

**San Joaquin River Restoration Program  
Water Management Work Group  
Technical Feedback Meeting  
Friday, August 08, 2008  
Lamp Lighter Inn  
Visalia, CA**

**MEETING NOTES**

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**Attendees:**

Jason Phillips	Reclamation	William West	Stone Corral ID
Will Shipp	Reclamation	Fergus Morrissey	OCID
Antonio Buelna	Reclamation	Paul Hendrix	Tulare ID
Doug DeFlicht	Reclamation	Dale Brogan	Delano-Earlimart ID
Rufino Gonzalez	Reclamation	Bill Carlisle	SSJMUD
		Dale Sally Jr.	EID, IID
Ron Jacobsma	FWA	Scott Edwards	LSID
Steve Ottemoeller	FWUA	Brandon Tomlinson	CWD
Bill Luce	FWUA		
Sean Geivet	PID, SID, TBID	Dick Moss	Provost & Pritchard
Laurence Kimura	Fresno ID	Dan Steiner	Independent
Michael Hagman	Lindmore ID		
Steve Collup	AEWSD	Bill Swanson	MWH
Jerry Ezell	SWID	John Roldan	MWH
Dan Vink	LTRID	Jeffrey Payne	MWH
Keith Norris	Tea Pot Dome WD	Ali Gasdick	CH2M HILL

**Next Meetings:**

September 5<sup>th</sup>, 11am – 1:30pm in Visalia @ Lamp Lighter Inn  
October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 11am – 1:30pm in Visalia @ Lamp Lighter Inn

**Summary of Meeting Notes:**

**Opening comments by Jason Phillips (Reclamation):**

Participation from the Friant Districts is important to the process. These meetings will continue on a monthly basis following the Friant Advisory Committee meetings. As described previously, these Water Management Working Group meetings will focus on actions specific to the Settlement's Water Management Goal (paragraph 16 of the Settlement).

## Recirculation Discussion (Paragraph 16(a)) – Bill Swanson (MWH)

Background/Introduction: Paragraph 16(a) of the Settlement includes the development of a plan for recirculation, recapture, reuse, exchange or transfer of the Interim and Restoration Flows to reduce or avoid water supply impacts to the Friant Districts.

The presentation provided the following information related to the development of a recapture plan:

- Steps to developing the recapture plan
- Institutional agreements that affect recapture
- System responses to Restoration Flows under existing institutional agreements
- Affects of VAMP on capture of Restoration Flows

The group noted and discussed the following:

- Tributary Releases – Releases from tributaries to meet Delta outflow and water quality criteria are generally lower with Restoration Flows and assuming current operating agreements/conditions. It was noted that an interim operations plan is in place for New Melones and a new plan is under development.
- Exchange Contractors – The modeling analysis assumes that the Exchange Contractors remain “whole” and receive flood flow waters via Delta exports that would have otherwise been available from San Joaquin River flows.
- Timing of Restoration Flows and VAMP – In the wet and normal wet years, VAMP restricts pumping at Banks/Jones at the same time as the highest Restoration Flow releases. This limits the amount of Restoration Flows that can be recaptured in these year types. Due to these timing limitations, a substantial portion of the Restoration Flows flow out of the Delta and are not available for recapture.

Based on the presentation and discussion, it was recognized that existing institutional agreements constrain the ability of the program to recapture Restoration Flows at the Jones/Banks pumping plants. The group discussed the need to explore opportunities for changing some of these existing institutional agreements and looking for other creative ways to doing exchanges and recapturing Restoration Flows.

## RWA Supply Opportunities (Paragraph 16(b)) – John Roldan (MWH)

Background/Introduction: Paragraph 16(b) of the Settlement includes the implementation of a Recovered Water Account and program that will make wet year water at Friant Dam available to impacted long-term Friant water users at \$10/af. John noted that the analysis conducted to date focused on the Friant-Kern Canal; additional analyses will be conducted for the Madera Canal.

The presentation provided the following information related to the implementation of a Recovered Water Account:

- Recap of July 11 meeting information

- Overview of existing Friant-Kern Canal capacities and “bottle necks”
- Assessment of opportunity areas
- Modeling approach
- Modeling results – Opportunities with the existing and expanded Friant-Kern Canal capacities
- Estimate of recharge area needed
- Overview of potential groundwater banking projects
- Next steps
  - Similar analysis for the Madera Canal
  - Establish range of assumptions for canal and banking capacity and changes in water price
  - Integrate assumptions into system-wide analysis

The group noted and discussed the following:

- Recent and Future Changes in Irrigation Demands – Some districts are seeing shifts in their irrigation demands due to shifts in cropping patterns. This generally results in higher demands earlier in the year than historically seen. This could enhance opportunities to capture 16(b) supplies with in-lieu recharge facilities.
- 16(b) Opportunity Graphs – The 16(b) opportunity graphs in the presentation were confusing to some. MWH will work to reconfigure and simplify these.
- Guidelines for Title III Funding - The group discussed the need to begin development of guidelines for groundwater banking projects that are funded in-part by Reclamation under the SJRRP. Jason noted that Reclamation needs to establish these guidelines within one year of the legislation passing and intends to involve the Friant Districts in this effort. The group suggested that Reclamation begin working on these guidelines before the legislation passes.