

Bureau of Reclamation Central Valley Project: INFRASTRUCTURE AND WATER DELIVERIES

Central Valley Project (CVP)

The CVP, owned and operated by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, covers approximately 20,000 square miles in California, from Redding in the north to Bakersfield in the south. In an average year, the CVP delivers approximately 5 million acre-feet (AF) of water to its contractors, including agricultural (Ag) contractors operating on some of the nation's most valuable farmland, municipal and industrial (M&I) users, and state and federal wildlife refuges, among others. Some of these deliveries go to contractors north of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers' Delta (NOD); other water is "exported" (via pumps and conveyance infrastructure) south of the Delta (SOD).

CVP Water Contractor Type

- NOD Settlement
- NOD Ag/M&I
- Wetland Habitat/Refuge
- SOD Exchange
- Friant Division
- SOD Ag/M&I
- In Delta
- American River M&I
- SOD Settlement
- Eastside

Selected CVP Contractor Allocations, 2003-2024

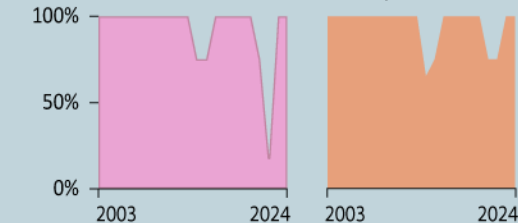
Annual allocations as a % of maximum contract allocations

Water Rights Contractors

Reclamation first makes CVP water available for delivery to contractors with water rights that predate construction of the CVP, including NOD (Sacramento River) Settlement Contractors and SOD (San Joaquin River) Exchange Contractors.

NOD Settlement Contractors
2,115,620 AF

SOD Exchange Contractors
875,623 AF

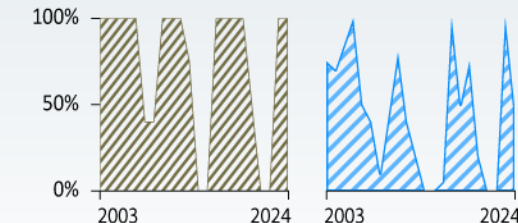


Other Agricultural (Ag) Water Contracts

Other contract types (e.g., water service, repayment contracts) account for most of the CVP's remaining supplies. These deliveries have a lower priority than water rights contractors and wildlife refuges. This category includes Westlands Water District, the country's largest irrigation district.

NOD Ag
468,990 AF

SOD Ag
1,951,217 AF

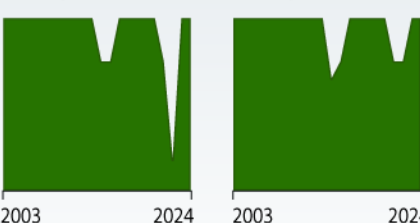


Central Valley Wildlife Refuges

California's Central Valley is home to 19 state and federal wildlife refuges that receive water from the CVP pursuant to a 1992 law (P.L. 102-575).

NOD National Wildlife Refuges
151,250 AF

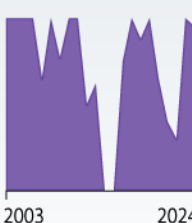
SOD National Wildlife Refuges
271,001 AF



Friant Division Contractors

Friant Division Contractors receive San Joaquin River water that is stored behind Friant Dam, in Millerton Lake. This water is delivered through the Friant-Kern and Madera Canals.

Friant Division
800,000 AF



- Federal Dam
 - State Dam
 - Local Government/Utility Dam
 - Pumps/Pumping Stations
 - CVP Conveyance
 - State Aqueduct
 - Local Aqueduct
 - River Names
- Only dams with storage over 500,000 acre-feet.

State Water Project (SWP)

A separate project operated by the State of California, the SWP, coordinates its operations with the federal government and delivers about 70% of its water to M&I users.

Author Information

Charles V. Stern
Specialist in Natural Resources Policy

Disclaimer

This document was prepared by the Congressional Research Service (CRS). CRS serves as nonpartisan shared staff to congressional committees and Members of Congress. It operates solely at the behest of and under the direction of Congress. Information in a CRS Report should not be relied upon for purposes other than public understanding of information that has been provided by CRS to Members of Congress in connection with CRS's institutional role. CRS Reports, as a work of the United States Government, are not subject to copyright protection in the United States. Any CRS Report may be reproduced and distributed in its entirety without permission from CRS. However, as a CRS Report may include copyrighted images or material from a third party, you may need to obtain the permission of the copyright holder if you wish to copy or otherwise use copyrighted material.