



St. Mary Siphon Briefing

October 2024 Update

Project Briefing

NW Construction has removed all of the original pipe from the site. The alignment for the new pipe is excavated and drains are being installed in preparation for pipe placement beginning the week of October 21.

Sletten Construction installed the temporary work bridge and has removed the existing bridge. Pile driving for the abutments continues the week of October 9 with drilling for the center pier beginning the week of October 14.

The draft river restoration design has been submitted to the Corps and Blackfeet Environmental Office for permitting. Once permitted, the restoration will begin after installation of the bridge piers.

Operations

2024 Water Supply

- Fresno releases reduced to 40 cfs on September 18
- Carryover projection of 21,000 Acre-Feet (AF) on 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
 - FONSI: July 31, 2024
 - Biological Opinion: August 2, 2024
 - Bridge and Pipe Removal: August 29, 2024
 - Start of Pipe Production: September 3, 2024
 - Pipe Excavation: October 4, 2024
- Upcoming Milestones
 - Pipe Delivery: October 16, 2024
 - River Restoration: November 11, 2024
 - Bridge Complete: May 2025
 - 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: \$24,300,000

- Reclamation: \$14,100,000
- Joint Board: \$10,300,000

Task based project budget summary is available on request:

- Total Baseline Project Estimate = \$70,000,000
- Total Project Spent = \$10,325,000
- % Spent = 14.7%

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](#)