



# The San Joaquin River Restoration Program

**Ending years of litigation, a settlement on the San Joaquin River reached in September 2006 by the U.S. Departments of Interior and Commerce, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and the Friant Water Users Authority received Federal court approval in October 2006.**

## The San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP) features:

**Collaborative effort between State and Federal resource agencies**

**Consideration of all reasonable options for implementing the actions and achieving the Goals defined in the Settlement**

**Open and transparent stakeholder involvement process**



**Summary of Scoping Meetings:** See back page.

To implement the Settlement, an ambitious restoration program has begun. The San Joaquin River Restoration Program is a major long-term effort to restore a partially-dry, 150-mile stretch of river into a flowing river capable of sustaining Chinook salmon fish populations. It is a complex engineering, environmental, biological and hydrological program that will consider many different perspectives throughout the process.

In May 2007, a Program Management Plan (PMP) was released that outlines the multi-year river and fish restoration Program. Copies of the Settlement and PMP are available on the new Program website, [www.restoresjr.net](http://www.restoresjr.net).

The five Federal and State implementing agencies—Bureau of Reclamation and the Fish and Wildlife Service (U.S. Department of the Interior), the National Marine Fisheries Service (U.S. Department of Commerce), the California Department of Water Resources and the California Department of Fish and

Game (California Resources Agency)—have begun meeting to develop more detailed plans for implementing the Settlement. The implementing agencies are committed to working closely with the third parties to the Settlement (downstream water districts and landowners), the Bureau's Friant Division long-term contractors, water and irrigation districts, additional state and federal resource agencies, water user organizations, environmental organizations, local landowners and the general public throughout this Program.

Earlier this year, Federal legislation was re-introduced by California members of Congress that would authorize Federal agencies to implement the Settlement. While authorization is still pending, the Department of the Interior is proceeding with environmental review based on current authorities and funding, although timely passage of congressional legislation will be critical to implementation of provisions in the Settlement and maintaining the schedule.

## Program Implementation Documents Available On-line – [www.restoresjr.net](http://www.restoresjr.net)

The **Program Management Plan (PMP)** covers the Program's:

- Organization
- Strategies and principles
- Participants and responsibilities
- The Settlement implementation plan

The **Public Involvement Plan (PIP)** describes the implementing agencies' strategy to inform and involve all level of leaders, managers, stakeholder and the general public about the Program's process and progress.

## For more information on the San Joaquin River Restoration Program, please contact:

• Margaret Gidding, Public Affairs Specialist, at 916-978-5104 or [mgidding@mp.usbr.gov](mailto:mgidding@mp.usbr.gov)

• Jason Phillips, Program Manager, at 916-978-5033, or [jphillips@mp.usbr.gov](mailto:jphillips@mp.usbr.gov)

# The San Joaquin River Restoration Program features two main goals and has three stages:

## 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.



## STAGE 1

### 2007

- Complete and Distribute Final Program Management Plan
- Publish Notice of Intent and Notice of Preparation
- Appoint Restoration Administrator
- Initiate Implementation and Structure Process
- Begin Implementation Studies and Develop Alternatives (Technical Work Groups)
- Hold Public Scoping Meetings and Issue Public Scoping Report

### 2008

- Issue Draft Alternatives Report
- Evaluate Alternatives
- Develop Draft Program Environmental Documents
- Issue Stage 1 Program Alternatives Report

### 2009

- Complete Program Environmental Documents
- Initiate Interim Restoration Flows

**Stage 1** focuses on program-level planning and environmental review, including formulating and evaluating reasonable alternatives for accomplishing the Restoration and Water Management Goals with a focus on systemwide aspects of implementation. Stage 1 will include the development of a Program Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (PEIS/EIR) and the identification of significant data needs that will be completed during Stage 2. The implementing agencies have already begun completing tasks related to Stage 1, which will last until October of 2009.

## STAGE 2

### 2012

- Reintroduce Salmon

### 2013

- Complete Phase 1 River Channel Improvements

**Stage 2** will include: the start of interim restoration flows to the river; detailed site-specific environmental review; implementation of high priority river improvements; and reintroduction of salmon.

## STAGE 3

### 2014

- Initiate Full Restoration Flows

### 2016

- Complete Phase 2 River Channel Improvements

### 2025

- Complete All Improvements

During **Stage 3**, the full restoration flows will be initiated along with a long-term monitoring program to measure the performance of implementation.

## 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.



## San Joaquin River Facts:

- The San Joaquin River once had the southernmost habitat for salmon in the United States.
- The San Joaquin River is the second longest river in California.
- The restoration covers approximately 150 miles of the San Joaquin River from Friant Dam near Fresno to its confluence with the Merced River.
- Several communities along the river reaches are affected by the SJRRP, including Fresno, Los Banos, Madera, Merced, Biola, Mendota, Firebaugh and Dos Palos.
- The average unimpaired runoff of the main stem of the river is about 1.8 million acre-feet per year—equivalent to annual water needs for about 3.5 million families.



## The Program Management Team

The Program Management Team (PMT) consists of one representative from each implementing agency. The PMT oversees the implementation of the Settlement and its two goals. Members of the PMT are:

- **Jason Phillips**  
SJRRP Program Manager  
Bureau of Reclamation  
U.S. Department of the Interior
- **Dan Castleberry**  
Fisheries Program Manager  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior
- **Vacant**  
NOAA Fisheries Service  
U.S. Department of Commerce
- **Paula Landis**  
San Joaquin District Chief  
Department of Water Resource  
California Resources Agency
- **Dale Mitchell**  
Environmental Program Manager  
Department of Fish and Game  
California Resources Agency

# Public Scoping Meetings – Update

**In August and September 2007, the Implementing Agencies for the San Joaquin River Restoration Program held public meetings in Tulare, Fresno, Los Banos and Sacramento.**



Firebaugh City Manager Jose Ramirez shares his city's considerations about the San Joaquin River with Program team members Paula Landis (CA Department of Water Resources), Jason Phillips (Reclamation Program Manager), and Bill Luce (Friant Water User's Authority).

These meetings, called Scoping Meetings, were held to gather comments from the public on a wide range of issues related to the environmental report: options and alternatives for Program implementation, environmental and local conditions, and issues and concerns.

The comments gathered from these public meetings, as well as those submitted in writing by the end of the public comment period, will be used to help shape the environmental evaluation of the Program.

More than 200 people attended the four meetings, representing a wide array of public and agency interests, including non-profits, recreational interests, water contractors, farmers, landowners and local community groups.

During the meetings, participants were able to discuss and clarify specific issues of concern with agency and program



Al Stroppini, Reclamation, discusses a specific section of the San Joaquin River with a participant at the Tulare public scoping meeting.

staff who were available at five different resource-specific stations, including: Program and Process; Fish Restoration; Water Management; Flood Management; and Reach-by-Reach Considerations.

The public comment period for the scoping meetings closed September 21, 2007.

The close on comments for the Notice of Preparation (NOP) was September 24, 2007, or 30 days after recipients received the NOP. A Scoping Report will be available for review on the Program website, [www.restoresjr.net](http://www.restoresjr.net), in November 2007.

## New San Joaquin River Restoration Website

Visit [www.restoresjr.net](http://www.restoresjr.net) to stay informed of Program-related news, activities and study efforts. Here are some actions you can take on the website:

- [Receive Program updates electronically](#)
- [Edit or update your contact information](#)
- [Download the Program Management Plan and the Public Involvement Plan](#)
- [Stay informed of Program activities and events](#)
- [Look for additional information, documents and notices in the future](#)

If you do not visit the website to request that information be sent to you via email or to be removed from the mailing list, you will continue to receive information by mail. Receiving email updates and notifications, and visiting the website often, will ensure the most timely and direct access to information.

Bureau of Reclamation  
2800 Cottage Way, MP-140  
Sacramento, CA  
95825-1898