

# SJRRP Seepage & Conveyance Technical Feedback Group

**Project Charter**

**Date: 12/16/10**

**Rev. #1**

## ***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 issues.

## ***Benefits***

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

## ***Objectives/Focus***

- Develop an improved Seepage Management Plan before implementing spring Interim Flows (March 2011).
- Identify and evaluate actions to avoid seepage impacts.
- Clarify future claims process.

## ***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.

## ***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.

- **Access and Acquisition**– 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 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.

# SJRRP Seepage & Conveyance Technical Feedback Group

- **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.
- **Funding** – Increase understanding of the sources of funds and the likely timing to implement seepage avoidance actions, restoration projects, and flood management.

## *Deliverables and Major Milestones*

When	What
Dec. 17, 2010	Monitoring Well Atlas
Jan. 10, 2010	Comments due on monitoring locations and potential / historical seepage locations
Jan. 10, 2010	Draft Thresholds
Jan. 31, 2010	Comments due on draft thresholds
Jan. 31, 2010	Draft Operations forms – Bench Evaluation, Daily Flow Evaluation, Seepage Hotline
Feb. 18, 2010	Draft Seepage Monitoring and Management Plan
Mar. 1, 2010	Comments due on draft operations forms
Mar. 1, 2010	Responses to threshold comments
Mar. 11, 2010	Final Seepage Monitoring and Management Plan

## *Meetings & Process*

- Three to five half-day meetings between December 2010 and March 2011.
- 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.
- **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.

Name	Organization	Category
Jason Phillips	Reclamation	Agency
Dave Mooney	Reclamation	Agency
Stephen Lee	Reclamation	Agency
Ali Forsythe	Reclamation	Agency

## SJRRP Seepage & Conveyance Technical Feedback Group

Margaret Gidding	Reclamation	Agency
Kevin Faulkenberry	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***

- Complete 2011 Seepage Management Plan
- Prioritized list of seepage avoidance actions
- Claims process description