



Field Activity Advisory May 23, 2012

This notice is to inform you that the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP) plans to conduct biological and cultural resource field surveys in and around the Eastside Bypass as part of the Reach 4B, Eastside Bypass, and Mariposa Bypass Channel and Structural Improvements Project, from June 11 through August 15, 2012.

Who: Bureau of Reclamation, California Department of Water Resources, Environmental Science Associates, and Pacific Legacy

What: The biological surveys include observations of wildlife habitat, botanical, and wetland resources in the project area. It will focus on the presence of habitat for blunt-nosed leopard lizard, valley elderberry longhorn beetle, giant garter snake, Fresno kangaroo rat, San Joaquin kit fox and other special status plant and wildlife species as well as jurisdictional wetlands and other waters. Survey activities will involve crews of up to five individuals surveying Reach 4B, the Eastside Bypass and the Mariposa Bypass. The surveyors will access the survey area by vehicle and foot. Surveyors will drive or walk in groups through the identified survey area. As the surveyors walk through the area, they will make observations, including the use of binoculars and hand-held tools for digging. No significant physical activities (such as mechanical excavation) are required to complete the survey and no construction equipment will be used.

The cultural resource surveys will involve a team of five archaeologists surveying the areas for approximately 12-14 days. Depending on vegetation cover and topography, identification efforts include walking in-field inspections utilizing transect spacing of 10-30 meters of the proposed restoration area(s). The archaeological identification efforts may also include a shallow scrape of surface soils with a shovel or trowel in order to inspect the original ground surface. No significant physical activities (such as mechanical excavation) are required to complete the survey and no construction equipment will be used.

When: Beginning June 11, survey efforts are planned for June 11-15, June 25-July 6, and July 16 – August 15. Within that survey window, it is expected to take up to 5 days to complete all biological surveys for a specific block of land, and cultural surveys will be completed concurrently to minimize disturbance to landowners. All surveys are planned to be conducted between 5 a.m. and 9 p.m. when wildlife is most active and exposure to adverse mid-day temperatures is minimized.

Where: The Eastside Bypass area, where available by landowner permission.

If you have questions, please contact the SJRRP Landowner Coordinator, Craig Moyle. Craig's contact information is provided below.

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For more information, please visit the SJRRP Web site at www.restoresjr.net.