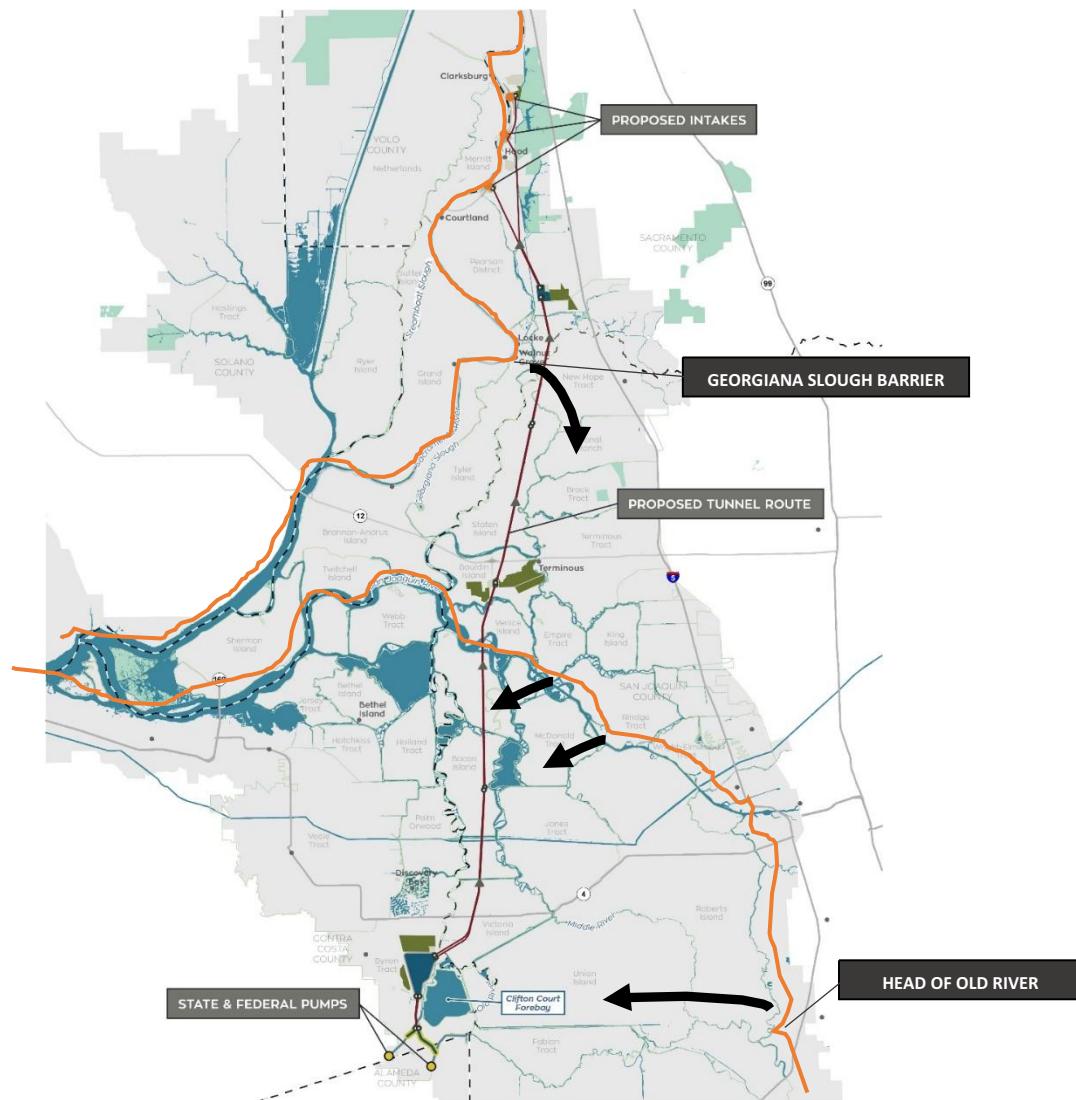


## The California WaterFix



Current CVP/SWP operations rely on through-Delta conveyance. Effects of operations on hydrodynamics can increase the likelihood of entrainment of juvenile salmonids into the interior Delta, where mortality has a much higher probability. The California WaterFix proposes new diversion and conveyance infrastructure and operations to reduce this effect while still providing a reliable water supply.

California WaterFix includes:

- Three new intakes on Sacramento River in northern Delta
- Two conveyance tunnels from new intakes to existing CVP/SWP facilities
- New forebay to retain water near existing CVP/SWP facilities
- Permanent distributary gate on San Joaquin River
- Operation of new and existing facilities



- Final biological opinion resulted from substantial cooperation among NOAA Fisheries, USFWS, Reclamation, DWR, and CDFW.
- Operations proposed for the new diversions in the North Delta are consistent with the needs of listed species. Project elements critical to meeting these needs are:
  - Phased testing
  - Capped survival reductions
  - Restoration commitment
  - Adaptive management program
- The final opinion is based on our best and most current scientific understanding about the Delta and the needs of species. The Delta Science Panel independently reviewed sections of the initial analyses and agreed that our analyses relied on the best available information and science.

## Key Concerns

**Uncertainty:** NMFS' opinion contains project mitigation measures and consultation re-initiation triggers that are designed to be comprehensive, conservative, and protective. It is the result of an extensive analysis of the best available science. The uniform advice of several science panels is to address the complexity of the Delta through the use of best available science to determine initial operations, and to establish and adhere to a robust adaptive management program to better understand and reduce uncertainties over time.

**Term:** NMFS' opinion includes a trigger to reinitiate consultation by 2030. Circumstances could present that dictate an earlier reinitiation of consultation

**Recovery:** In accordance with the ESA, NMFS reviewed the California WaterFix project to assess whether or not the project would jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or modify their critical habitat, relative to their baseline conditions. The WaterFix project is not the same as a recovery plan. NMFS has an up-to-date recovery plan, and recovery of these species is possible, if we all continue to address the priority stressors faced by salmon throughout their life cycle. Creating conditions for salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon to recover can only be done by providing them access to a range of habitats that allow them to be abundant, productive, diverse, and well distributed. The only way to offer the habitat that these fish need is to provide access to their historic spawning and rearing areas in the upper tributaries above the dams.