

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE SUNSET WEIR AND PUMPS FISH PASSAGE PROJECT

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Notice is hereby given that a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (Draft SEIR) prepared by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Division of Multibenefit Initiatives is available for public review.

Title: Sunset Weir and Pumps Fish Passage Project (Proposed Project)

Project Location: The Proposed Project is located on and in the vicinity of the Feather River approximately 2 miles southeast of Live Oak in Sutter and Yuba counties, California. The western boundaries of the main project site are defined by portions of the west levee of the Feather River, the western bank of the Sutter Extension Water District's (SEWD) Main Canal, and the right (west) bank of the Feather River. The site's eastern boundaries are defined by the left (east) bank of the Feather River and an area extending up to 100 feet landward, depending on location. The northern and southern boundaries are defined by the Feather River and adjacent SEWD property and agricultural land.

Project Description: The Proposed Project consists of the following features:

- Removal of the Sunset Weir and restoration of natural, volitional passage conditions for protected migratory fish species.
- Replacement and upgrade of the Sunset Pump Station to operate at a lower surface water elevation and rehabilitation of existing pump discharge pipelines.
- Installation of new fish screens that meet current State and federal standards for protecting fish.
- Eroded Feather River left bank stabilization downstream of the weir incorporating bioengineering techniques.

Removal of the Sunset Weir would restore unimpeded passage so that migratory fish could access the 28.5 miles of the Feather River from the Sunset Weir (River Mile 38.5) upstream to the existing Feather River Fish Barrier Dam (River Mile 67). Weir removal would also allow for a more natural riverine morphology with variable and distinct habitat types (e.g., deep pools and shallow riffles), as compared to the current backwatered and more slough-like conditions that persist for miles upstream of the existing weir; in this way, weir removal would restore natural fish passage conditions for the Feather River channel.

Concurrent with weir removal and river restoration, the Sunset Pumps would be replaced and upgraded to be able to operate under the lowered riverine hydraulic conditions to meet existing water supply obligations. This would involve replacing the pumps and motor units and slip-lining or replacing associated discharge piping, constructing a new cast-in-place concrete structure (i.e., wet well) that would house the pumps and motor units, and installing contemporary fish screens that meet current criteria.

Bank stabilization work on the left bank of the Feather River would be implemented as part of the Proposed Project. The work would involve flattening the eroding bank to a 3 horizontal to 1 vertical slope and protecting most of it against further failure and erosion using vegetated rock slope protection and bioengineering methods. The toe and lower portion of the vegetated rock slope protection would be stabilized with rock slope protection up to the ordinary high-water mark, with longitudinal peak stone toe protection, and with willow pole baffles planted perpendicularly to the flow.

Review: The Draft SEIR will be circulated for a 45-day public notice period beginning Thursday, January 8, 2026, and ending Monday, February 23, 2026.

Written comments on the Draft SEIR are due no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, February 23, 2026. Please submit your written comments via mail or email to:

California Department of Water Resources
Attn: Kevin Marr, Environmental Scientist
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Email: Kevin.Marr@water.ca.gov

Please use “Comments on Sunset Weir and Pumps Fish Passage Draft SEIR” in the subject line. Also, if submitting comments on behalf of an agency, Tribal group, or organization, please include the name of a contact person and the name of the group from which the comments are coming. All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the official administrative record and will be available to the public.

The Draft SEIR is available for review online on DWR’s website via the following link:

<https://water.ca.gov/News/Public-Notices>

A copy of the Draft SEIR is also available for review during normal business hours at the following locations:

Sutter Extension Water District, 4525 Franklin Road, Yuba City, CA 95993

California Department of Water Resources, Division of Multibenefit Initiatives, 715 P Street, 6th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814

Draft SEIR Public Meeting: DWR will hold a public meeting on Thursday, February 5, 2026, at 5 p.m. at the Yuba City Council Chambers, 1201 Civic Center Boulevard, Yuba City, CA 95993, to receive comments on the adequacy of the analysis included in the Draft SEIR. The meeting can also be attended virtually; to join virtually, please register at the following link:

Registration link: <https://bit.ly/SunsetWeirCEQAMtg>

Webinar ID: 813 6444 5062

Dial in number: (888) 788 0099