

Salinas Valley Water Project

The Monterey County Water Resources Agency has been utilizing a collaborative effort with Salinas Valley interests to develop the Salinas Valley Water Project (SVWP) to address the water resources management issues within the Salinas Valley. The SVWP provides for the long term management and protection of groundwater resources by in the basin by meeting the following objectives:

- Stopping seawater intrusion, and
- Providing adequate water supplies and flexibility to meet current and future (year 2030) needs.

In addition, the proposed project provides the surface water supply necessary to attain a hydrologically balanced groundwater basin in the Salinas Valley. Future project elements may, however, be necessary to achieve this objective.

Need for SVWP

Basin Overdraft and Seawater Intrusion

Historically, groundwater has been the source for almost all of the water needs in the Salinas valley. The high dependence on groundwater has resulted in overdraft conditions in the Basin. These overdraft conditions have allowed seawater to intrude into the northern Salinas Valley. The seawater intrusion has resulted in the degradation of groundwater supplies, requiring numerous urban and agricultural supply wells to be abandoned or destroyed. To halt further groundwater degradation and seawater intrusion, aquifer pumping and recharge rates need to be brought into balance.

Existing and Future Water Needs

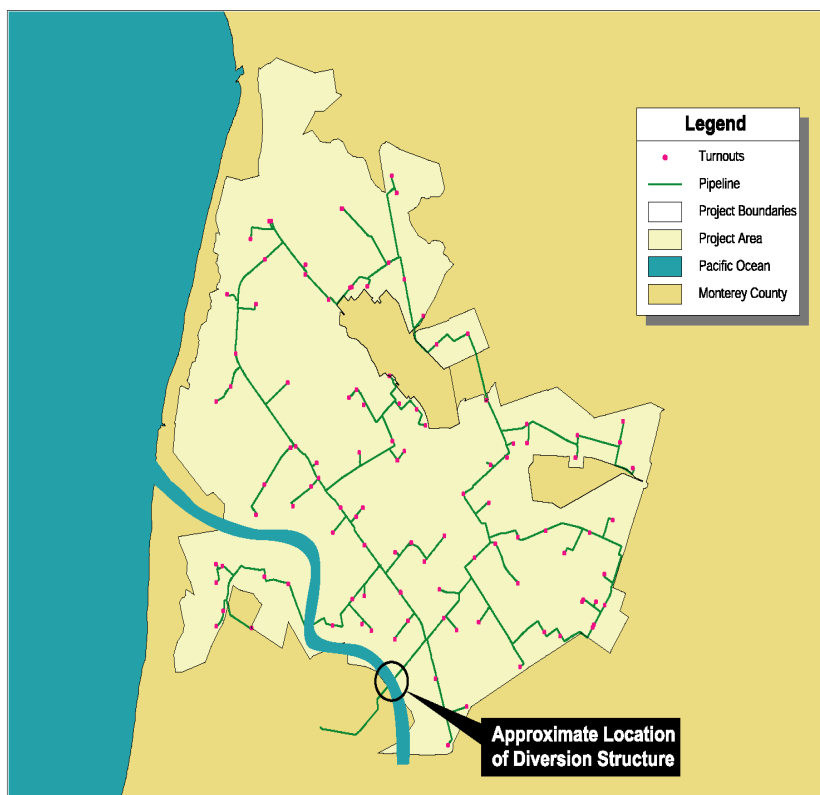
Existing and future water needs were considered and integral part of the SVWP development. Without the development of water supplies to augment existing groundwater supplies, existing and future water needs will result in further overdraft of groundwater resources and seawater intrusion.

Components of SVWP

Modification to the Nacimiento Dam spillway. The spillway at Nacimiento Dam would be modified to increase the flexibility of reservoir operations and allow the reservoir to maintain higher water levels in the winter and spring months. The additional storage gained at Nacimiento would be released along with flows stored at San Antonio Dam for Basin recharge and diversion later in the year.

Reoperation of Reservoirs. The proposed spillway modifications would change the ways Nacimiento and San Antonio reservoirs are operated in order to provide the source water for the SVWP, while assuring the provision of adequate flood control capacity. The modified operation would increase the amount of water available for recharge and diversion during the irrigation season.

Salinas River Recharge, Conveyance, Diversion and Distribution. The Salinas River would be utilized to convey water to the proposed diversion facility. The facility would include an inflatable dam designed to operate from April to November. A proposed Salinas River surface diversion facility would divert river water to the existing Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project (CSIP) system for delivery to the CSIP service area for agricultural irrigation. Diverted river water would supplement the use of CSIP project water and would replace existing groundwater pumping in the CSIP service area. The diversion facility would form a shallow impoundment of water upstream of the facility when the dam is operational. This impoundment could extend up to 2 miles upstream.

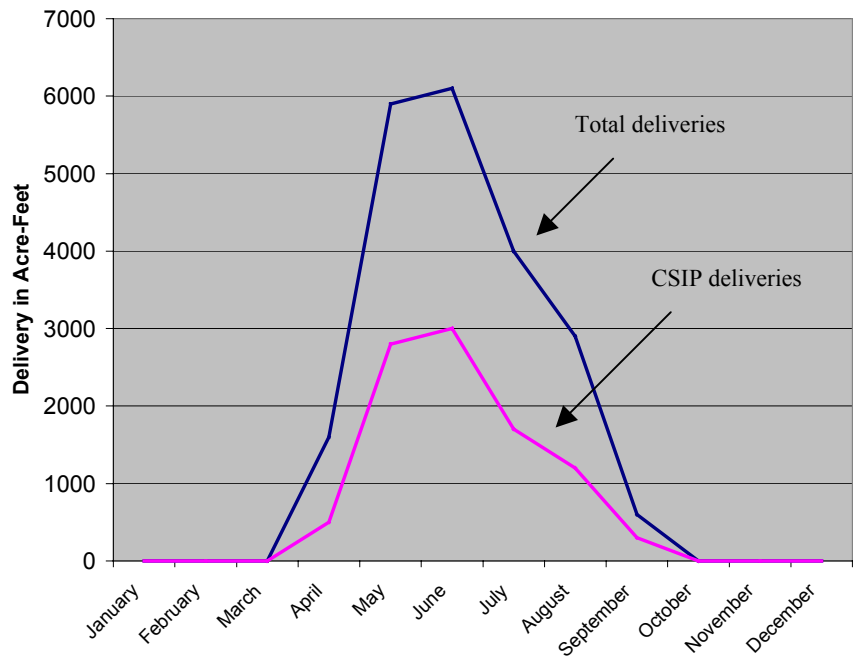


Diversion Facility

The proposed surface diversion facility would divert up to 25,000 acre feet of water from the Salinas River at Salachi Ranch Road into the exiting CSIP distribution pipeline for delivery to agricultural users for irrigation. The diverted water would serve as an alternate groundwater supply to offset groundwater pumping.

San Antonio and Nacimiento reservoirs would be reoperated to release water primarily during the late-spring and summer irrigation season. Increased spring and summer flows would be available for diversion to agricultural users via the surface diversion facility. Increased flows would also provide increased recharge through the riverbed to the groundwater aquifer.

Average Monthly Diversion from the Salinas River

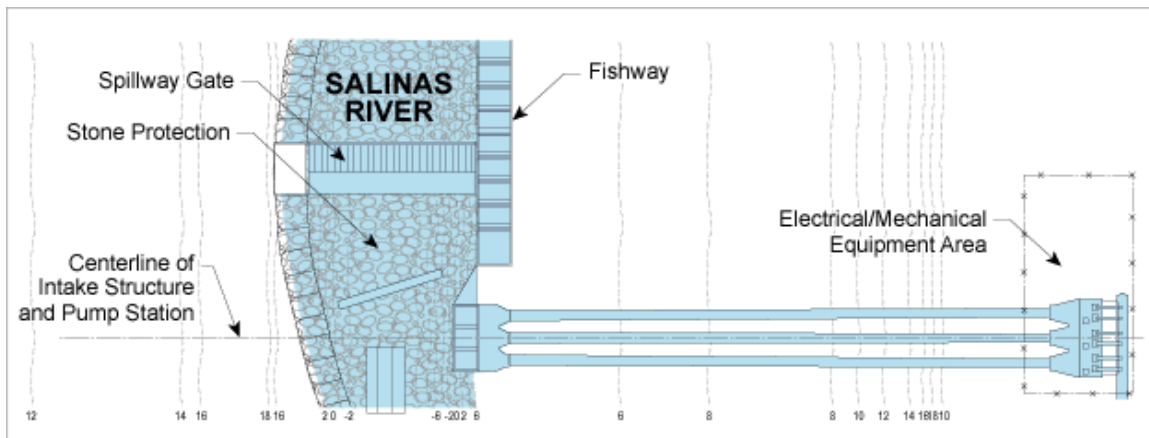


Features of the Diversion Facility:

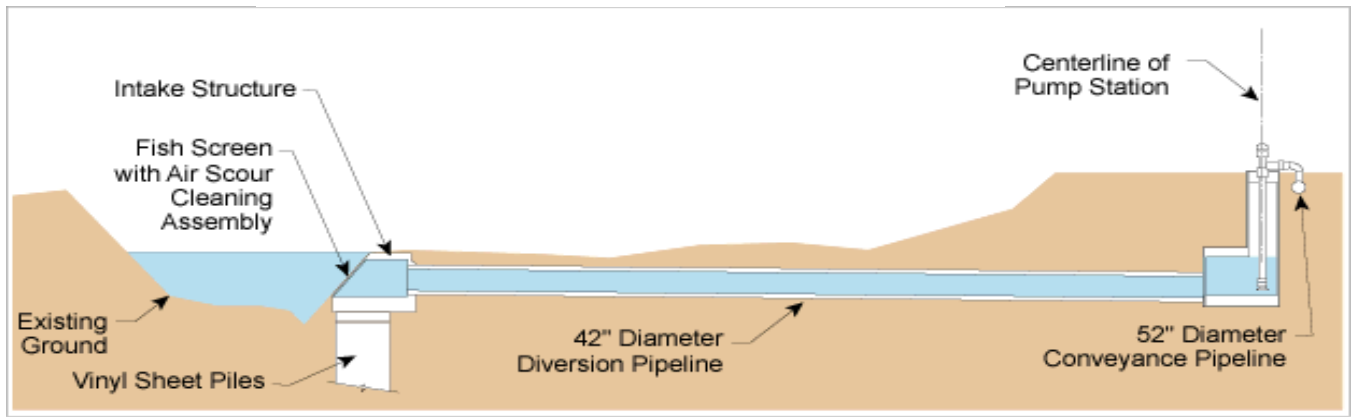
The proposed diversion facility is being designed to provide a reliable method of river diversion while preserving hydraulic capacity for flood flows and preserving fish passage. The following features are being included in the proposed diversion facility:

- Spillway gate operated with an inflatable bladder
- A screened diversion meeting National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) criteria for Steelhead fry to avoid entrainment
- A fishway to facilitate fish passage during migration periods that coincide with stream diversions
- A low-flow passage channel to facilitate passage over the deflated structure
- Pump station facilities to discharge into the existing CSIP distribution system

Proposed Diversion Structure – Plan View

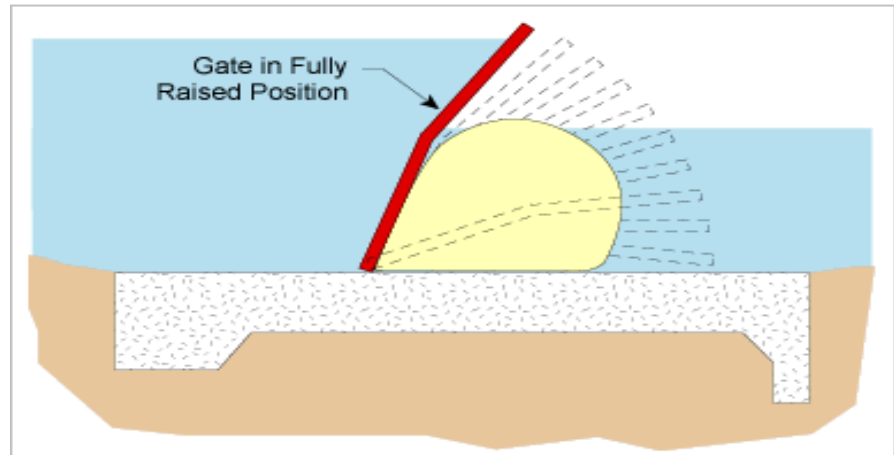
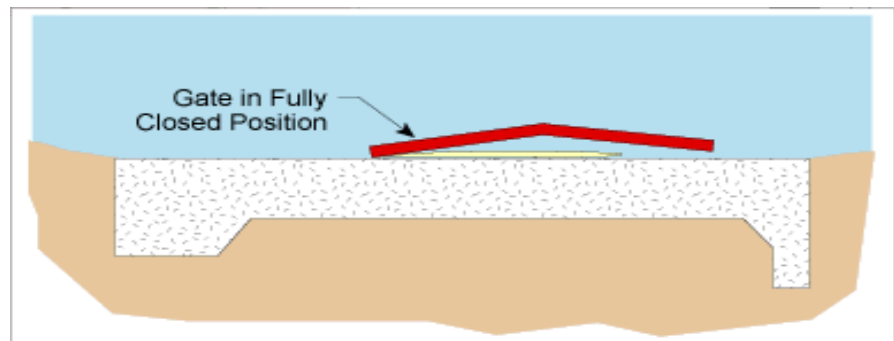


Proposed Diversion Structure – Profile View



Obermeyer Spillway Gate Operation:

The diversion structure would be an Obermeyer Spillway Gate, which is raised with an inflatable bladder (inflatable dam). The spillway gates will be raised only when water is diverted. The gates will be “down” when water is not being diverted to avoid obstacles relative to flood flow or fish passage. When deflated, the gates will be slightly below the streambed elevation, allowing a small silt covering to accumulate over the low flow gate and form a natural continuation of the streambed across the gate.



Distribution System

The diversion facility will be connected to the existing CSIP distribution system immediately adjacent to the Salinas River. This location will provide optimal opportunities for blending of water flows with diverted Salinas River water. It is not anticipated that any expansion of the existing distribution system will be undertaken at this time.

System Operations

The SVWP diversion facility will be operated to compliment existing recycled water flows. Recycled water plant flows will be blended with Salinas River water whenever river diversions are available. The existing supplemental wells that provide groundwater to the CSIP system will be maintained. These wells will be utilized to provide peak irrigation flow requirements as well as to provide an adequate irrigation water supply during dry year conditions when Salinas River diversions are not adequate to meet the irrigation demand of the CSIP service area.

SVWP Cost Estimate

The SVWP is estimated to cost approximately \$15 to \$20 million, which includes construction of the Nacimiento Dam spillway modifications and the Salinas River diversion facilities. More detailed estimates will be available following completion of the environmental review process.

SVWP Schedule

EIR/EIS	
Draft EIS/EIR	March 2001
Final EIS/EIR	October 2001
CWA404/ESA Section 7	
Draft biological opinion	April 2001
Final biological opinion	October 2001

SVWP FACTS

Project delivery area:

CSIP Service Area (12,000 acres)

Maximum diversion rate:

87 cfs

Average Salinas River diversion:

12,000 AFY

Fisheries bypass flows:

10 cfs (minimum)

Maximum Salinas River diversion:

25,000 AFY

Operational objective

Stop seawater intrusion and provide
1,000 AFY net groundwater outflow to Monterey
Bay

Typical delivery period:

April/May through September

Daily delivery period:

Up to 24 hours, or as required to meet irrigation
system needs