



# Meeting Notes

## Water Management Technical Feedback

### Thursday December 13, 2012

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*University Square Hotel, Fresno, CA*  
*DRAFT: 2012.1213*

#### **Attendees**

Dan Vink, LTRID  
Beth Wrege, NOAA  
Steve Ottemoeller, FWA  
Mike Day, Provost & Prichard  
Dick Moss, Provost & Prichard  
Rena Ballew, Reclamation  
Bill Luce, FWA  
Fergus Morrissey, OCID  
Michael Hagman, LID  
Ron Jacobsma, FWA

Paul Hendrix, Tulare ID  
Mark Larson, Kaweah-Delta  
Doug Welch, CWD  
Dale Brogan, DEID  
Ernie Taylor, DWR  
Mario Manzo, Reclamation  
Dave Mooney, Reclamation  
John Roldan, MWH  
Jeff Payne, MWH

#### **On the phone:**

Peter Vorster, TBI  
Steve Collup, AEWSD  
Nick Zaninovich, Reclamation  
Rod Meade, SJRRP Restoration Administrator

#### **Next Meetings**

Friday, April 12, 2013, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Lamp Lighter Inn, Visalia, CA

Friday, July 19, 2013

Friday, October 18, 2013

#### **Comments on Meeting Notes**

No comments were made.

#### **Water Supply Briefing**

Nick Zaninovich with SCCAO provided the current water supply conditions on the San Joaquin River.

#### **Interim Flow Releases and Accounting**

Dave Mooney provided an update on the Restoration Goal implementation. Topics included:

- Framework for Implementation.
- Dave showed gage flows from CDEC along the San Joaquin River. Flows at GRF are low relative to target by approximately 40 cfs, and low at San Mateo.
- Interim flow operations are adjusting to the presence of salmon redds in the San Joaquin River. Coordination has been challenging, and regular meetings are held and open to participation. Redds exist within a few miles of Friant Dam.

- Seepage management still presents a challenge for flows below Sack Dam, so flows are being picked up at Mendota Pool. Operations at Mendota Pool must be coordinated with water quality issues and demand for water.
- Seals have been installed by DWR at the Chowchilla Bypass Flood Control structure which created harmonic vibrations during previous high flows. Gates have been repaired, and were ready for fall pulse. Reclamation and Settling Parties are discussing what to do with water that was not released to accommodate repairs on Chowchilla Bypass Flood Control Structure.
- Steps for releasing flows from Friant Dam include,
  - Assessment of seepage concerns. Reclamation is evaluating Eastside Bypass Easements, 6 interceptor projects, and various realty acquisitions
  - Levee stability. A multi-agency team evaluates safe channel capacity
  - Monitoring and Analysis Plan. Adult Fall-Run translocation Study has been in the press recently. Long-term scientific formulation has been discussed with Technical Advisory Committee, expected this coming summer.
- Subsidence has been detected up to 0.5 feet per year along the length of the San Joaquin River, which creates challenges in designing levees, fish screens, and other features of the Restoration projects. Reclamation has begun communicating with the Exchange Contractors to see how groundwater pumping may be connected to surface water. Subsidence poses a large problem for the viability of the flood control system.
- Reclamation has completed a Floodplain Habitat Requirement TM, which is available on the SJRRP website.
- It could cost between \$1-5 million per structure to provide continuous passage at structures on the San Joaquin River. There are 30 structures that potentially need some passage modifications and, because of the cost, Reclamation is evaluating the need for passage at each.
- Site specific projects
  - Modification of Arroyo Canal and Sack Dam may go to bid in 2013 or early 2014. Adjustments for the project depend on Henry Miller Reclamation District's preferences for both the dam and subsidence. Subsidence data is expected by January, and the District will make final decisions.
  - Reach 2B and Mendota Pool Bypass projects are down to two alternatives: construct bypass channel or relocate Mendota Pool into Fresno Slough. Potential water delivery alignments are also being considered for delivery to Mendota Pool from the San Joaquin River. Reclamation hopes to present final set of alternatives to land owners, agencies and Settling Parties for discussion.
  - Reach 4B, Eastside and Mariposa bypass projects are not as far along as Reach 2B. Perhaps 6 months out from having a discussion of alternatives.
- Next-steps: Final Design. Construction data collection and property acquisition will need to begin shortly to expedite construction.
- Fish Reintroduction. Broodstock has been selected and are being held at a UC Davis lab. NMFS is working on permitting, and DFG is working on the San Joaquin Conservation and Research Facility (SCARF).

## **Recovered Water Account**

Mario Manzo discussed the Recovered Water Account (RWA) methodology, balances, database and standard operating procedures. Discussion included:

- Database information will be made available to the Friant Division contractors for review. Database includes balances and transaction history. Mario committed to sending this out on Friday, December 14, 2012.
- Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for RWA will be kicked off following completion of Recirculation and Recapture SOP.
- Peter Vorster and Steve Collup gave a brief update on the methodology. Dave Mooney refined the model/tool that is being used, but further coordination on Peter/Steve's side is required to finalize their review.
- Mario gave a brief overview of cumulative RWA balances for the previous 4 years.

## **Restoration Flow Guidelines**

Mario Manzo discussed steps for moving forward with the Restoration Flow Guidelines (RFG) in 2013. Discussion included:

- Scheduled completion by January 1, 2014.
- Priorities for developing chapters were listed.
- December meeting has been suspended.

## **Recapture & Recirculation**

Mario Manzo opened discussion on Recapture and Recirculation. Discussion included:

- Overview graphic for 2012 Recapture and Recirculation was discussed. The graphic was clarified: losses were not incorporated into the numbers.
- Reclamation's Water Management contract will help develop a Recapture/Recirculation SOP to streamline transfers.
- Districts noted they are anxious to see processes expedited (i.e. taking too long to meet water supply needs).

## **Friant-Kern and Madera Canal Capacity Restoration Feasibility Study**

Mario Manzo gave updates on the Friant-Kern and Madera canals Capacity Restoration, including:

- Friant-Kern Canal hydraulic model has been updated, and fewer bridges require removal. The Biological Opinion, Programmatic Agreement, and Cooperative Agreement are expected shortly.
- Demonstration projects for the Madera Canal would be initiated in 2013 to identify issues and test strategies for addressing the issues discovered. The purpose of the project is to help formulate alternatives for the Feasibility Study on the Madera Canal.

## **Lecture Series – Investment Strategy**

Mario, John Roldan and Jeff Payne presented the approach being formulated for the SJRRP Investment Strategy. The group expressed concern that this process should not replace the Recapture/Recirculation Plan. Water Users Workshops will be held to provide additional background on the study and gather input from the water users on evaluation criteria and potential projects.

**-Meeting Adjourned-**