

San Joaquin River Restoration Program



Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Channel Improvements Project

Public Scoping Meetings

July 28, 2009: Fresno
July 29, 2009: Firebaugh



Who We Are

- Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Dept. of Interior
 - **Ali Gasdick**, SJRRP Project Manager
- California Department of Water Resources
 - **Kevin Faulkenberry**, CDWR SJRRP Program Manager
- SJRRP Implementing Agencies



Scoping Meeting Agenda

- 6:15 – 6:45 p.m. Overview Presentation
- 6:45 – 7:30 p.m. Open House Stations
- 7:30 – 8:00 p.m. Public Comment Session



Overview Presentation Agenda

- Overview of the San Joaquin River Settlement
- Mendota Pool Bypass / Reach 2B Channel Improvements Project
 - Project Overview
 - Key Project Components
 - NEPA/ CEQA Process and Upcoming Activities



San Joaquin River Settlement History

- 1988 Lawsuit filed challenging Reclamation's renewal of the long-term contracts with Friant Division contractors
- 2004 Federal Judge rules Reclamation violated Section 5937 of the Fish and Game Code
- 2005 Settlement negotiations reinitiated to avoid remedy phase
- 2006 Settlement reached, implementation begins
- 2009 Federal legislation enacted

Settlement Goals

- **Restoration Goal**
 - To restore and maintain fish populations in “good condition” in the main stem of the San Joaquin River below Friant Dam to the confluence of the Merced River, including naturally reproducing and self-sustaining populations of salmon and other fish.
- **Water Management Goal**
 - To reduce or avoid adverse water supply impacts to all of the Friant Division long-term contractors that may result from the Interim Flows and Restoration Flows provided for in the Settlement.

Settlement Milestones

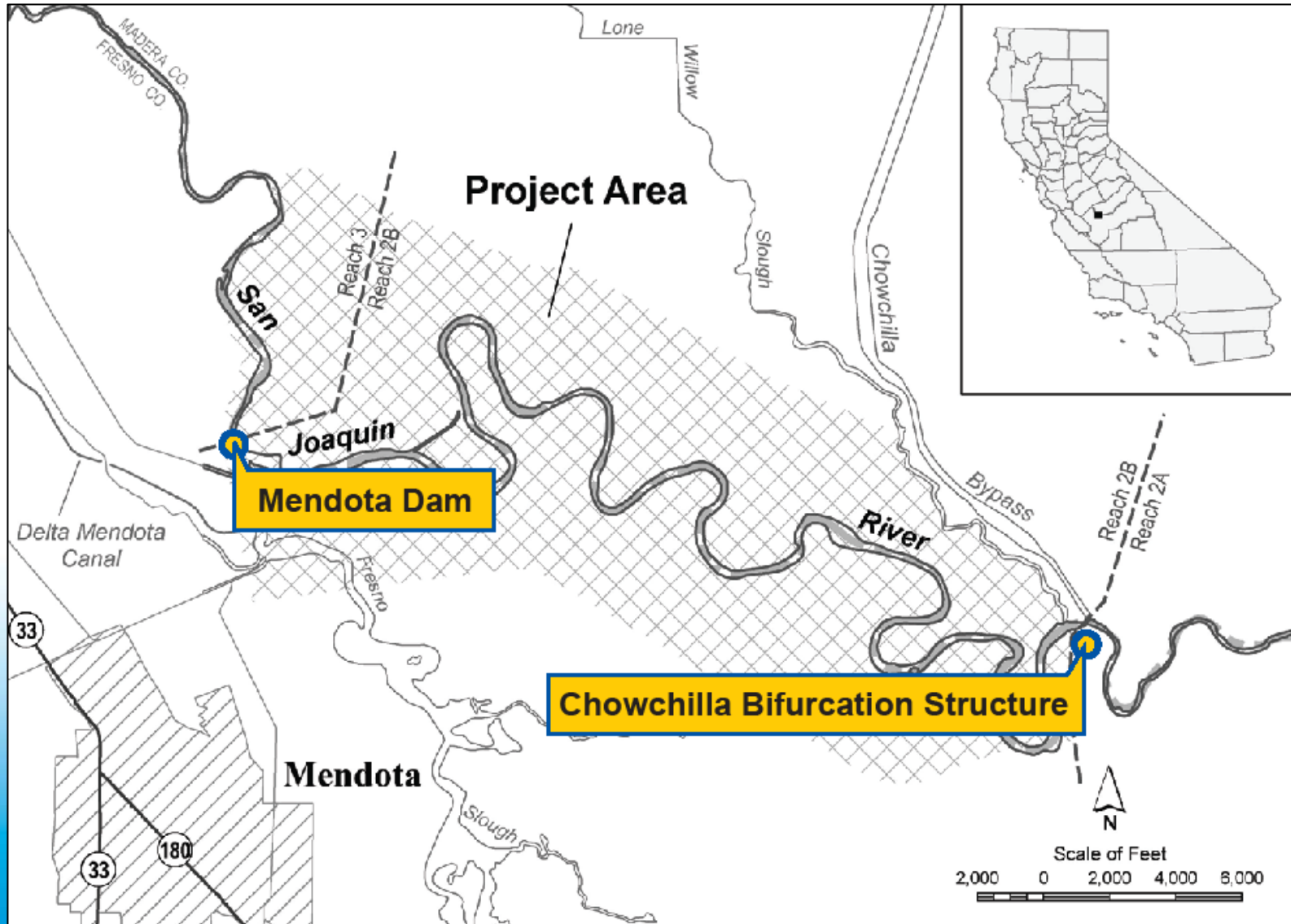
Immediately	Work on planning, design work, and environmental reviews
Oct 2009	Begin Interim Flows
2012	Begin re-introduction of salmon
2013	Complete first phase of channel and habitat improvements
2014	Initiate full Restoration Flows
2016	Complete second phase of channel and habitat improvements



Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Channel Improvements Project

- Mendota Pool Bypass
 - Bypass channel around Mendota Pool to ensure conveyance of at least 4,500 cfs
 - Construction of a structure capable of allowing the Secretary of the Interior to make deliveries of San Joaquin River water to the Mendota Pool when necessary
- Reach 2B Channel Improvements
 - Modifications in channel capacity to ensure conveyance of at least 4,500 cfs in Reach 2B
 - New floodplain and related riparian habitat

Regional Area



Project Area





Mendota Pool Bypass – Key Components

- Could include:
 - Conveyance capacity of at least 4,500 cfs
 - Bifurcation structure at upstream end to:
 - Route flows (and fish) into the new bypass
 - Route flows into the Mendota Pool, if needed
 - New levees or setting back existing levees
 - Relocation of some existing infrastructure
- Specific alignments and designs are being developed and evaluated over the next year



Reach 2B Channel Improvements – Key Components

- Could include:
 - Modifications to river channel from Chowchilla Bifurcation Structure to new Mendota Pool Bypass
 - Conveyance capacity of at least 4,500 cfs
 - Integrated floodplain habitat
 - New levees or setting back existing levees
 - Relocation of some existing infrastructure
- Specific alignments and designs are being developed and evaluated over the next year

NEPA / CEQA Process and Upcoming Activities

- Planning and environmental compliance activities
 - National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
 - California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
 - Initiating preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement / Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR)



Purpose of this “Scoping” Process

- Inform stakeholders/public and responsible agencies about the Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Channel Improvement Project
- Solicit input on **range of issues** (“scope”) to be evaluated in the EIS/EIR
- Solicit input on potential **alternatives** to the Project
- Identify issues of concern sooner rather than later

Purpose and Content of EIS/EIR

- Purpose
 - Provide technically sound information to decision-makers to consider in evaluating the Project
- Content
 - Describe environmental setting
 - Disclose potential environmental impacts
 - Propose measures to reduce, avoid, or mitigate impacts

Open House Stations

- Station 1: Project Process and Timeline
- Station 2: Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Channel Improvements
- Station 3: Comments and Public Involvement



How to Submit Comments

- **Tonight:** Fill out a comment form
- **By Monday, August 17, 2009:**
 - Mail: Ms. Margaret Gidding; 2800 Cottage Way MP-170; Sacramento; CA 95825
 - Email: MendotaPoolBypass@restoresjr.net
 - Fax: 916-978-5469

OR

- Mail: Mr. Kevin Faulkenberry; California Department of Water Resources; South Central Region Office; 3374 E. Shields Ave; Fresno, CA 93726
- Email: faulkenb@water.ca.gov