



Program Update

September 2008

The San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP) is a comprehensive long-term effort to restore flows to the San Joaquin River from Friant Dam to the confluence of Merced River, ensure irrigation supplies to Friant Water users, and restore a self-sustaining Chinook salmon fishery in the river.

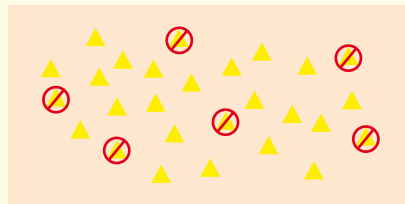
Settlement Goals

- ▶ **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.
- ▶ **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.

Restoring the San Joaquin River - Initial Alternatives

As part of the process for implementing the September 2006 Settlement reached to restore the San Joaquin River, alternatives to achieve the San Joaquin River Restoration Program's (SJRRP) Water Management and Restoration Goals are being developed and refined through a process defined by the National Environmental Policy Act and the California Environmental Quality Act.

In the first part of the process, initial alternatives were formed by looking at various individual options to see if they could reasonably contribute to either of the SJRRP goals.



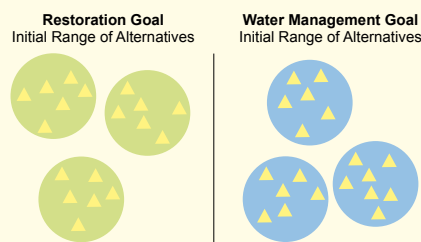
Screening Process

Step One: Screen Individual Options
Look at individual options:

"Can they reasonably contribute to either of the SJRRP goals?"

"An option is a structural or nonstructural action or feature that could help address planning objectives and satisfy other planning considerations."

Then, these options were grouped together to create an initial range of alternatives for each goal. These findings were released in the Initial Program Alternatives Report (IPAR) in June 2008.



Release Initial Program Alternatives Report:
June 2008

Step Two: Group Initial Alternatives

Group options into initial alternatives for the Restoration and Water Management Goals

Options carried forward from preliminary screening are those that can contribute to Program goals. Alternatives described in the Initial Program Alternatives Report, released June 2008.

See Initial Alternatives, Page 2

Restoration Administrator Update

Ane Deister will be completing her appointment as the Restoration Administrator (RA) for the SJRRP at the end of October 2008. The role of the RA is evolving with the progress of the Program, consequently increasing the time, duties, and activities needed to meet the commitment of the position. Ms. Deister will remain as RA until a replacement is hired and continue assisting the Program during the transition.

Available Draft Technical Memoranda (TM) on the Program web site (www.restoresjr.net) include:

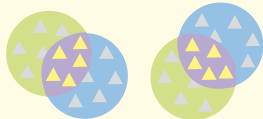
- ▶ Initial Program Alternatives Report
- ▶ Alternatives Formulation Strategy
- ▶ Operation Guidelines for Implementing Restoration Flows
- ▶ Conceptual Models of Stressors and Limiting Factors for San Joaquin River Chinook Salmon
- ▶ Chinook Salmon Temporal Occurrence and Environmental Requirements: Preliminary Tables
- ▶ Quantitative Fisheries Model Selection Recommendation Process
- ▶ Temperature Model Selection
- ▶ Temperature Model Sensitivity Analyses
- ▶ Monitoring Plan for Physical Parameters

Upcoming Technical Memoranda:

- ▶ Draft Fisheries Management Plan (Winter 2008)
- ▶ Restoration Flow Monitoring Program (Late Fall 2008)
- ▶ Groundwater Model Selection Process (Late Fall 2008)
- ▶ Draft Plan Formulation (Winter 2008)
- ▶ Program Alternatives Report (Winter 2008)

The initial alternatives in the IPAR are being evaluated further based on a variety of technical and feasibility factors. This evaluation effort includes input and feedback from the public and stakeholders via the Water Management and Fisheries Management Technical Feedback Meetings. Water management alternatives are also being combined with restoration goal alternatives to formulate a set of alternatives that meet both goals. These “combined” alternatives will be described in the Program Alternatives Report (PAR) scheduled for release in Fall 2008.

Restoration and Water Management Goals



Release Program Alternatives Report (PAR): Target Date - November 2008

(Alternatives contained in the PAR are expected to be the alternatives carried forward in the Program EIS/R)

Perform Second Screening and Reformulate the Initial Alternatives Step Three: Reformulate and Combine

Following a second round of screening, remaining restoration and water management alternatives are combined into complete Program alternatives that can potentially meet both goals. This step will be described in the Program Alternatives Report, scheduled for November 2008 release.

Conduct Third Screening

The alternatives in the PAR will most likely be carried forward in the Draft Program Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (Draft Program EIS/R) scheduled for release in Spring 2009. The Draft Program EIS/R will include a reasonable range of alternatives and an analysis of the environmental impacts of each alternative. The Draft Program EIS/R will be circulated for public review and comment.

After the close of the public comment period on the Draft Program EIS/R, the Final Program EIS/R will be prepared and will include responses to the comments received on the Draft. It will also identify the Preferred Program Alternative or “Proposed Action” describing how the agencies will implement the SJRRP. The Final Program EIS/R is scheduled for release in July 2009.

Legislation Update

Federal legislation needed to fully implement the Program, known as the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act, is now part of Senate Bill 3213, Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2008. The omnibus bill was heard by the full Senate in June 2008 and was placed on the Senate legislative calendar to be voted on at a future date.

Prior to being attached to SB-3213, the Act was passed by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources as Senate Bill 27. The House version of SB-27 authored by Representative Jim Costa (D-Kings County) passed the House Committee on Natural Resources in November 2007.



Stakeholder Coordination Update

Alicia “Ali” Gasdick, a water resources planner with more than eight years of experience in the Central Valley, has been selected as the SJRRP’s stakeholder coordinator.

The stakeholder coordinator position fulfills a commitment of the SJRRP Public Involvement Plan to conduct Program activities in an open and transparent process.

As stakeholder coordinator, Gasdick is charged with ensuring that the Program considers and reflects the knowledge and input of community and regional subject-matter experts in the development of key Program documents. She coordinates monthly technical feedback meetings and serves as a point of contact and liaison between these stakeholders and the Program.

Gasdick can be reached at 916-286-0373 or Alicia.Gasdick@CH2M.com.

Recent Technical Feedback Meetings:

Fisheries Management Technical Feedback Meetings

- ▶ July 8: Overview of the fish conceptual models and the fish goals and objectives.
- ▶ August 12: Overview of the draft reach-by-reach limiting factors and initial discussion of floodplain habitat and width.
- ▶ September 8: Continued discussion of floodplain habitat and width and discussion of a decision tree for routing fish management actions.

Water Management Technical Feedback Meetings

- ▶ July 11: Overview of water management alternatives, recapture opportunities, and Recovered Water Account.
- ▶ August 8: More detailed overview of recapture opportunities and overview of the Recovered Water Account opportunities assessment for the Friant-Kern Canal.

- ▶ September 5: Continued discussion of recapture and Recovered Water Account opportunities.

Upcoming Technical Feedback Meetings
Fisheries Management Technical Feedback Meetings
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Tuesday, October 7 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.▶ Tuesday, November 4 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.▶ Tuesday, December 9 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Water Management Technical Feedback Meetings
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Friday, October 3 Noon - 2:00 p.m.▶ Friday, November 7 Noon - 2:00 p.m.▶ Monday, December 8 Noon - 2:00 p.m.

Dates and times are subject to change. Check the Program calendar at www.restoresjr.net for details on upcoming meetings and meeting locations.

Landowner Coordination Update: Invasive Plant Species Surveys Conducted

A series of air-, boat- and vehicle-based field surveys geared to estimate the occurrence, distribution, and extent of the most invasive riparian plant species along the San Joaquin River from Friant Dam to the Merced River confluence, including major tributaries, as well as the Eastside and Chowchilla Bypasses were conducted from June through late-August.

Conducted by six field crews from four of the SJRRP partner agencies and with support of California State University, Stanislaus botanists as well as invasive species field crews from the Stockton Fish and Wildlife

Service, the ground- and water-based surveys were conducted on public lands or with the permission of private landowners. An August 21 aerial survey sought to fill-in data gaps downstream of Highway 145; these surveys primarily reveal conditions where such plant species may exist.

The surveys mainly sought to locate red sesbania, giant reed, salt cedar, Chinese tallow and perennial pepperweed. Prevalent upstream of Highway 145, red sesbania is a primary concern for its ability to choke out willows and other beneficial native plants. White alder

was also surveyed for its potential effects on salmon habitat. Other non-native plant species noted during surveys were pompass grass, tree of heaven, and catalpa.

Survey observations will be added to riverine maps for comparison and evaluation with sediment, river hydraulic, and vegetation growth models, and assist in scoping future analyses for the Program EIS/R and future site-specific studies.



- ▶ Restoring the San Joaquin River - Initial Alternatives
- ▶ Restoration Administrator Update
- ▶ Upcoming Milestones
- ▶ Legislation Update
- ▶ Stakeholder Coordination Update
- ▶ Landowner Coordination Update: Invasive Plant Species Surveys Conducted
- ▶ WEF San Joaquin River Tour Reminder

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SAN JOAQUIN RIVER
RESTORATION PROGRAM



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**Recorded SJRRP Information
Available at 800-742-9474;
select option 4.**



WEF San Joaquin River Tour Reminder

On November 12 and 13, 2008, the Water Education Foundation will be conducting a tour of the San Joaquin River. The final tour schedule is being developed and is anticipated to include stops along the San Joaquin and Merced rivers. The 2-day, 1-night tour begins and ends in Fresno. For information or to register, call (916) 444-6240 or visit www.watereducation.org.

Check the Program calendar regularly for upcoming public meetings and involvement opportunities at www.restoresjr.net.