

# SJRRP Seepage & Conveyance Technical Feedback Group

**Project Charter**

**Date: 3/22/11**

**Rev. #3**

## ***Project Purpose***

Provide a constructive forum to improve the information exchange, knowledge, and understanding among agencies, water districts, landowners, and Settling Parties regarding Interim and Restoration flows, conveyance, and seepage.

## ***Benefits***

Improved anticipation, resolution, and avoidance of issues and impacts associated with Interim and long-term Restoration flows.

## ***Objectives/Focus***

- Convey Interim and Restoration Flows while avoiding seepage impacts
- Identify locations for projects with potential for seepage impacts
- Identify potential projects that would avoid seepage impacts
- Set evaluation criteria for projects
- Develop a common understanding of the process, procedures and expectations for projects

## ***Core Topics***

- **Data and Information Exchange** – Sharing, reviewing, discussing, and understanding historical and real-time data and information related to flows, stage, groundwater levels, root zone depths, and other topics.
- **Monitoring Plan** – Review and discussion of the location and limitations of existing surface and groundwater monitoring equipment and wells; identification of gaps and actions to improve monitoring activities.
- **Impact Thresholds** – Review, discussion, and identification of impact thresholds, considering surface water flow and stage, groundwater depth, soil condition, crop type, and other factors.
- **Impact Avoidance Actions** – Identification, discussion, and evaluation of actions to avoid or prevent impacts to local landowners, water operations, and flood control of the Interim and long-term Restoration flows.
- **Process for Potential Future Claims**– The claims process for potential future impacts needs definition and clarification as part of further development of the Seepage Management Plan.
- **Process for Identifying and prioritizing Seepage Avoidance Projects**- Review and discussion of potential seepage avoidance projects; developing priority list of projects; development of Seepage Project Handbook; factors involved in moving projects through environmental compliance, approval and financing of projects.

## ***Related Topics***

The following topics are related to the core discussions of the Technical Feedback Group. These topics will not be discussed in the group except as they may be relevant to informing and advancing the purpose and outcomes of the discussions regarding seepage and conveyance.

- **Land Access** – Temporary Entry Permits for private lands is likely to be an important issue for improving the monitoring plan and considering other core topics. The TEP process will be discussed to the extent that it improves the monitoring plan.
- **Claims for Impacts Last Year** – The Technical Feedback Group would not be the forum for addressing or resolving individual landowner's claims. To the extent that information from past

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impacts can help inform future monitoring, thresholds, impact avoidance, and the future claims process, they will be discussed.

- **Reach 4B Flow and Routing Issues** – Studies are underway on this topic, so the best time to coordinate with local interests is now before studies reach conclusions without the benefits of input and discussion with all parties. For now, the Reach 4B studies will be discussed in another forum.
- **Flood Management and Levee Improvements** – Consider and discuss how flood management system could be affected by restoration flows and how flood system improvements could be used to address seepage impacts and other issues.
- **Restoration Administrator and TAC Flow Recommendations** – The 2011 flow recommendations from the RA and TAC will occur in parallel with the work of this TFG.
- **Funding** – Increase understanding of the sources of funds and the likely timing to implement seepage avoidance actions, land acquisition, restoration projects, and flood management.

### ***Deliverables and Major Milestones***

<b>When</b>	<b>What</b>
Mar. 25, 2011	Final Seepage Management Plan
March 18, 2011	Project Locations TM
April 14, 2011	Comments due from Landowners on Project Locations TM
April 14, 2011	Project Site Evaluation TM
May 12, 2011	Comments due from Landowners on Project Site Evaluation TM
May 12, 2011	Project Plan Formulation TM
June 3, 2011	Comments due from Landowners on Project Plan Formulation TM
June 3, 2011	Design Data Collection TM
July 1, 2011	Comments due from Landowners on Design Data Collection TM
July 1, 2011	Design & Environmental Compliance TM
August 5, 2011	Comments due from Landowners on Design and Environmental Compliance TM
August 5, 2011	Construction TM
Sept. 2, 2011	Comments due from Landowners on Construction TM
Sept. 2, 2011	Financial Assistance TM
Sept. 30, 2011	Comments due from Landowners on Financial Assistance TM
Sept. 2011	Update Charter

### ***Meetings & Process***

- Conduct monthly meetings to identify process, procedures and expectations for potential seepage avoidance actions and/or Projects.
- Conference calls between meetings as necessary to exchange specific topical information.
- Invite technical specialists and specific landowners as needed depending on the topic and geographic focus of discussions.

### ***Communications & Decision-making***

- **Communications** – The meeting participants will maintain responsibility for bringing forward issues, concerns, and ideas from their constituents who are not able to attend the meetings and informing and educating constituents of the information and discussions from each meeting.

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- **Decision-making** – Reclamation and its partner agencies maintain decision authority on the implementation of the San Joaquin River Restoration Program. The Technical Feedback Group is a forum for discussion and information exchange and will not be providing joint recommendations to the federal and state agencies or making any decisions regarding program implementation.

### ***Participants***

The Technical Feedback Group meetings are open to the public and will be announced on the SJRRP website ([www.restoresjr.net](http://www.restoresjr.net)). The following are the key participants with subject matter knowledge to contribute to the Technical Feedback Group meetings.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Category</b>
Dave Mooney	Reclamation	Agency
Ali Forsythe	Reclamation	Agency
Stephen Lee	Reclamation	Agency
Katrina Harrison	Reclamation	Agency
Margaret Gidding	Reclamation	Agency
Kevin Faulkenberry	Department of Water Resources	Agency
Paul Romero	Department of Water Resources	Agency
Claire Marie Turner	Army Corps	Agency
Reggie Hill	Lower San Joaquin Levee District	Flood Management
Jay Punia	Central Valley Flood Protection Board	Flood Management
Steve Chedester	Exchange Contractors	Water District
Chris White	Central California Irrigation District	Water District
Randy Houk	Columbia Canal Company	Water District
Chase Hurley	San Luis Canal Company	Water District
Mari Martin	Resource Management Coalition	Landowners
Jim Nickel	Nickel Family Farms	Landowners
Rod Meade	Restoration Administrator	Restoration
Monty Schmitt	NRDC	Settling Parties
Bill Luce	Friant Water Authority	Settling Parties

### ***Completion Criteria***

- Prioritized list of seepage avoidance actions
- Identify process for seepage avoidance projects

### ***Charter Update***

- Review and update Charter in September 2011