Working with Partners to Manage Recreation Sites

Dave Samson
California Department of Water Resources

FERC Recreation Workshop, Ontario, CA
February 17-19, 2015
DWR Administration for the SWP FERC Hydro Licenses

SWP Deputy Director
Carl A. Torgersen

- Hydropower License and Compliance Office
  Ted Craddock, Chief

- Division of Operations and Maintenance
  David Duval, Chief
  - State Water Project Operations Support Office
    David M. Samson, Chief (FERC Coordinator)
    - Environmental Assessment Branch
      Anthony Chu, Chief
    - Dam Safety Branch
      David Panec, Chief

- Southern Field Division
  John Bunce, Chief
  Bonnie Duecker, P2426 Coordinator

- Oroville Field Division
  Pat Whitlock, Chief
  Vacant, P2100 Coordinator
State Water Project Purposes

The State Water Project (SWP), more broadly described as the State Water Resources Development System in statutes, is a multi-purpose public infrastructure resource:

1. Flood Control
2. Fish & Wildlife Preservation
3. Water Supply
4. Recreation and Fish & Wildlife Enhancement (RFWE)

Each project purpose has different beneficiaries and therefore different entities that are responsible for implementation and funding. DWR coordinates all SWP purposes; ensuring subordinate purposes do not impair or defeat the other purposes.
Recreation (and Fish & Wildlife Enhancement) at SWP Facilities

Three Resources Agency Departments have defined responsibilities for collaborating and managing RFWE at SWP facilities:

- Department of Water Resources (DWR)
- Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR)
- Department of Fish & Wildlife (DFW), formerly Dept. of Fish & Game

The CA Water Code §11900-11925 (aka Davis-Dolwig Act) and pertinent subsequent agreements including Resources Agency Order #6, define responsibilities for managing RFWE at SWP facilities:
Recreation (and Fish & Wildlife Enhancement) at SWP Facilities

Department of Water Resources (DWR)

- Per the Davis-Dolwig Act DWR is responsible for incorporating recreation in the planning and construction of SWP facilities.
- In planning for the SWP, DWR acquired land for recreational development.
- Has the authority to review and approve the implementation and management of recreational development to insure the operation of the SWP for its authorized purposes is not compromised.
Recreation (and Fish & Wildlife Enhancement) at SWP Facilities

Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR)

- Design, construct, operate, and maintain public recreation infrastructure at SWP facilities
- Ensure local governmental agencies having jurisdiction over the area involved have the opportunity to review plans and designs prior to commencement of any construction
- Authority to establish and enforce standards for the development, operation, and maintenance of such public recreation areas
- Obtains State Recreation Area status
- Patrols and protects recreational lands and surface waters
Recreation (and Fish & Wildlife Enhancement) at SWP Facilities

Department of Fish & Wildlife (DFW), formerly Dept. of Fish & Game

- Manage fish & wildlife resources at SWP facilities in a manner compatible with other SWP purposes
Recreation (and Fish & Wildlife Enhancement) at SWP Facilities

Department Financial Responsibilities

- **DWR**
  - Budgeted for initial land acquisition and capital outlay projects as originally developed

- **DWR, DPR, DFW**
  - Budget for their respective responsibilities, including:
    - Management and operation costs
    - Capital costs of items beyond the original project scope and construction.
Pyramid Lake

SWP facilities at Pyramid Lake are located on federal land managed by the USFS, Angeles National Forest District.

- Memorandum of Understanding between DWR & USFS for the planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of SWP on Forrest Service lands

- Until 2010, USFS managed recreation at the Pyramid Lake Recreation Area

- Jan. 1, 2010, responsibility for managing the PLRA was transferred to DWR under provisions of a USFS Special Use Permit
  - Recreation is managed under a concessionaire contract
QUESTIONS