



St. Mary Siphon Briefing

August 2024 Update

Project Briefing

NW Construction began removing the siphon the week of July 22 and has removed all of the west side pipe. The east side pipe removal started Aug. 5. Once existing siphon is removed, they will bring the excavation down to design grade.

Sletten Construction began driving piles on Aug. 6 for the temporary work bridge. The demolition of the existing bridge is anticipated to begin Aug. 19th.

The permitting for the in-river work is complete with the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact signed on July 31 and the Biological Opinion was submitted to Reclamation by the US Fish and Wildlife Service on August 2.

Operations

2024 Water Supply

- Fresno releases reduced to 100 cfs on July 31
- Carryover target of 17,000 Acre-Feet (AF) by Sept. 30
- Releases for municipal use will continue through the winter

2025 Water Supply

- Based on projected storage and median inflows irrigation would start in mid-May and peak at 800 cfs
- Irrigation releases would begin ramping down in mid-June to target 15,000 AF for municipal use
- Natural flow and Ft. Belknap Indian Irrigation Project storage right would be released until depleted.

Schedule

- Completed Tasks
 - Project Start: June 17, 2024
 - Qualified EXM Determination: July 3, 2024
 - Site Rehab Mod Contract: July 15, 2025
 - FONSI: July 31, 2024
 - Biological Opinion: August 2, 2024
- Upcoming Milestones
 - Bridge Removal: September 6, 2024
 - Excavation to Grade: September 13, 2024
 - Pipe Delivery: October 7, 2024
 - Bridge Complete: December 1, 2024
 - Inlet/Outlet Construction: June 2025
 - Project Completion: September 2025

Costs

Estimated cost of \$70 million to replace both St. Mary (\$51.6M) and Halls Coulee (\$18.4M) Siphons.

Current available funding: \$16,700,000

- Reclamation: \$7,500,000
- Joint Board: \$9,200,000

Task based project budget summary is available on request:

- Total Baseline Project Estimate = \$70,000,000
- Total Project Spent = \$5,300,000
- % Spent = 7.5%

Project Team

Project Stakeholders:

Bureau of Reclamation
Milk River Joint Board of Control
Blackfeet Tribe
State of Montana

Project Sponsors:

Ryan Newman (BOR)
Wade Jones (Joint Board)

Technical Team Lead:

Stan Schweissing (HDR)

Primary Contractors:

Sletten Construction
NW Construction

Project Managers:

Steven Darlington (BOR)
Jennifer Patrick (Joint Board)

Website: [Milk River Project](#)