

# Feather River Fish Hatchery

*California Water Commission*

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# DWR State Water Project Overview

- Largest state owned & operated water delivery system in the U.S.
- Serves 25 million Californians & over 750,000 acres of farmland
- 32 Storage Facilities, 16 Pumping Plants, 4 Pumping-generating Plants, 5 Hydroelectric Plants, about 700 miles of Canals and Pipelines





## Lake Oroville: Multi-Purpose Reservoir

- Flood Control
- Water Supply
- Hydro-Electric Power Generation
- Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Water Quality
- Recreation
- Fish and Wildlife Benefits

FERC



Federal Energy Regulatory Commission



# Feather River Fish Hatchery Dedication October 1967







Central Valley Steelhead  
Central Valley Chinook Salmon (spring & fall run)



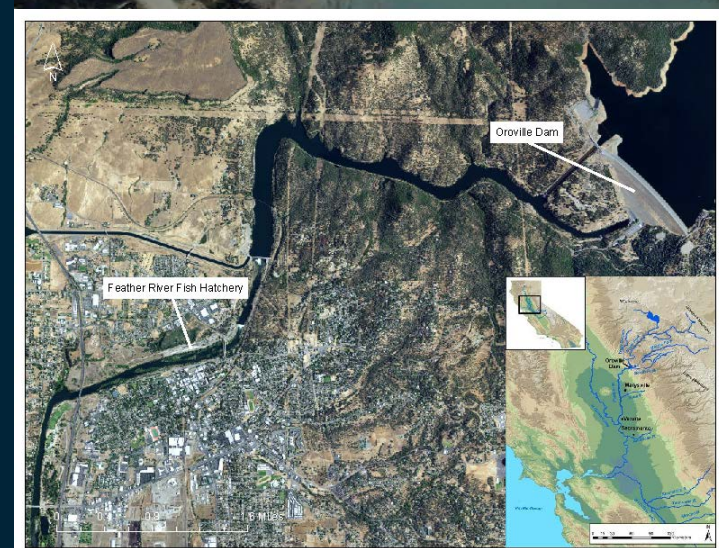




*Fish Barrier Dam  
-end of the line  
for fish*

*Location is an  
Integral part of  
City of Oroville*

*Major tourism  
feature*





## DFW Operates the Hatchery

- Fish spawning, rearing/feeding
- Fish stocking





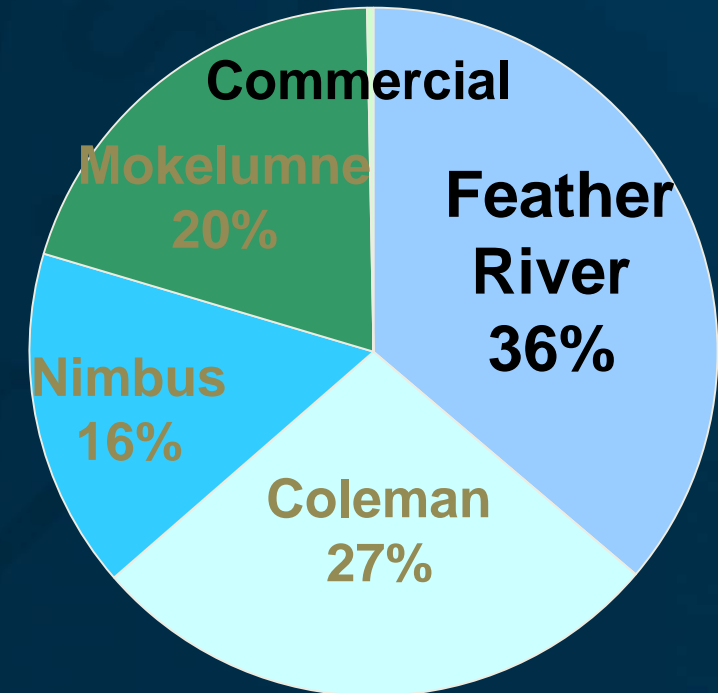
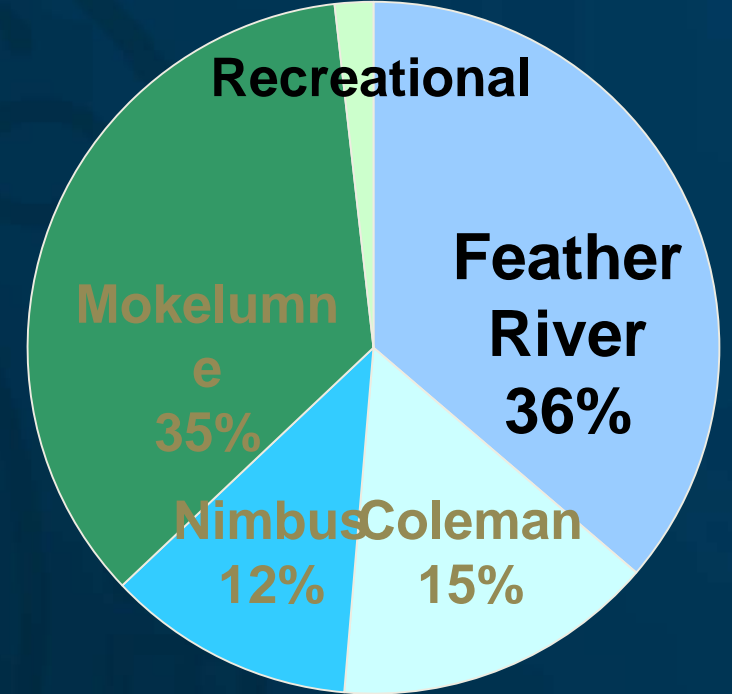
## DWR Maintains and Funds the Hatchery

- Facilities (pipelines, raceways, roads)
- All major equipment (electrical and mechanical)
- All Funding ~\$2.5 million/yr





# 2017 Hatchery Contribution to CA Ocean Fisheries



*The FRFH Fall-run Chinook supports a large portion of the CA ocean fishery (commercial and recreational)*



# Feather River Recreational Fishery



- *Oroville Wildlife Area and Thermalito Afterbay River Outlet (Also SWP Facilities)*
- *Very popular part of local tourism*



# Community Events at Hatchery (Oroville Salmon Festival)







Feather River Fish Hatchery  
322,579 visitors est. (May – Sept. 2016)

For comparison:  
Lake Oroville Visitors Center  
140,151 visitors est. (May – Sept. 2016)





# Feather River Fish Hatchery: Part II

## Spring-run Chinook Salmon Hatchery and Genetic Management Plan (HGMP)





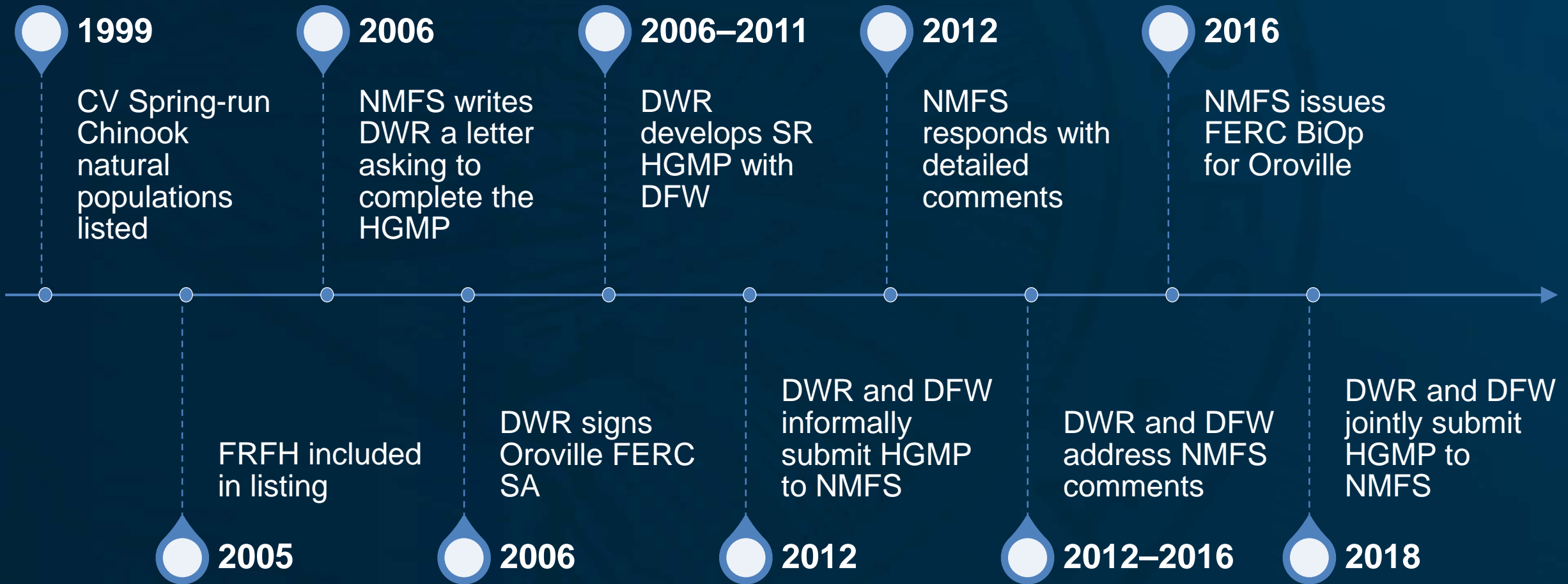
# Requirement for HGMPs

- Federal ESA prohibits “take” of T&E Species
  - Artificial propagation is considered take
  - Hatcheries can be exempted
- Three stocks at FRFH
  - CV Spring-run Chinook (state & federal)
  - CCV Steelhead (federal)
  - CV Fall-run (agreed to develop in FERC SA)





# Timeline of Plan Development





# Roles and Responsibilities

- DWR
  - Lead completion of two more HGMPs (Fall-run and Steelhead)
  - Lead HGMP Technical Team
  - Lead special studies
  - Budget Control-Contract Management
- DFW
  - Daily management of facility
  - Data sharing & access to fish
  - Assist with completion of HGMPs
  - Participate in technical teams and studies
- NMFS
  - Regulates and approves HGMPs





# Spring-run HGMP Purpose and Goals

- Major Differences
  - Production to Conservation
  - Defined Objectives
- Major Goals
  - More natural origin fish
  - Eliminate mixing Spring and Fall-run
  - Reduce straying





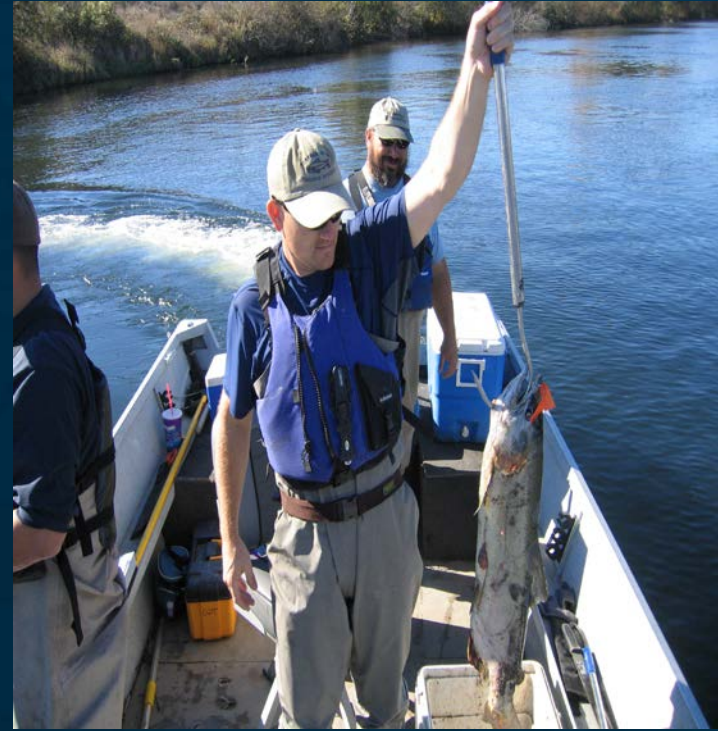
# Standards I

Upon Approval of the Plan

- Production
- Marking and Release Strategies
- Broodstock Selection
- Monitoring

Meeting Standards

- 5-year evaluation



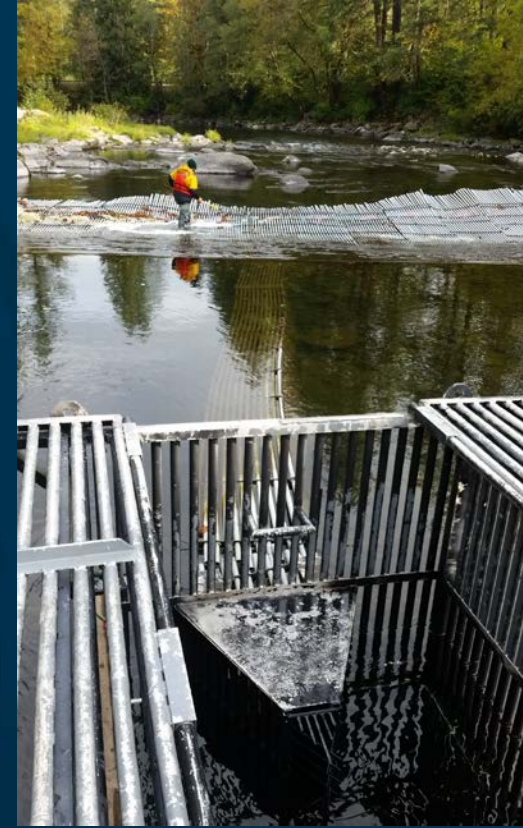


# Standards II

After FERC License Issuance

Segregation weir operation

- Separate Spring- and Fall-run in-river
- Increase Natural Origin Fish
- Expansion of most Standards





# Potential Impacts to SWP

- Increased demands on water supply-pulse flows
- Increased Cost
- Increased coordination
  - Within DWR
  - With DFW, NMFS, and NGOs





# Questions?

