



Program Update

January 2008

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Technical Memoranda:

Numerous Technical Memoranda (TMs) are being developed prior to scheduled release of the SJRRP Draft Program Environmental Impact Statement/Report in February 2009. These TMs are being made available on the Program web site as they are completed to facilitate early coordination regarding initial concepts and approaches.

First Annual Report Available Online

An overview of the San Joaquin River Restoration Program's organizational structure, achievements and future activities are feature elements in the SJRRP Annual Report, 2007.

Released online in January, the 18-page document was developed by the Program's implementing agencies – Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA Fisheries Service, California Department of Water Resources, and California Department of Fish and Game.

In addition to an overview of the Settlement, the Annual Report contains a user-friendly synopsis of the four Technical Work Groups (Engineering and Design, Environmental Compliance and Permitting, Water Management, and Fisheries) and a review of public outreach and information activities.

Also recently released on the Program website (www.restoresjr.net) is the SJRRP Public Scoping Report. The December 2007 report captures feedback received from more than 80 State and Federal agencies, organizations and the public during the public scoping period that included four scoping meetings held in August and September, 2007. The extensive comments received at the scoping meetings and during the scoping period reflect the range of issues along the River and will help inform actions and alternatives in the Program Environmental Impact Statement/Report.

Available Technical Memoranda:

- ▶ Draft Purpose and Need for Action
- ▶ Draft Regulatory Compliance Strategy
- ▶ Water Operations Existing and Future Without-Project Conditions
- ▶ Water Operations Model Work Plan
- ▶ Chinook Salmon Temporal Occurrence and Environmental Requirements: Preliminary Tables
- ▶ Procedures for the Measurement, Monitoring, and Reporting of Restoration Flows

Upcoming Technical Memoranda:

- ▶ Draft Alternatives Formulation Strategy – March 2008
- ▶ Draft Restoration Flow Guidelines/Recovered Water Account – March 2008
- ▶ Initial Program Alternatives Report – Spring 2008

Available at www.restoresjr.net

Initial Program Alternatives Report Slated for Spring Release

Findings from a variety of Technical Memoranda (TM) and how each could be combined into a variety of initial program alternatives to meet the fisheries and water management goals of the SJRRP should be ready for release this Spring and public meetings scheduled to solicit feedback.

The pending Initial Program Alternatives Report (IPAR) public meetings are the first of two events geared to present major milestone documents to the public and stakeholders for review and comment in 2008. The second planned event will coincide with the projected October release of the Final Program Alternatives Report.

Both reports will draw from several key Technical Memoranda recently completed or under development by the Program's Technical Work Groups. Each TM and Report supports development of the SJRRP Program Environmental Impact Statement/ Report. Public meeting information will be posted on the web site's calendar when it becomes available.

Call The Grapevine for Program Information

Reclamation's telephone information line, The Grapevine, now has information about the SJRRP. Call 800-742-9474 or 916-978-5117 and select option "4" to hear a recorded message about upcoming SJRRP activities and public involvement opportunities.

Stakeholder Coordination

To help ensure the Program considers and reflects the knowledge of local and regional subject-matter experts, the Program has designated a Stakeholder Coordinator to share technical information with these stakeholders at key points during development of technical documents.

In designating a Stakeholder Coordinator, the Program responds to a commitment outlined in the SJRRP Public Involvement Plan to conduct fish restoration and water management activities in an open and transparent process.

Filled by Ajay Singh, the Stakeholder Coordinator interacts with stakeholders and Program Work Groups to foster discussions regarding technical findings and feedback that could be included in key technical Program documents.

It is the Stakeholder Coordinator's goal to include stakeholders in the Program who represent a wide range of affected individuals and organizations throughout the river system, such as Third Parties to the Settlement.

For more information, contact Ajay Singh at 916-446-4359 (office), 916-267-1880 (cell) or asingh@kearnswest.com.

Legislation Update

Known as the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act, House Resolution 4074 was passed out of the House Committee on Natural Resources in November 2007 and is pending further action by the House and Senate in 2008.

Confirmation that Friant water districts are capable of implementing the proposed finance strategy and clarification on how the Program's Water Management Goal should be implemented are anticipated key additions to Federal legislation to implement the San Joaquin River Restoration Program Settlement.

First introduced by Congressman George Radanovich (R-Mariposa) and Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-California) in December 2006, the bill was re-introduced by Congressman Jim Costa (D-Fresno) in November 2007.

Pending legislative authorization, the Restoration Program is proceeding with environmental review based on authorities and funding provided in the Central Valley Project Improvement Act of 1992. Timely passage of Congressional legislation, however, will be critical to implementing provisions in the Settlement and maintaining the Program schedule.



Landowner Coordination - Temporary Entry Permits

A six-month collaborative effort between Program staff and landowners to develop a Temporary Entry Permit (TEP) for pre-construction surveys and investigations needed for the Program continues after a series of landowner meetings identified concerns related to endangered species.

Held December 11-12 in Firebaugh, Fresno and Los Banos, the landowner meetings were geared for private property owners along the 153-mile-long river corridor slated for restoration. Each meeting presented the draft TEP, discussed the Program's "Code of Conduct," and identified any remaining issues. The primary landowner concerns expressed during the meeting were

related to the State and Federal Endangered Species Acts.

In response to the concerns, Program managers developed a new TEP provision that specifies how environmental surveys would be conducted; the controls landowners retain for entry to their property for such surveys; and the preservation of private property rights under the TEP. In early January, the revised TEP was delivered to the San Joaquin River Resource Management Coalition (RMC) – a group comprised of Central Valley landowners, irrigation districts and other third-party stakeholders that partnered with Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources to develop the TEP. The RMC provided comments on the

new provision, and Reclamation will continue to work with them in hopes of finalizing the TEP in the coming months.

Until the TEP is finalized, access to private property is being pursued on a one-on-one basis with willing landowners.

For more information on the TEP, please contact Craig Moyle, SJRRP landowner coordinator, by phone at 916-418-8248, or by email at Craig.Moyle@mwhglobal.com.

Restoration Administrator

As part of the Settlement, it was agreed that a Restoration Administrator (RA) would be selected to assist the Settling Parties with implementing the Settlement. On January 1, 2008, Ane Deister assumed the RA role, jointly selected by the Natural Resources Defense Council and Friant Water Users Authority. In this role, she will provide recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior regarding specific elements of the Restoration Goal.

To assist Deister, the Settlement also established a Technical Advisory Committee that she consults with on a regular basis, as well as agency technical and regulatory staff, to assist her while formulating recommendations.

Prior to her role as RA and joining the engineering firm of Brown and Caldwell, Deister served as the general manager of the El Dorado Irrigation District for the past six years.

Riverbed Sediment Surveys Conducted

Approximately 50 sites between Friant Dam and the San Joaquin River's confluence with the Merced River were surveyed in early February as part of a data gathering effort to predict the potential movement of sediments under flows planned for the Program. Conducted by three teams of Reclamation and DWR geologists, the surveys included sites in Reaches 1a, 1b, 2a, 3, 5, and segments of the Chowchilla and Eastside Bypasses. Sediment surveys in the remaining reaches are pending permission to access private property. To view a map of the river reaches, visit: www.restoresjr.net/gallery2.asp?GroupID=16263.



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San Joaquin River Restoration Tour

November 12-13, 2008

Make sure you reserve your seat now for a 2-day, 1-night tour exploring the challenges associated with restoration of the San Joaquin River. This tour takes participants to see salmon runs on restored sections of the adjacent Merced River, proposed channels for re-watering, diversion structures and set-back levees on various reaches of the river. The tour begins and ends in Fresno. Registration fee for the tour is \$435 for one person, single occupancy, or \$720 for two people, double occupancy. For more information, call 916-444-6240 or visit www.watereducation.org. Registrations can be made on the website.

The Water Education Foundation is an impartial non-profit organization whose mission is to create a better understanding of water issues and help resolve water resource problems through educational programs.

SAN JOAQUIN RIVER RESTORATION PROGRAM

