lead this project to reduce flood impacts and meet state flood requirements.

The fish passage project eliminates the first major fish passage barrier in the SJR system that is also in the State Plan of Flood Control. The project includes installing a full-width rock ramp roughened channel below the flood control structure and modifications to the control structure to improve fish passage. Implementation of the project will open 23.6 miles of river for volitional fish passage. The total remaining project costs to construct the project are estimated at $25 million ($5 million to complete the design and drawings, and $20 million for construction). DWR has completed 95 percent of the design and obtained most of the environmental permits. The current project schedule is to complete final design and specifications in June 2026, award the contract in March 2027, begin construction in June 2027, and close out the project in March 2029.

This project is a high priority project within the Settlement and once implemented will result in 23.6 miles of volitional passage within the SJR. In addition, construction on the Arroyo Canal modifications at Sack Dam in the fall of 2025 provide fish passage at Sack Dam to allow for an additional 22.6 miles of volitional passage on the main stem of the SJR. It is imperative that construction of both projects be aligned and coordinated to ultimately reduce the overall impact to fish. Delays in construction of DWR's project would result in fish not having access to Reclamation's fish passage improvements further upstream.

C. Departmentwide and Statewide Considerations

This request will allow DWR to continue to carry out its mission to protect, restore, and enhance the natural environment including its Core Value of Environmental Stewardship. This request also supports the California Salmon Strategy: California Salmon Strategy for a Hotter Drier Future. It also supports the Governor's Water Resilience Portfolio (Action 10.4, 11.3, 14.1, & 30.2)

by implementing projects that will reconnect Chinook salmon to its natural spawning grounds and volitional fish passage on the SJR.

The state has a significant interest in restoring the 150-mile reach of the SJR as it will provide broad benefits to the environment, federal, state and local governments, and to millions of Californians. DWR has signed an MOU stating its intent to participate in implementing the Settlement to restore the SJR. The MOU states that the state agencies, including DWR, should play a major, collaborative role in the planning, design, funding and implementation of the actions on the SJR called for by the Settlement. As such, DWR has material and statutory interest in the SJR restoration planning and implementation on behalf of the people of the State.

Fish communities in the project area have changed markedly in the last 150 years. Native fish assemblages were historically adapted to widely fluctuating riverine conditions, ranging from large winter and spring floods to low summer flows, and had migratory access to extensive upstream habitats. These environmental conditions resulted in a broad diversity of fishes, including anadromous species. Special-status fishes that may have historically occurred, as well as those that may inhabit or are seasonally present in the project area during flood flows and SJRRP Restoration Flows, include: Central Valley Spring-run Chinook Salmon (Oncorhynchus tshawytscha), Central Valley Fall-run Chinook Salmon (O. tshawytscha), steelhead (O. mykiss), white sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus), pacific lamprey (Entosphenus tridentata), Sacramento hitch (Lavinia exilicauda exilicauda), Sacramento splittail (Pogonichthys macrolepidotus), Central California Roach (Lavinia symmetricus symmetricus), hardhead (Mylopharodon conocephalus), and riffle sculpin (Cottus gulosus).

Specifically, the implementation of this project would provide suitable hydraulic conditions (when fish are present) for passage of up-migrating adult salmonids, out-migrating juvenile salmonids, and some migration as well as passage opportunities for other native fish. Suitable hydraulic conditions include those conditions in which the species is physically capable of passing and do not cause undue stress on the animal.

The SJRRP has made considerable progress in returning spring-run Chinook salmon back to the SJR. In 2017, juvenile fish released by the SJRRP returned as adults to spawn and complete the Salmon life cycle. With the completion of the SCARF (fish hatchery) in 2025, and the increased juvenile releases seeding the burgeoning population of spring-run in the SJR, it has never been more important for the SJRRP to continue remedying fish passage barriers in the migration corridor to ensure continued progress toward achieving the SJRRP Restoration Goal.

This request directly supports the Governor's Water Resilience Portfolio (Execute Order N-10-19) by helping Chinook salmon respond to environmental stressors, including climate change, by improving its historical migratory pathway from its spawning grounds on the SJR. More specifically, the project considers the range of flows under both a drought and future potential flooding conditions projected by the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan. The design for the project incorporates a low flow channel to allow for fish passage during the lowest planned Restoration Flows. It includes rock and materials to be placed in a manner that would allow for future adaptive management, if needed, minimize potential future maintenance, and be resilient during higher flood flows.

The implementing agencies of the SJRRP use existing funding to conduct year-round monitoring of fish throughout their lifecycle in the main stem of the SJR. This monitoring is used to better understand the effectiveness of the restoration efforts and will be used to monitor the effectiveness of the proposed two projects once implemented. The data collected informs fish management questions concerning the survival, temporal and spatial distribution, habitat use, and life history of spring-run Chinook Salmon at different life stages within the SJR. Various monitoring techniques are implemented to evaluate the holding and spawning behavior of returning adult spring-run Chinook Salmon, as well as ancillary broodstock released from the hatchery. Furthermore, the progeny (offspring) of these fish are monitored using rotary screw

traps to evaluate juvenile production, survival, and emigration timing within the SJR. These data are invaluable in informing future reintroduction efforts and habitat improvement projects, which support the re-establishment of a spring-run Chinook Salmon population in the SJR.

DWR works closely with its federal, state, and local partners to provide community member feedback on the SJRRP including during the development of the project-specific designs. DWR solicited and incorporated feedback from the local flood maintaining agency for the fish passage project and worked with the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

All communities will benefit from the restoration of the SJR through recreation, clean water, flood protection and the increase in wildlife species. The project has been featured and will continue to be featured as part of the Water Education Foundation Tours. The project has also been presented at the biennial science and engineering meetings hosted by the SJRRP for interested community members to learn about ongoing research conducted on the SJR. As DWR continues to implement projects, Tribes and local community members will be actively engaged through public outreach on environmental documents, through the annual science meetings, and any additional targeted meetings.

D. Outcomes and Accountability

This request is for a new appropriation to implement the fish passage improvement for the SJRRP. This will allow DWR to continue the activities on the project and ensure that progress is made and investment to date of valuable resources will not be lost. This request will allow DWR to continue support of the Water Resilience Portfolio and DWR's mission to protect, enhance and restore the state's natural environments.

The project will rehabilitate existing infrastructure but since it is a restoration project, development is not part of the projects. The lands surrounding the project is a flood bypass, or agriculture; there will be no change to land use.

The request will protect and enhance wild populations of California's native Chinook salmon. Specifically, the funds will be used to construct a fish passage improvement to provide volitional passage. The project will allow DWR to focus its efforts to support state and federal fish recovery initiatives, the Settlement to restore the SJR, and the actions in the 2020 Water Resilience Portfolio.

The Eastside Bypass Control Structure Fish Passage Improvement Project is being constructed within the State Plan of Flood Control. Improving the structure will not only allow for the passage of Chinook salmon, but it will also benefit native fish species. This improvement for fish will not impact the original design of the facility to manage flood flows.

Projected Outcomes

Workload Measure	CY	BY	BY+1	BY+2	BY+3	BY+4
Implement Eastside Bypass Control Fish Passage Project		Complete Final Plans and Specifications Bid Project Contract Awarded	Construction Start	Construction Complete Close-out Contract		

E. Implementation Plan

The following details the plan for implementing the work of this request with activities performed under this request highlighted in italics.

Estimated Milestones for Workload Change

Project Milestone	**Eastside Bypass Control Structure Fish Passage**
Preliminary Design Complete	Complete
35% Design Complete	Complete
65% Design Complete	Complete
95% Design Complete	Complete
Environmental Permits Completed	*June 2026*
Final Plans and Specifications	*December 2026*
Bid Project	*January 2027*
Contract Awarded	*March 2027*
Construction Start	*June 2027*
Construction Complete	*December 2028*
Close-out Contract	*March 2029*

The preliminary estimate to implement the project is $25 million with 20 percent contingency. DWR will develop final engineer's estimate for the project as final design is completed. This proposal will also allow continued funding of existing full-time positions to implement the project to support the SJRRP. The funding is necessary in 2026-27 to allow DWR the funds to construct the project starting in 2027. The following detailed workload analysis shows how DWR will utilize its existing positions for these projects.

Classification	**FY 26/27**	**FY 27/28**	**FY 28/29**
Senior Engineer	0.5	1.0	1.0
Senior Environmental Scientist	0.5	1.0	1.0
Senior Engineering Geologist	0.5	0.5	0.5
Engineer	0.5	2.5	2.5
Environmental Scientist	0.5	3.0	3.0
Construction Management Supervisor	0.3	0.5	0.5
Assoc Specifications Writer	0.3	0.0	0.0
Total	**3.0**	**9.0**	**9.0**

The total project cost of $25 million includes $20 million in payments to the contractor for construction. During the design and permitting phases, DWR has utilized additional contractors to help support the hydraulic and structural stability elements of the design. The contractors are familiar with the projects and their critical elements, which will require their oversight to ensure the projects are successful. Therefore, continued support from DWR's contractors of up to $1.5 million may be needed to provide engineering review of contractor submittals and to support project management and inspection tasks.

Approximately $3.5 million will be used to fund up to nine existing DWR positions in the above classification to complete the project through construction. The existing positions will be utilized as follows:

- Senior Engineer will provide project management and oversight services throughout the duration of the projects. This includes overseeing the preparation of the plans and specifications, review of contractor documents during construction and project close-out tasks.
- Senior Environmental Scientist will provide environmental management and coordination of permitting and monitoring activities leading up to and during constructionSenior Engineering Geologist will provide expertise and oversight of activities related to the subsurface conditions at the siteEngineer will prepare final engineering plans and specifications, support review of contractor documents, provide inspection support services and complete project close-out documentationEnvironmental Scientist will provide environmental monitoring throughout the construction phase of the projects, as well as help support permitting documentation prior to, during and post constructionConstruction Management Supervisor will support the bid processes and oversee the contractor through constructionAssociate Specification Writer will finalize bid documents and provide contract support during construction

The projects have gone through and will continue to go through several levels of collaboration, coordination, and review during the planning and design of the project. DWR continues to work with the Lower San Joaquin Levee District (operator of the control structure), as well as the Central Valley Protection Board to ensure it meets the goals of flood protection and fish passage. Being a part of the SJRRP, both projects were reviewed by Reclamation, the SJRRP lead agency, and the SJRRP fish agencies to ensure the project supports the goals and objectives of the SJRRP.

F. Supplemental Information (If Applicable)

N/A

BCP Fiscal Detail Sheet

(Dollars in Thousands)

BCP Title: San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement State Obligations - Eastside Bypass Control Structure Fish Passage Rock Ramp

BR Name: 3860-143-BCP-2026-GB

Budget Request Summary

Operating Expenses and Equipment

Operating Expenses and Equipment	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
539X - Other	0	9,500	0	0	0	0
Total Operating Expenses and Equipment	**$0**	**$9,500**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**

Total Budget Request

Total Budget Request	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
Total Budget Request	**$0**	**$9,500**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**

Fund Summary

Fund Source

Fund Source	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
State Operations - 6083 - Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014	0	9,500	0	0	0	0
Total State Operations Expenditures	**$0**	**$9,500**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
Total All Funds	**$0**	**$9,500**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**

Program Summary

Program Funding

Program Funding	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
3230 - Continuing Formulation of the California Water Plan	0	9,500	0	0	0	0
Total All Programs	**$0**	**$9,500**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**