

Questions from Rep. Jim Costa

Question 1: How is the Trinity River Division integrated into Central Valley Project operations and what factors does Reclamation consider when making decisions regarding operations of the Trinity River Division?

Response: Congress authorized the Trinity River Division in 1955 as an integrated component of the Central Valley Project (CVP) to increase water supplies for irrigation and other beneficial uses in the Central Valley, recognizing that water “surplus” to the present and future needs of the Trinity and Klamath Basins could be diverted to the Central Valley “without detrimental effect to the [Klamath-Trinity Basin’s] fishery resources” (H.R. Rep No. 84-602, at 4-5 (1955); S. Rep No. 84-1154, at 5 (1955)). Section 2 of the 1955 Act, however, included two provisos that limit its integration with the CVP: Proviso 1 directed the Secretary of the Interior to ensure the preservation and propagation of fish and wildlife through the adoption of appropriate measures, including certain minimum flows then deemed necessary in the Trinity River for the fishery; and Proviso 2 specified that “not less than 50,000 acre-feet shall be released annually from the Trinity Reservoir and made available to Humboldt County and downstream water users.” Accordingly, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) operates the Trinity River Division to ensure necessary flow releases into the Trinity-Klamath Basin, such as through implementation of the DOI’s Trinity River Mainstem Fishery Restoration Record of Decision (2000 ROD) and Long-Term Plan to Protect Adult Salmon in the Lower Klamath River Final Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision (2017 ROD) regarding late-summer flow augmentation releases from the TRD, as well as to export “surplus” water to the Sacramento River system. Trans-basin exports transfer water from the Trinity River to the Sacramento River system through Lewiston Reservoir, Carr Tunnel, Whiskeytown Reservoir, and Spring Creek Tunnel.

Reclamation considers Trinity storage volume, required ROD flows, temperature control in both the Trinity and Sacramento Rivers, water supply, and hydroelectric power generation when making decisions about Trinity and overall CVP operations.

Question 2: For each water year since 2010, how much water from the Trinity River Division has been imported into the Sacramento Watershed for delivery to CVP contractors? How much of that water has been delivered to Westlands Water District?

Response: Due to the CVP operations and delivery systems, it is not possible to determine how much Trinity River water is delivered to Westlands Water District, other CVP contractors, or to other delta demands such as delta outflow and salinity management. All CVP water is commingled and not tracked from its source unless it is a transfer where specific action has been taken to make a specific volume of water available for a specific purpose; however, the total Trinity Imports are shown in the below table.

Trinity Imports – Flow through Judge Carr Powerplant

Water Year	Total AF
2010	275,219
2011	473,893
2012	709,826
2013	816,894
2014	618,603
2015	450,474
2016	277,943

Questions for the Record
Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife
House Natural Resources Committee
Oversight Hearing: “Klamath River Basin Conditions and Opportunities”
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2017	628,436
2018	389,898
2019	426,872
2020	812,345
2021	605,110