

Settlement Requirements

After more than 18 years of litigation challenging the renewal of long-term water service contracts between the United States and Friant Division contractors, the Natural Resources Defense Council, Friant Water Authority, and the U.S. Departments of the Interior and Commerce, agreed on the terms and conditions of a Settlement on October 23, 2006. The San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act authorizes and directs the Secretary of the Interior to implement the Settlement. The Settlement establishes two primary 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 (Friant Contractors) that may result from the Interim Flows and Restoration Flows provided for in the Settlement.

To contribute to achieving the Water Management Goal, Settlement Paragraph 16 (a) requires a plan for recirculation, recapture, reuse, exchange, or transfer of water from Restoration Flows to reduce or avoid impacts to water deliveries to all of the Friant Contractors caused by the release of Restoration Flows.

Environmental Scoping Process:



We need your help in determining the scope of issues to be addressed in the Long-term Recapture and Recirculation of Restoration Flows Environmental Impact Statement. Please share your knowledge and input on:

- Potentially affected study area
- Alternatives to be considered
- Study constraints
- Interested parties
- Potential effects to the human environment
- Local information and geographic-specific knowledge
- Any other issues regarding the proposed action

Project Timeline

This project time line includes target deadlines for major project milestones and is subject to change.

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| 2015 | Publish Notice of Intent (NOI) |
| | Conduct Public Scoping Process* (WE ARE HERE) |
| | Issue Scoping Report |
| | Identify and Develop Alternatives |
| 2016 | Develop Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) |
| 2017 | Release Public Draft EIS |
| | Conduct Public Comment Period on the Draft EIS* |
| | Prepare and Release Final EIS |
| 2018 | Issue Record of Decision (ROD) |
| | Begin Permitting |
| | Develop Final Engineering and Design |

*Denotes opportunities for public comment

Purpose and Need



The release of Restoration Flows reduces annual water deliveries to Friant Division long-term contractors (Friant Contractors).

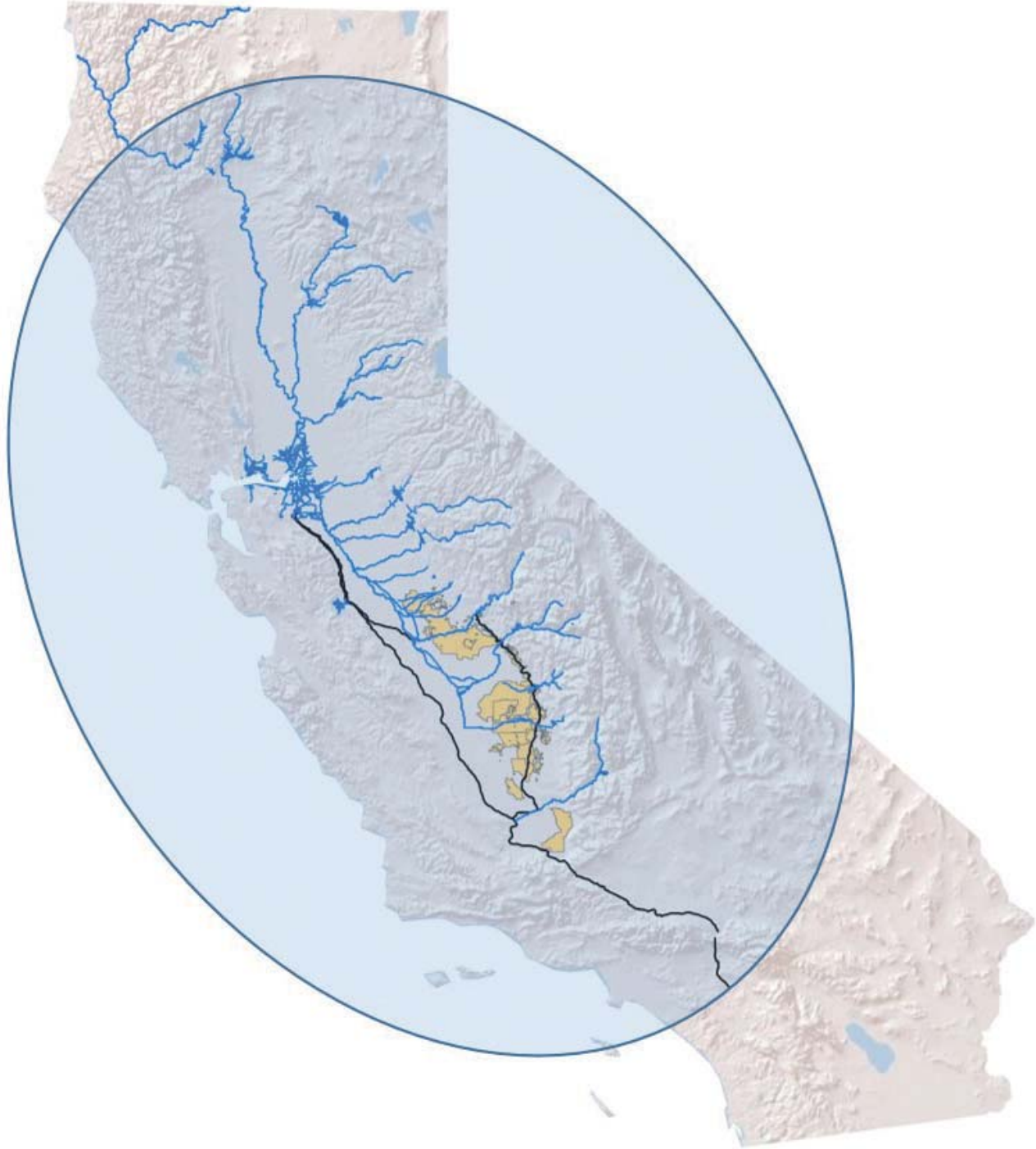
The 2012 San Joaquin River Restoration Program Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report (PEIS/R) and subsequent environmental analyses (EAs) analyzed and disclosed the potential effects of recapturing and recirculating Interim and Restoration Flows using existing facilities in the Restoration Area and the Delta. The PEIS/R recognized that additional conveyance and

storage capacity may be necessary to increase Friant Contractors' ability to receive recaptured and recirculated Restoration Flows. The purpose of the proposed action is to contribute to implementing the Settlement Water Management Goal which calls for the recapture, recirculation, reuse, exchange, or transfer of Restoration Flows to reduce or avoid impacts to water deliveries to all of the Friant Contractors caused by the release of Restoration Flows. This planning and environmental compliance effort is intended to identify, analyze and disclose the potential impacts of elements of a long-term Plan beyond those already addressed in the PEIS/R and subsequent EAs.

Project Alternative Elements

- Recapture - Alternatives may include diverting Restoration Flows in the lower San Joaquin River by expanding existing facilities or constructing new facilities. Different potential recapture locations may alter the amount of water available for recirculation.
- Recirculation - Recirculation is the conveyance of water from where it is recaptured to the point of delivery for the Friant Contractors.
 - Recirculation could be accomplished by directly recirculating Restoration flows from the lower San Joaquin River or the Delta to Friant Contractors, or through various water transfers and/or water exchanges.
 - Recirculation elements of potential alternatives could consider using existing CVP, SWP, and local facilities or modifying existing facilities or constructing new facilities such as canals or pumping stations.
 - Recirculation elements of potential alternatives could also involve non-Friant Contractors, based on willing participants.

Study Area



Resource Areas that have the Potential to be Affected

The Long-term Recapture and Recirculation of Restoration Flows Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will investigate construction-related impacts associated with recapture and conveyance facilities and operations-related impacts from recirculating the water.

The proposed action has the potential to affect the following resources:

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural resources
- Air quality
- Biological resources, including wetlands and rare and sensitive plant and animal species
- Cultural and paleontological resources
- Environmental justice
- Flood control and protection
- Geology and soils
- Indian trust assets
- Land use
- Mineral resources
- Noise
- Operations and water supply
- Public utilities and power consumption
- Recreation
- Socioeconomics, population and housing
- Transportation and traffic
- Water quality

The EIS will evaluate the potential impacts to these resources for each alternative considered and will identify actions to reduce, avoid or mitigate significant impacts.

Your input is appreciated and valued.



How to Submit Comments

All comments due by August 27, 2015

Tonight:

You may provide written comments by filling out a comment form at this station and return it to the comment box.

By August 27, 2015:

Mail:

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Sacramento, CA 98525

Email:

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