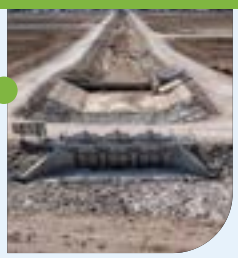
Freeman Diversion High Turbidity Capture and Conveyance Upgrades

Location:

Construction in Santa Paula Basin near Saticoy, an unincorporated area of Ventura County.

Project Description:

Increase utilization of stormwater flows for aquifer recharge by expanding capacity of United's diversion and recharge facilities, improve fish passage, and completing associated regulatory permitting. The project is anticipated to increase groundwater recharge and in- lieu surface-water deliveries by 6,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) to 10,000 AFY.



CURRENT STATUS

Construction of the conveyance upgrades started in 2021 with the replacement of the headworks of the grand canal. The inverted siphon replacement is under way and is scheduled for completion in Fall 2024. The 90% design for the Hardened Ramp Fish Passage was completed in Summer 2024.

BENEFITS/YIELD

- Recharge of low-Total Dissolved Solids surface water (associated with high river flows) by United has been demonstrated in the past to improve groundwater quality, reduce nitrate levels for small mutual water companies and disadvantaged communities in El Rio and Saticoy and help combat seawater intrusion.
- Diversion of natural stormflows requires minimal energy, resulting in very low greenhouse gas emissions and costs per acre-foot of yield; it also provides significant energy savings to customers who utilize diverted surface water in lieu of pumping from their wells.
- The Project is anticipated to increase groundwater recharge and in lieu surface water deliveries 6,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) to 10,000 AFY.

United Water
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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October 2024

United Water CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Estimated Cost:

The capital cost is estimated at $353 million.

Current Funding Sources:

United pumping charges, federal and state grants. Grants to date:

United States Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Projects Grant program

- $20,000,000 for construction of Freeman Diversion Fish Passage Rehabilitation Project

Department of Water Resources (DWR) - Proposition 1 Round 2 Integrated Regional Water Management Implementation

- $1,000,000 (50% match) design and construction of Phase I component Vineyard Avenue undercrossing

DWR - Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program

- $1,053,708 for design and construction of Phase I component inverted siphon replacement

Ask from United to Regulators, Legislators, Local Agencies, and Stakeholders:

Assistance with funding and permitting through the State Water Resources Control Board, County of Ventura, Army Corps of Engineers, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)/ National Marines Fisheries Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, CalTrans, and United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

For more information, please visit **unitedwater.org**

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