

Long-Term Recapture and Recirculation of Restoration Flows Environmental Impact Statement



Public Scoping Meeting

Sacramento

Monday, August 10
1:00–3:00 p.m.
USBR
2800 Cottage Way
Café Conf. Room C-1002

Tulare

Tuesday, August 11
6:00–8:00 p.m.
Tulare International
Agriculture Center
4500 S. Laspina Street

Fresno

Wednesday, August 12
6:00-8:00 p.m.
Fresno Hotel &
Conference Center
2233 Ventura Street

Los Banos

Thursday, August 13
6:00-8:00 p.m.
College Greens Rental
1815 Scripps Drive



Overview

- Introductions
- Overview of the Long-term Recapture and Recirculation Program
- Planning and Environmental Compliance Process
- Project Schedule
- Next Steps

INTRODUCTIONS



Who We Are

- Bureau of Reclamation, SJRRP
 - National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Lead Agency
 - Traci Michel, Water Management Goal Supervisor
 - Erika Kegel, Recapture & Recirculation Project Manager
 - Kellye Kennedy, NEPA Project Manager
 - Rebecca Victorine, Environmental Compliance Manager
- CDM Smith
 - NEPA Consultant Team
 - Benjamin Swann, Project Manager
 - Chris Park, Project Planner

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Settlement Background

- 1942 Friant Dam completed
- 1988 Lawsuit filed challenging Reclamation's renewal of the long-term contracts with Friant Division contractors
- 2004 Federal Judge rules Reclamation violated Section 5937 of the California Fish and Game Code
- 2005 Settlement negotiations reinitiated
- 2006 Settlement reached; implementation begins
- 2009 Federal legislation enacted (PL 111-11); Interim Flow releases began October 1
- 2014 Full Restoration Flow releases began in January





Settlement Goals

- **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.

- **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 Actions

- **Release of Restoration Flows from Friant Dam (Settlement Paragraph 13)**
 - Interim Flows started October 2009
 - Restoration Flows Guidelines completed in 2013
- **San Joaquin River channel and structural improvements (Settlement Paragraph 11)**
 - Mendota Pool Bypass
 - Reach 2B Improvements
 - Reach 4B channel and structural improvements
 - Arroyo Canal Fish Screen and Sack Dam Fish Passage
- **Reintroduction spring-run and fall-run Chinook salmon (Settlement Paragraph 14)**



Water Management Goal Actions

- **Settlement Paragraph 16 Actions**
 - Recirculate, recapture, reuse, exchange or transfer Restoration Flows
 - Recovered Water Account program
- **Settlement Act Projects**
 - Friant-Kern and Madera Canals Capacity Restoration
 - Friant-Kern Canal Reverse Flow Pump-Back Facilities
 - Financial assistance for local groundwater projects





Programmatic EIS/R

- **Final PEIS/R and Record of Decision completed in 2012**
 - Analyzed and disclosed the potential impacts of implementing the Preferred Alternative – C1
- **Project-level Actions**
 - Recapture at existing facilities in the Restoration Area and in the Delta
- **Program-level Actions**
 - Recapture at existing facilities between the Merced River and the Delta
 - New recapture facility between Merced River and Vernalis – Up to 1,000 cfs



Completed Recapture and Recirculation Activities

- **Draft Plan for the Recirculation, Recapture, Reuse, Exchange, or Transfer of Interim and Restoration Flows, February 2011**
- **Multiple Environmental Assessments (EAs) for actions to support short-term recapture and recirculation of Restoration Flows, since 2010**
- **Restoration Flows halted due to critically dry conditions, February 2014**
- **Water Management Goal Investment Strategy, April 2015**



Purpose and Need

Purpose

Help achieve the SJRRP Water Management Goal to reduce or avoid water supply impacts to the Friant Contractors that may result from releasing Restoration Flows provided for in the Settlement.

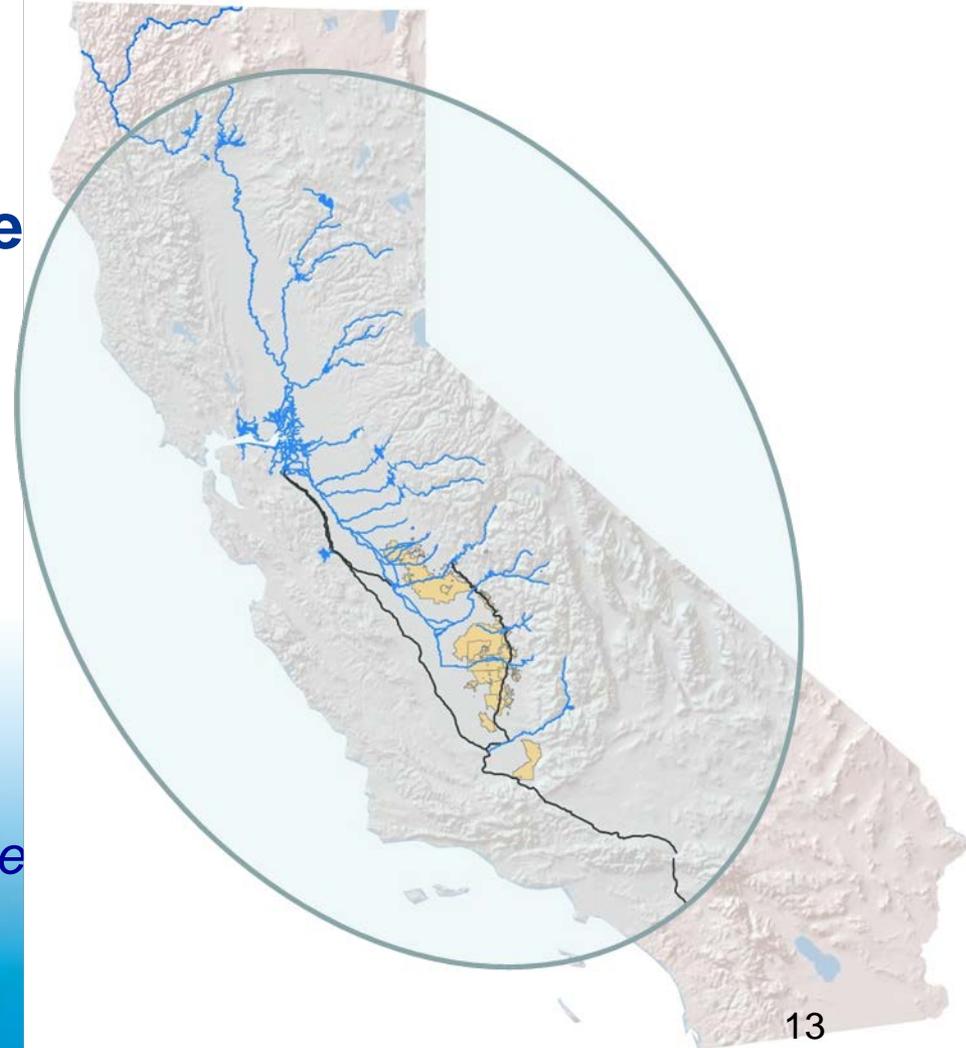
Need

To satisfy the requirements of Paragraph 16(a) of the Settlement, which directs the Secretary of the Interior to develop and implement a plan for recirculation, recapture, reuse, exchange or transfer of the Restoration Flows.

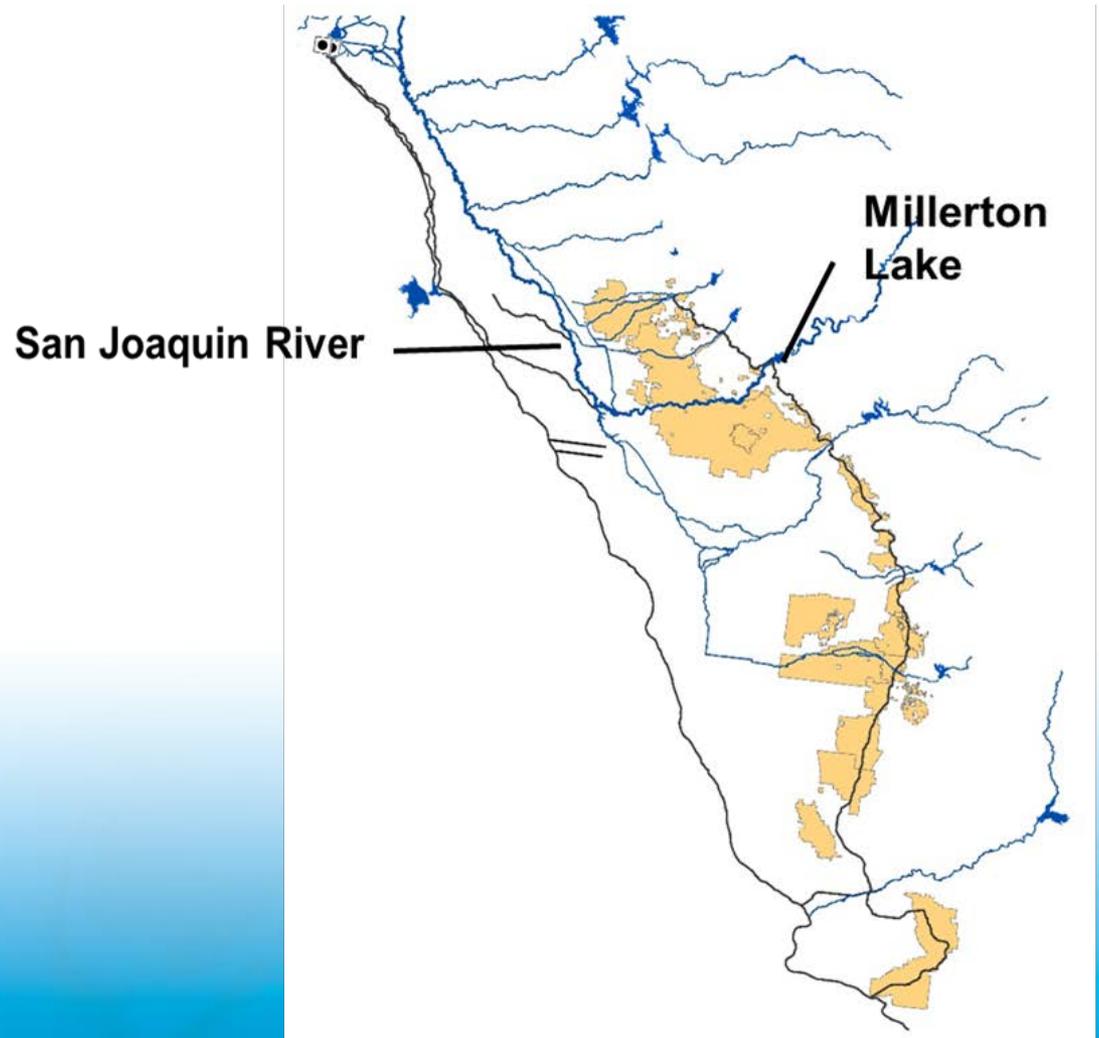
Potential Study Area

- **Friant Division service area**
- **Recapture and Recirculation conveyance areas**
- **Other potential SWP and CVP areas affected by Recapture and Recirculation actions**
- **Other areas identified during scoping**

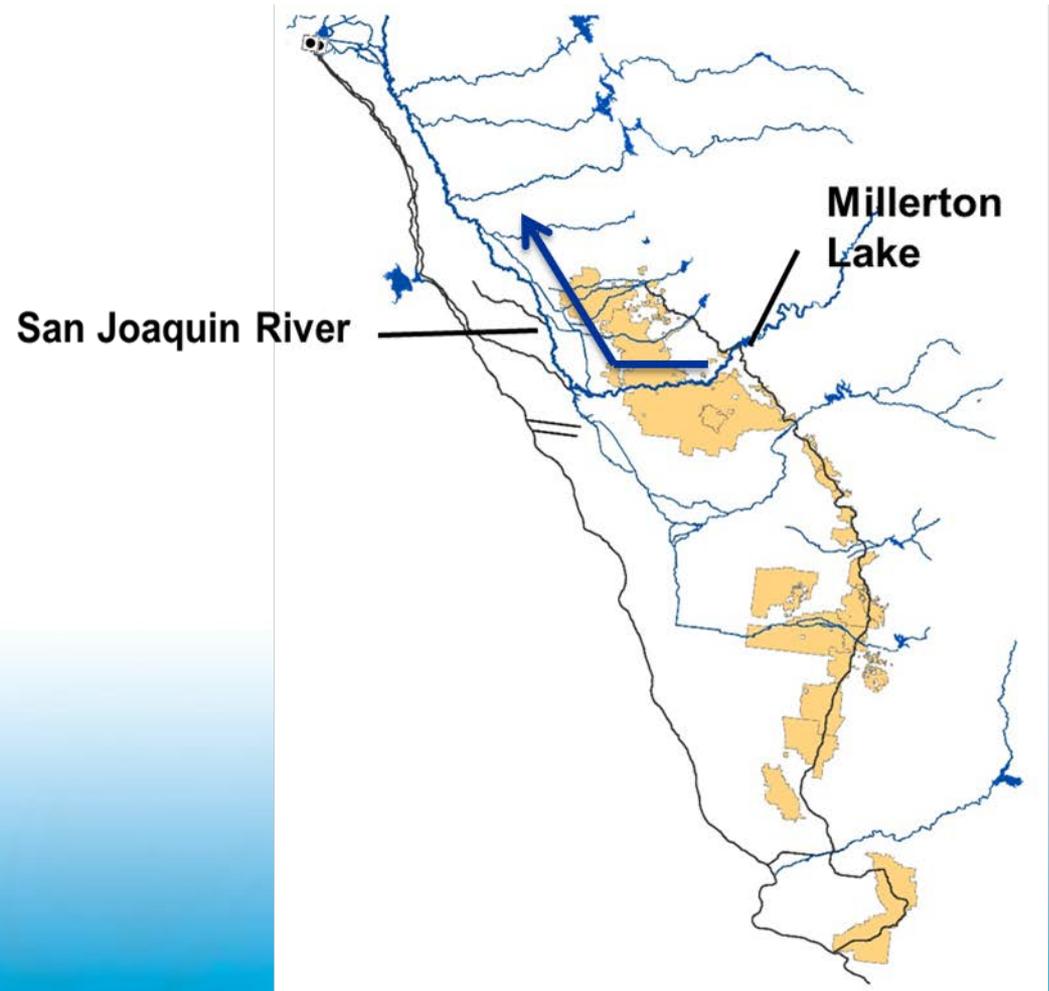
Study Area could be reduced as the initial options are screened and refined



Recapture Area



Recapture Flow Direction



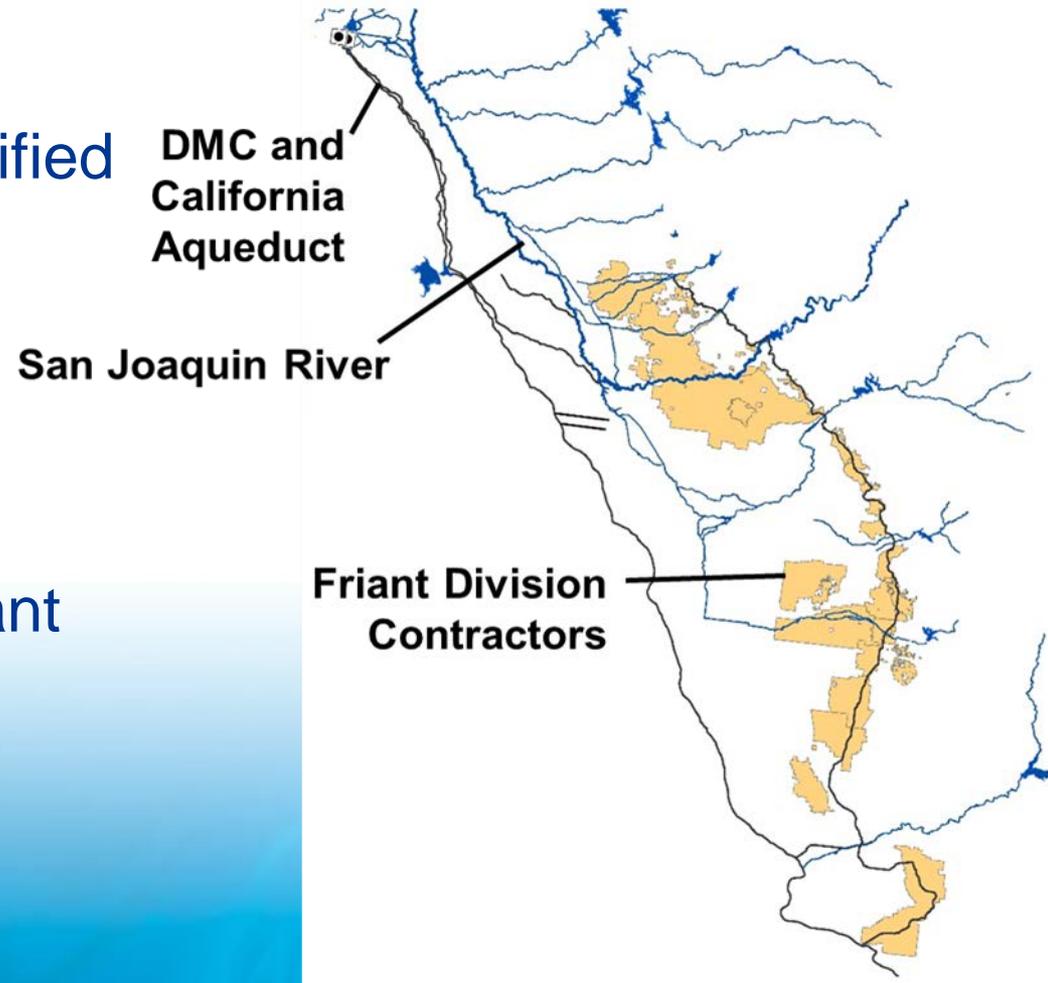
Concepts Under Consideration

- **Recapture**

- Existing, New or Modified Facilities
- Delta & Lower San Joaquin River
- SJRRP Area

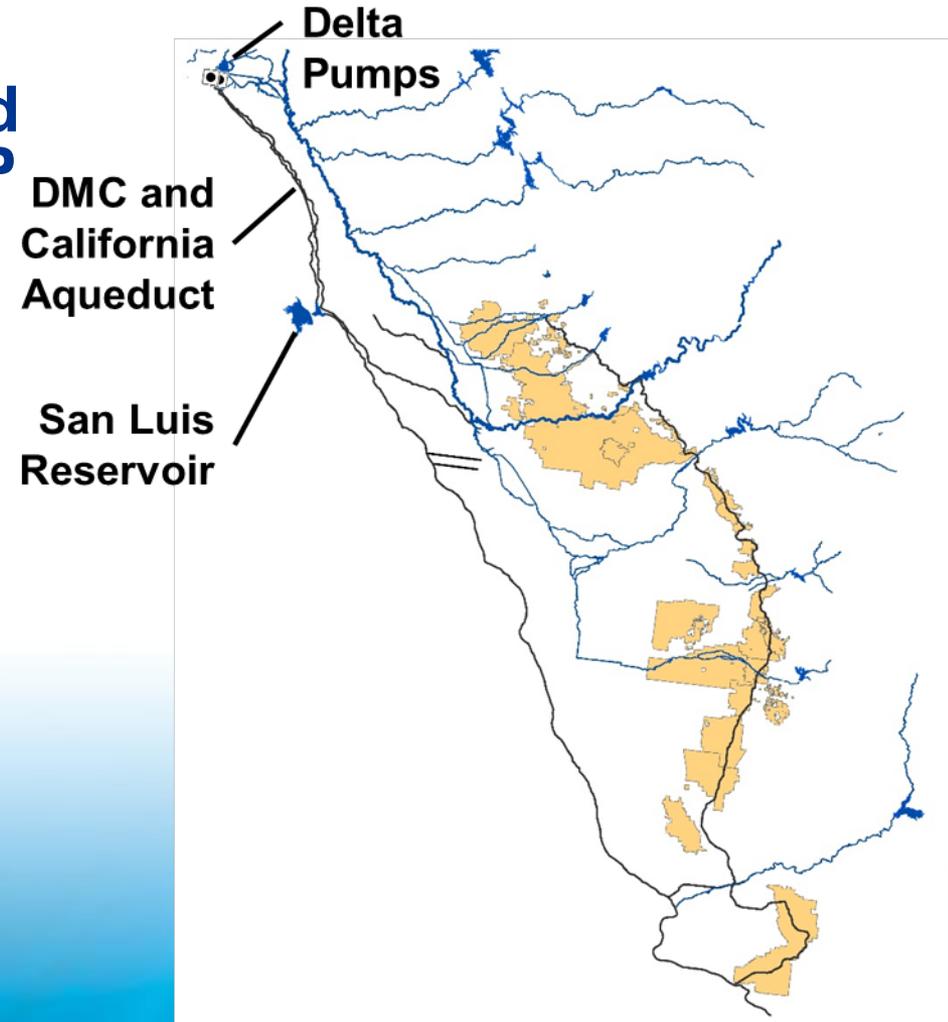
- **Recirculation**

- Direct Delivery to Friant Division Contractors
- Transfers/Exchanges



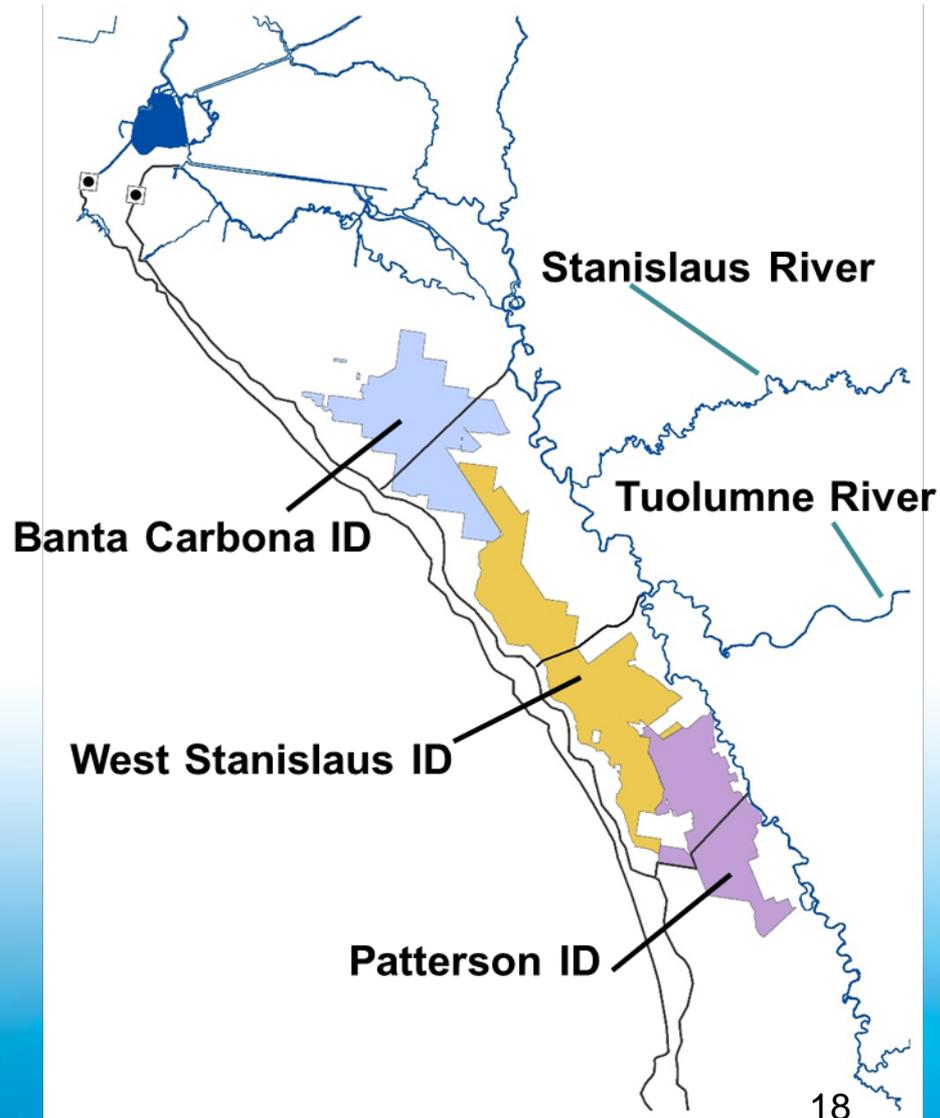
Delta Recapture

- Existing facilities analyzed at a project level in SJRRP PEIS/R
- Restoration Flows recaptured and conveyed to San Luis Reservoir via DMC and California Aqueduct
- Considered in combination with other new Recapture and Recirculation options



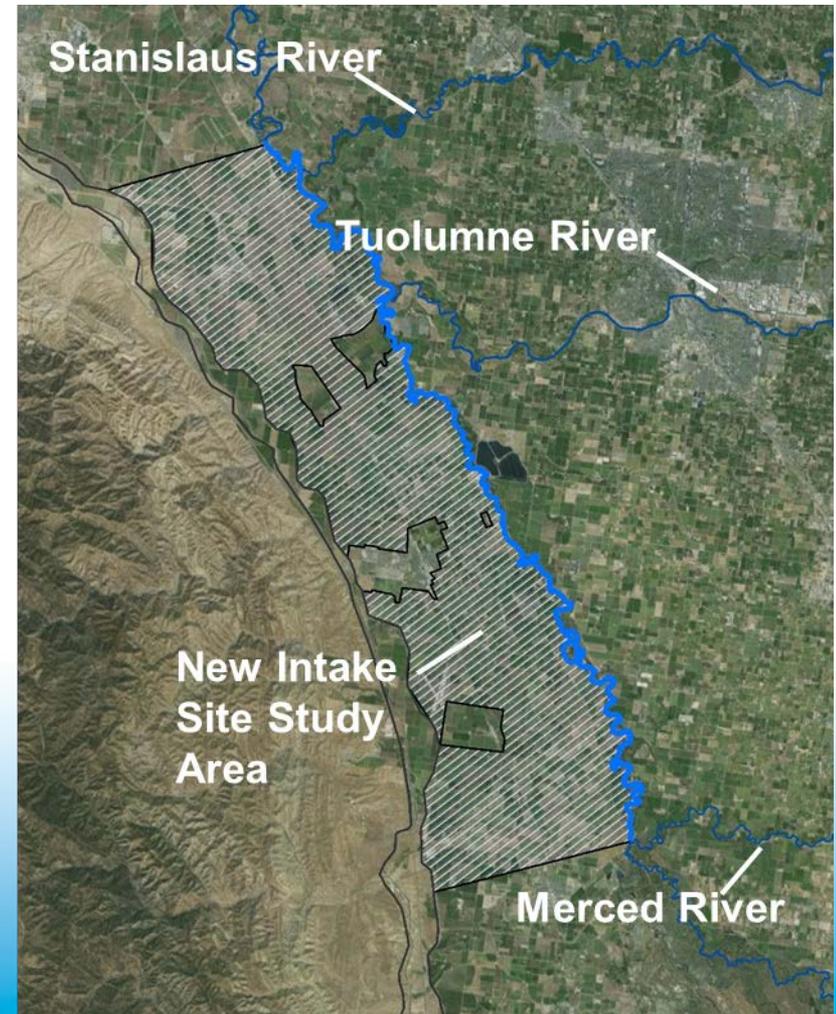
Lower SJR Recapture – Existing Facilities

- **Utilize capacity in existing diversion and conveyance facilities**
 - Banta Carbona ID
 - West Stanislaus ID
 - Patterson ID
- **Restoration Flows conveyed from diversion to DMC**
- **Evaluate capacity available and potential expansion**



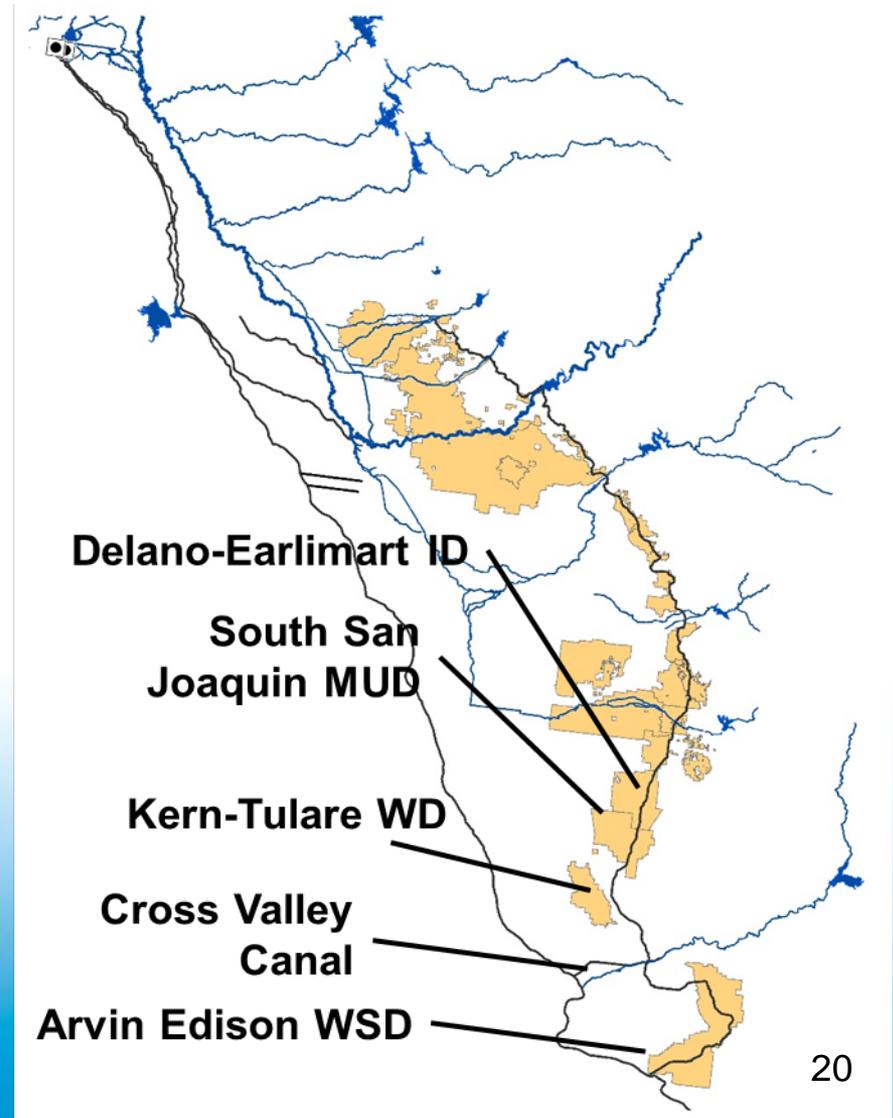
Lower SJR Recapture – New Recapture Facility

- **Between Merced and Stanislaus Rivers**
- **1000 cfs diversion with conveyance to the DMC**
- **Exploring potential diversion and conveyance locations based on land use, river conditions, and environmental sensitivities.**



Direct Recirculation

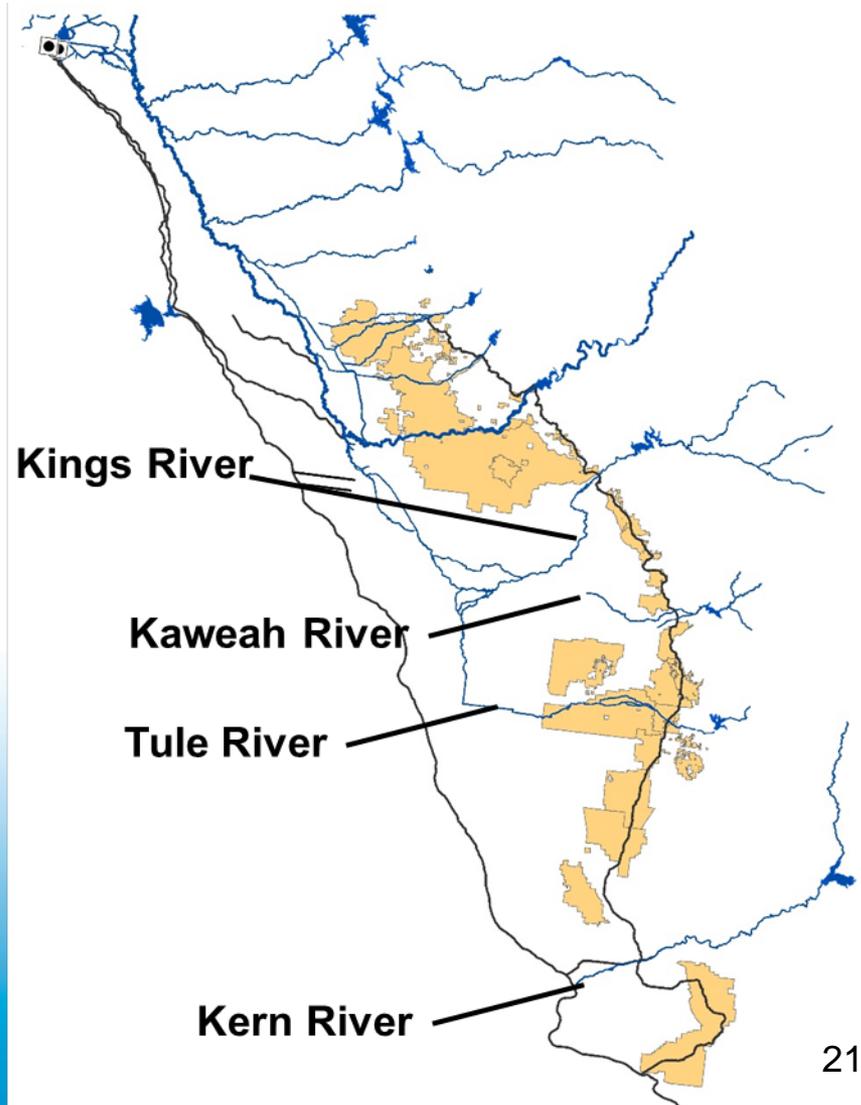
- **Direct delivery to southern Friant Division Contractors**
 - Arvin Edison WSD turnout
 - Cross Valley Canal
 - Friant Kern Canal reverse flow



Transfers/Exchanges

Transfers/Exchanges

- Water Districts with access to Westside and Eastside supplies
- Recaptured Restoration Flows delivered at California Aqueduct turnouts
- Exchanged for non-CVP water from Kings, Kaweah, Tule, Kern Rivers



PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

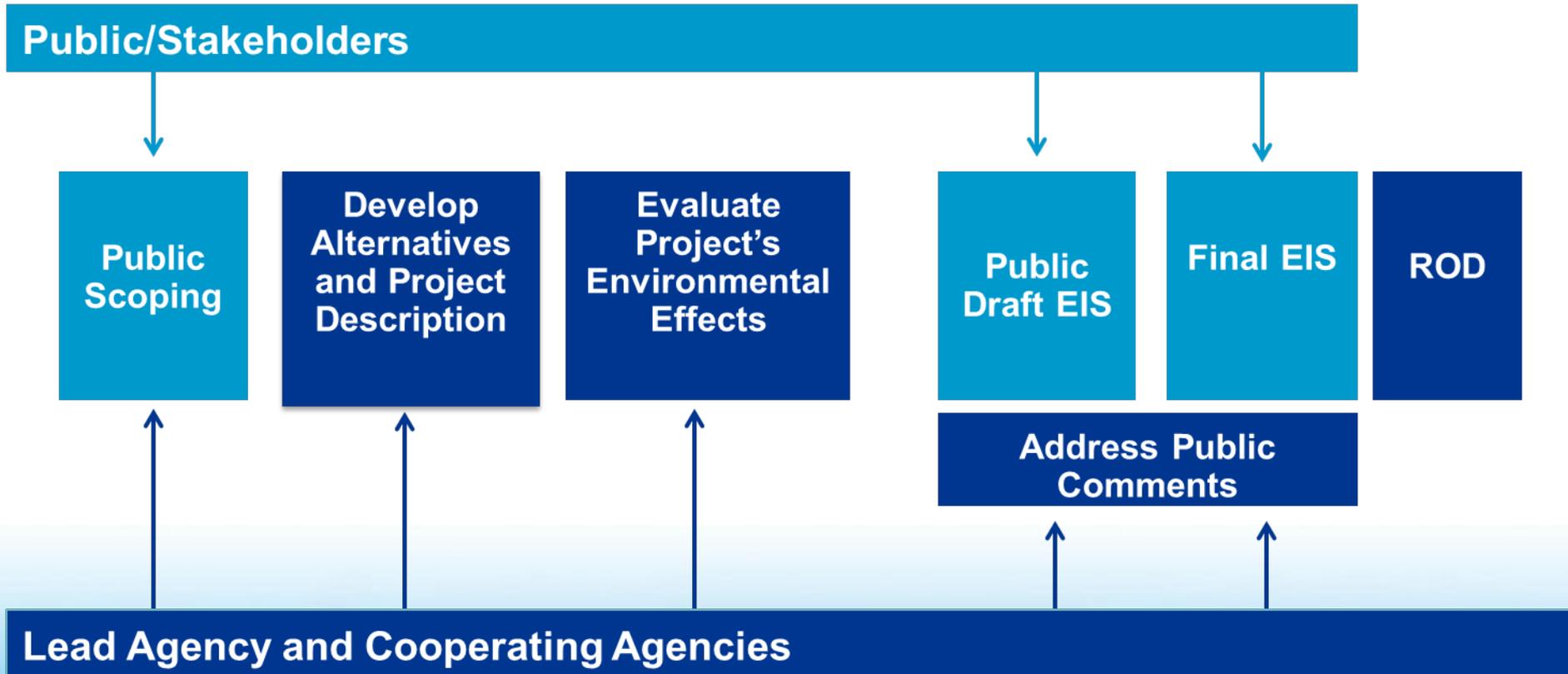


NEPA Overview

Purpose of NEPA and Environmental Review

- Requires Federal agencies to evaluate future consequences (+ and –) of decisions
- Public review of agency decision making process
- Requires an agency to evaluate reasonable range of project alternatives
- Public disclosure of a project's potential impacts and mitigation
- Minimum 45-day review period for EIS's

EIS Development



Public Scoping

What is Public Scoping

Invites agencies, stakeholders, and the interested public to participate in the environmental review process.

Scoping helps to identify and refine potential:

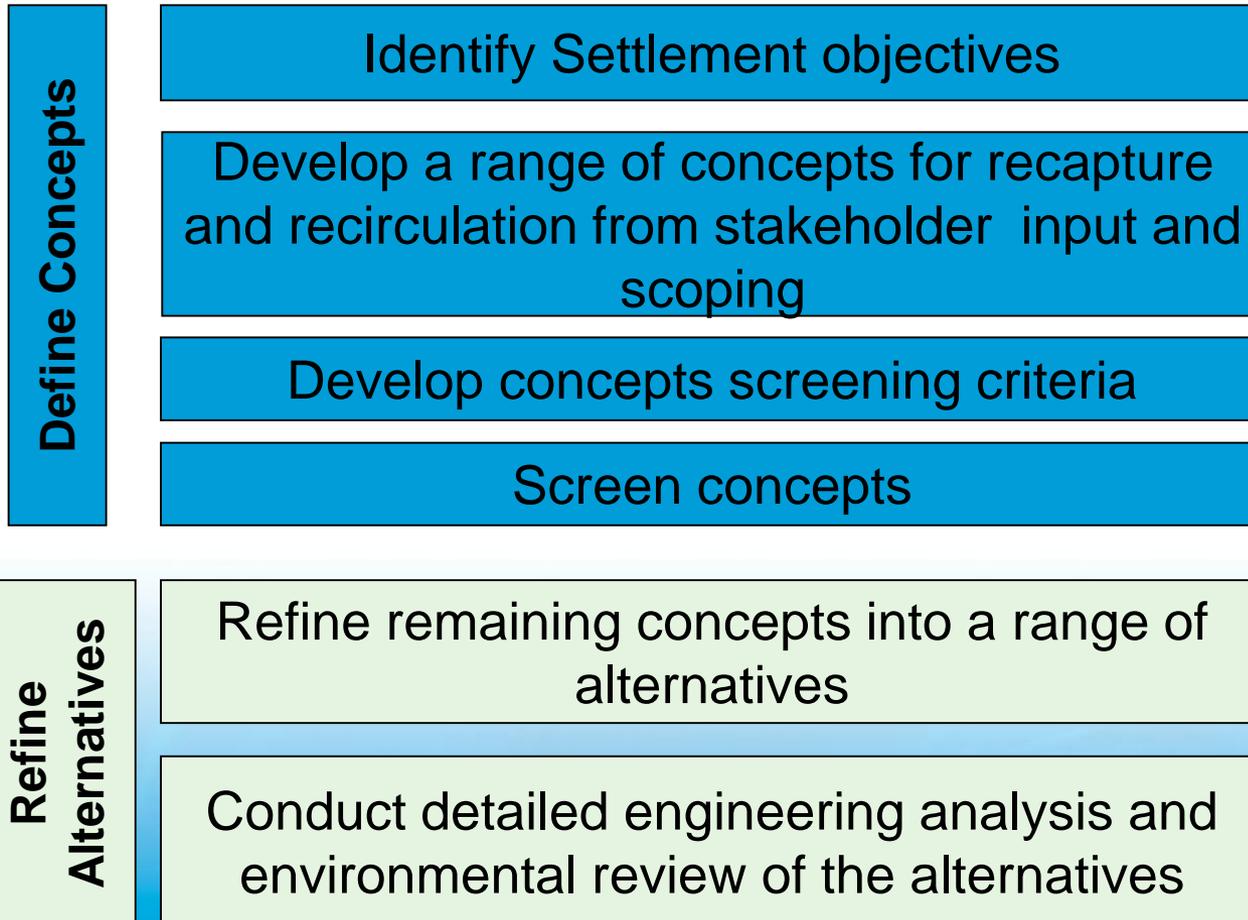
- Options and alternatives
- Environmental impacts
- Mitigation measures



Alternatives Formulation

- **Use NEPA process to identify and analyze a reasonable set of project alternatives**
- **Develop “bookends” of alternative effects to provide flexibility**
- **Alternatives will be identified through:**
 - Published studies
 - Scoping comments
 - Settling Parties
 - Workshops

Formulation Process



PROJECT SCHEDULE

Schedule and Milestones



NEXT STEPS



How to Comment

- Provide oral comments to the court reporter
- Fill out a comment card and return it to the comment box
- By **August 27, 2015**, mail comments to the address on the back of the comment card; or mail or email a letter to the contact information below:

Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Region
2800 Cottage , MP-170
Sacramento, CA 95825

Attention: Kellye Kennedy
Telephone: (916) 978-4640
Email: kkennedy@usbr.gov