



St. Mary Siphon Briefing

September 2024 Update

Project Team

Project Stakeholders:

Bureau of Reclamation
Milk River Joint Board of Control
Blackfoot 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](#)

Project Briefing

NW Construction has removed all of the original pipe from the site. Excavation for the new pipe continues and is scheduled to be complete at the end of September.

Sletten Construction installed the temporary work bridge and has removed the existing bridge. The demolition of center pier is scheduled to be completed by the end of Sept and drilling for the new pier will begin in early October.

The permitting for most of 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.

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
 - Bridge and Pipe Removal: August 29, 2024
 - Start of Pipe Production: September 3, 2024
- Upcoming Milestones
 - Excavation to Grade: September 30, 2024
 - Pipe Delivery: October 7, 2024
 - Bridge Complete: May 2025
 - Inlet/Outlet Construction: June 2025
 - Project Completion: September 2025

Operations

2024 Water Supply

- Fresno releases reduced to 100 cfs on July 31
- Carryover projection of 19,000 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.

Costs

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

Current available funding: \$23,300,000

- Reclamation: \$14,100,000
- Joint Board: \$9,200,000

Task based project budget summary is available on request:

- Total Baseline Project Estimate = \$70,000,000
- Total Project Spent = \$8,300,000
- % Spent = 12%