

Notice of Determination**Appendix D****To:**☒ Office of Planning and Research

U.S. Mail:

Street Address:

P.O. Box 3044

1400 Tenth St., Rm 113

Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 Sacramento, CA 95814

☐ County Clerk

County of: _____

Address: _____

From:

Public Agency: CA DWR

Address: 1516 9th Street, 2nd floor

Sacramento CA, 95814

Contact: Robert Trang

Phone: 916-902-9896

Lead Agency (if different from above): _____

Address: _____

Contact: _____

Phone: _____

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2022020528

Project Title: West False River Drought Salinity Barrier

Project Applicant: California Department of Water Resources

Project Location (include county): Contra Costa County (See Attachment 1 - Project Location)

Project Description:

See Attachment 1 - Project Description

This is to advise that the Department of Water Resources has approved the above
(☒ Lead Agency or ☐ Responsible Agency)described project on 11/28/2024 and has made the following determinations regarding the above
(date)
described project.

1. The project [☐ will ☒ will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2. ☒ An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
☐ A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures [☒ were ☐ were not] made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [☒ was ☐ was not] adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations [☐ was ☒ was not] adopted for this project.
6. Findings [☒ were ☐ were not] made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at:

<https://water.ca.gov/Water-Basics/Drought/Saltwater-Intrusion-and-Drought-Salinity-Barriers>

Signature (Public Agency): Belizad Soltanzadeh Title: Division of O&M, Manager

Date: 11/28/2024

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

West False River Drought Salinity Barrier

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NOTICE OF DETERMINATION – ATTACHMENT 1

**WEST FALSE RIVER DROUGHT SALINITY BARRIER PROJECT
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2022020528**

Project Location

The proposed project is an action that would occur during severe drought conditions and is intended to protect Central Delta waters from salinity intrusion by installing a physical rock barrier in the Central Delta in Contra Costa County, California, on West False River approximately 0.4 miles east of its confluence with the San Joaquin River, between Jersey Island and Bradford Island (see Figure 1 below).

West False River Drought Salinity Barrier

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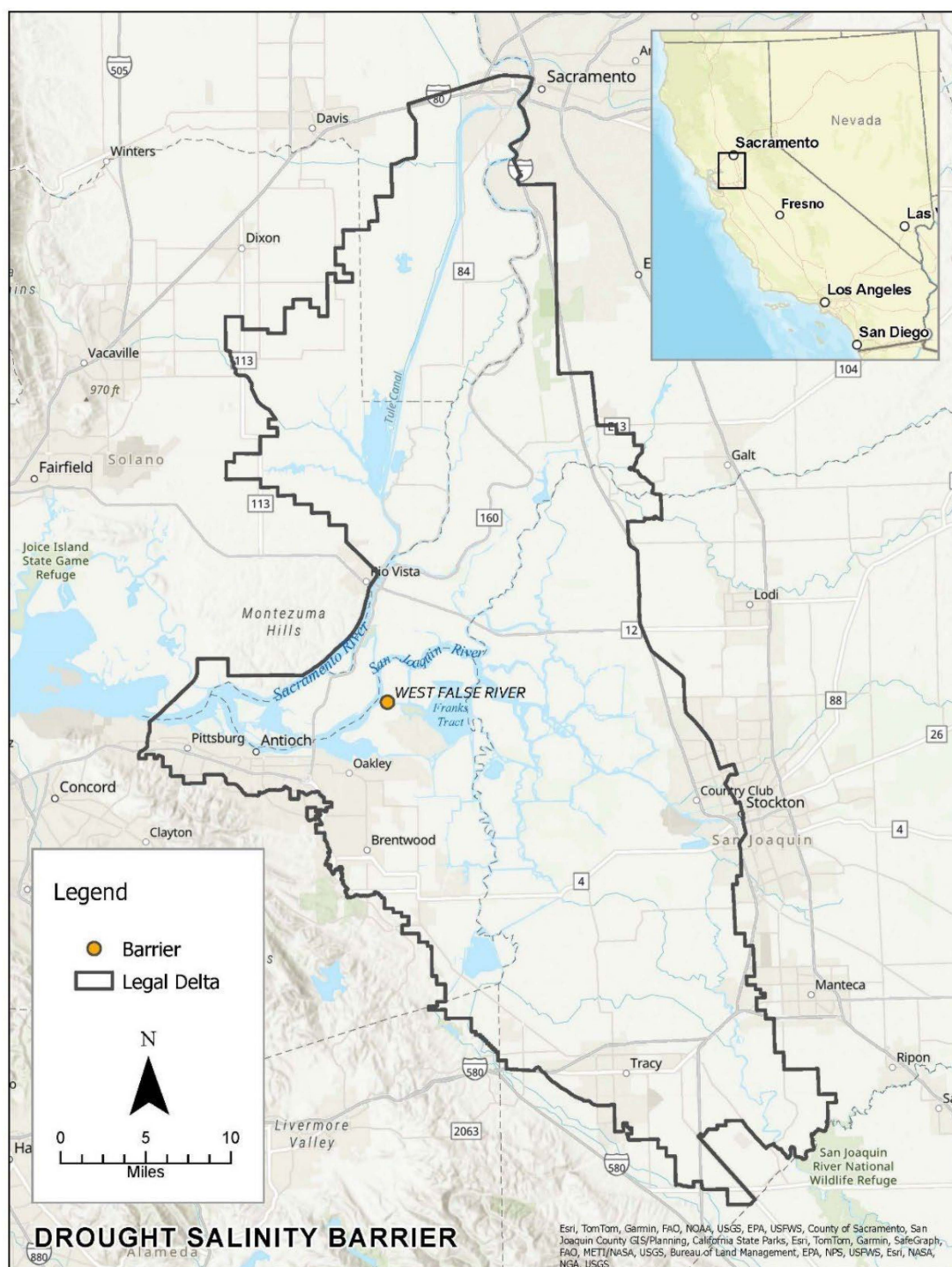


Figure 1 - West False River Drought Salinity Barrier Location

West False River Drought Salinity Barrier

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Project Description

The primary objectives of the West False River Drought Salinity Barrier are to:

- Install a drought salinity barrier to protect water quality in the Central Delta, based on need demonstrated by drought conditions and low upstream reservoir storage.
- Install a drought salinity barrier in the Central Delta up to two times over 10 years, with each installation remaining in place up to 20 months, should a drought occur during the period from 2026 to 2035.
- Minimize the impacts of salinity intrusion on the beneficial uses of Central Delta water during persistent drought conditions through the installation of a drought salinity barrier in the Central Delta.

During severe drought conditions, there are increased needs and challenges with preserving impounded water for health, safety, and regulatory uses, and protecting water quality in the central Delta. Based on data from previous installations, installing a drought salinity barrier in West False River has proven to be an effective tool for reducing saltwater intrusion into the Central Delta. Given the current scientific understanding of the cyclical nature of drought in California, DWR anticipates needing to install a drought salinity barrier in West False River two times over the next ten years (2026-2035) with each installation in place up to 20 months.

The West False River is a main channel to the west that connects to Franks Tract, the central hub of the Delta. By hydraulically blocking the West False River corridor, the barrier protects against the intrusion of saltwater from San Francisco Bay into Franks Tract. This prevents the fresh water from other channels (including the Mokelumne River and Old River flowing into Franks Tract from other directions) from mixing with the more saline water that otherwise would flow through West False River during flood tides. Without the barrier in place at this critical location, the saltier water carried through West False River would gradually contaminate the water in Franks Tract and the interior Delta with salts, a condition that cannot be reversed during drought conditions, and thus would affect the beneficial uses of Central Delta water.