February 21, 2008

San Joaquin River Restoration Project (SJRRP) Technical Advisory Committee Members Settling Parties and Implementing Agencies (Distribution attached)

Subject: Fall Run Chinook Salmon Technical Recommendations

Dear San Joaquin River Restoration Project (SJRRP) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Members, Settling Parties and Implementing Agencies:

Enclosed is the Report entitled: “Fall Run Chinook Salmon to the Upper San Joaquin River”. This report is a deliverable specified in the San Joaquin River Restoration Project (SJRRP) Settlement Agreement, involving primarily NRDC, Friant Water Users Authority and the US Bureau of Reclamation.

A previous report was prepared for the “Spring Run Chinook Salmon” and transmitted in 2007 prior to my arrival as the Restoration Administrator (RA). This report was prepared by the SJRRP TAC members: Dr. Charles Hanson, Paula Landis, Bill Luce, Scott McBain, Dale Mitchell, Dr. Peter Moyle and Monty Schmitt, with assistance from the federal liaisons to the TAC – Dr. Russell Bellmer, Dan Castelberry, Jeff McLain and Jason Phillips. The report was developed and discussed through TAC deliberations under the terms of the Settlement for the SJRRP.

The RA is required to provide a copy of these recommendations to the US Secretary of Interior, or his designee. Jason Phillips serves in that capacity and is a recipient of this report.

Key issues emerging in the TAC meetings and various drafts of the report relate to: role of hatcheries in establishing sustainable populations in the wild; genetic complement of fish stock; flexibility of the implementing entities; implied capital expenditure requirements embodied within the recommendations; and timing issues regarding the life cycle of the salmon. While there may be an interpretation of this report by some readers as a basis for management decisions – that is not the intention. This report strictly contains technical recommendations compiled, researched and agreed to by technical experts and technical members of the implementing agencies. The implementing agencies and specifically those charged with managing facilities within the project area will use these technical recommendations to guide development of their implementation programs and decisions.
If there are questions regarding this report, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

BROWN AND CALDWELL

[Signature]

Ane D. Deister
Restoration Administrator

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