

2015 EMERGENCY DROUGHT BARRIERS PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Rock (rip-rap) barrier weir structures would be installed at three sites (Miner Slough, Steamboat Slough, and West False River) in 2015. The purpose of the barriers is to reduce the intrusion of saltwater into the Delta during drought conditions when stored water in upstream reservoirs available for release is insufficient to meet Delta outflow required to repel San Francisco Bay salinity, which could (1) render Delta water undrinkable and affect roughly 25 million Californians, (2) render Delta water unusable by agriculture, and (3) decrease freshwater habitat in the Delta for sensitive aquatic species.

All rock structures would be trapezoid-shaped barriers with a wide base tapering up to a 12-foot-wide top width set perpendicular to the channel alignment. Rock fill would be placed along the base of the levees for support at the Miner and Steamboat Slough sites. The West False River site levees are weaker than at the northerly sites because of peat soil foundations; therefore, the barrier would have transitions to the levees with 75-foot-long sheet pile walls supported by king piles and buttressed with rock.

The temporary rock barriers may be installed at each of the sites in spring or summer, beginning no sooner than May 7 at the West False River location, and May 22 at the Miner and Steamboat Slough sites. The construction period would be approximately 30 to 60 days. If installed, barrier removal would start on or near October 1, and the barriers would be completely removed no later than November 1 for Miner and

Steamboat sloughs and November 15 for West False River. Removal would require approximately 30 to 60 days for Miner and Steamboat sloughs and approximately 45 to 60 days for West False River.