

California Distribution System

Fifty miles east of Elko, Nev., a 7-MAF storage reservoir will be created between Murdoch and Bald Eagle mountains. A 30-mile canal will connect to the Humboldt River, diverting water across the state, ending at the Humboldt Sink, and from there the flow can be linked to Lake Lahontan, of the Truckee Carson Irrigation District, serving northern Nevada, before continuing south and tunneling into the Owens River Valley, refilling Owens Lake over time, and reviving farmland. Upon entering Owens Valley, an additional tunnel can connect the flow to the San Joaquin distribution system, delivering water to most of the San Joaquin Valley.

An alternative plan, requiring more power and complexity, could deliver water directly to southern Oregon, the parched Klamath River, and Lake Shasta. By releasing a portion of the water collected in the Rocky Mountain Trench into the Columbia River reservoir formed by Mica Dam, in British Columbia, water would be pumped out of the Columbia River further south at the Dalles Dam, into a series of reservoirs on the Deschutes River, continuing through central Oregon, and connecting with the Klamath and Pit rivers, the latter supplying water to Lake Shasta, one of the key storage reservoirs of the Central Valley Project.

