

Attachment B

SCOPING MEETING MATERIALS



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**Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Channel Improvements Project
Public Scoping Meeting
Agenda**

**July 28, 2009, Fresno, CA
July 29, 2009, Firebaugh, CA**

6:00 – 6:15 p.m.: Arrival

Visit the Open House Stations and meet Program staff

6:15 – 6:45 p.m.: Overview Presentation from Program staff

Program staff will provide a description of the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP), the environmental review process, specific activities related to the Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Channel Improvements Project, and conduct a question and answer session

6:45 – 7:30 p.m.: Open House Stations

Visit the Open House Stations and talk with Program staff who can answer questions about the Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Channel Improvements Project, the SJRRP, and how to submit comments

7:30 – 8:00 p.m.: Public Comment Session

If you wish to make a verbal comment, please fill out a Speaker's Card from the Welcome Table and hand it to the Facilitator. Speakers will be called in the order in which cards are submitted with the exception of elected officials, who will be called first

Submitting Written Comments: Submit your written comments by Monday, August 17, 2009 via the following methods:

- Mail a Comment Card to the address printed on the card
- Mail, fax, or email written comments to:

Ms. Margaret Gidding
SJRRP Outreach Coordinator
Bureau of Reclamation
2800 Cottage Way, MP-170
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898
MendotaPoolBypass@restoresjr.net
Fax: 916-978-5469

OR

Mr. Kevin Faulkenberry
CDWR SJRRP Program Manager
California Department of Water Resources
South Central Region Office
3374 E. Shields Avenue
Fresno, CA 93726
faulkenb@water.ca.gov

Thank you for taking time to participate in a public scoping meeting for the Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Channel Improvements Project.

To learn more about the SJRRP and the Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Channel Improvements Project, visit www.restoresjr.net

San Joaquin River Restoration Program



Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Channel Improvements Project

Public Scoping Meetings

July 28, 2009: Fresno
July 29, 2009: Firebaugh



Who We Are

- Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Dept. of Interior
 - **Ali Gasdick**, SJRRP Project Manager
- California Department of Water Resources
 - **Kevin Faulkenberry**, CDWR SJRRP Program Manager
- SJRRP Implementing Agencies



Scoping Meeting Agenda

- 6:15 – 6:45 p.m. Overview Presentation
- 6:45 – 7:30 p.m. Open House Stations
- 7:30 – 8:00 p.m. Public Comment Session



Overview Presentation Agenda

- Overview of the San Joaquin River Settlement
- Mendota Pool Bypass / Reach 2B Channel Improvements Project
 - Project Overview
 - Key Project Components
 - NEPA/ CEQA Process and Upcoming Activities



San Joaquin River Settlement History

- 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 Fish and Game Code
- 2005 Settlement negotiations reinitiated to avoid remedy phase
- 2006 Settlement reached, implementation begins
- 2009 Federal legislation enacted

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.



Settlement Milestones

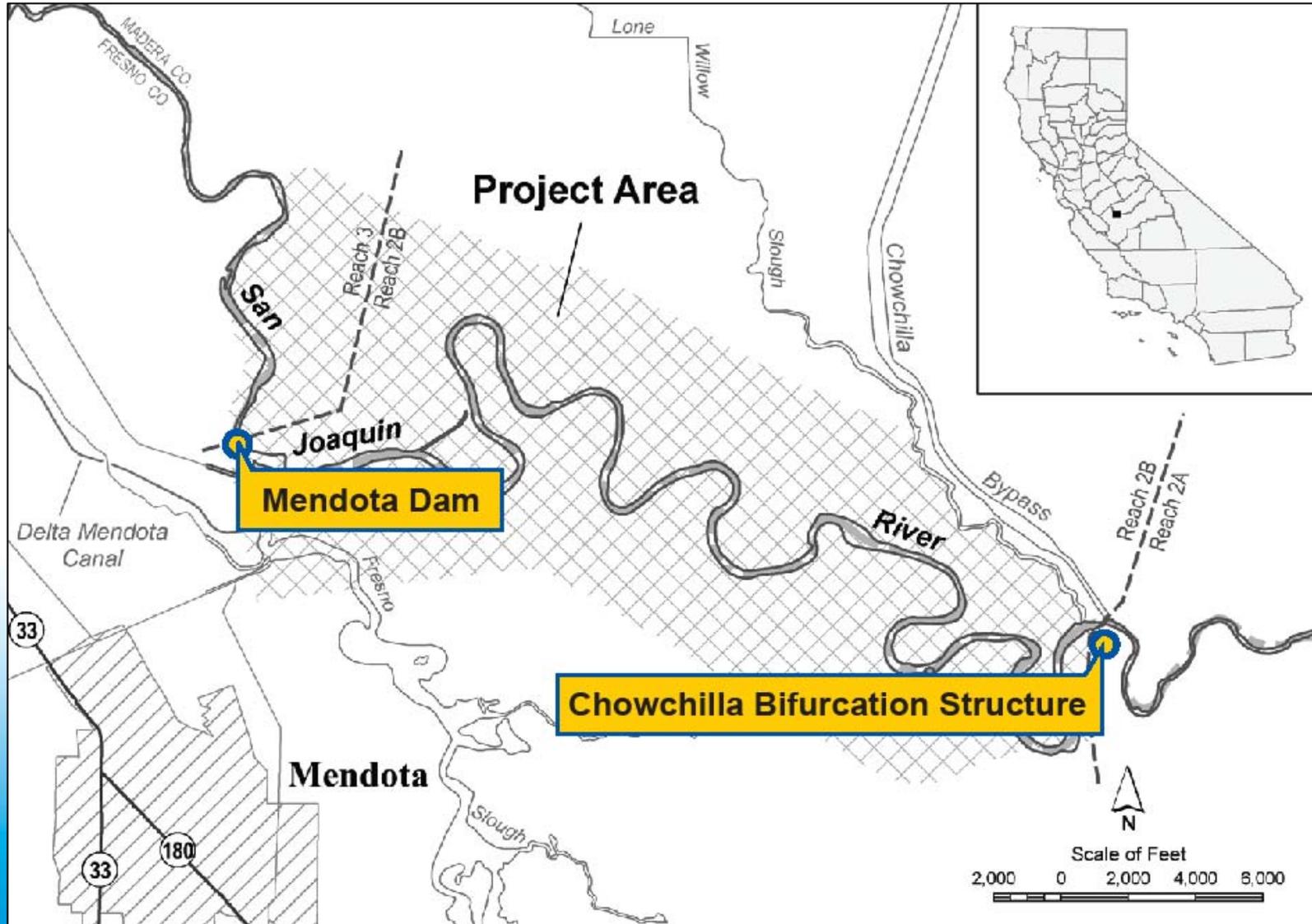
Immediately	Work on planning, design work, and environmental reviews
Oct 2009	Begin Interim Flows
2012	Begin re-introduction of salmon
2013	Complete first phase of channel and habitat improvements
2014	Initiate full Restoration Flows
2016	Complete second phase of channel and habitat improvements



Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Channel Improvements Project

- Mendota Pool Bypass
 - Bypass channel around Mendota Pool to ensure conveyance of at least 4,500 cfs
 - Construction of a structure capable of allowing the Secretary of the Interior to make deliveries of San Joaquin River water to the Mendota Pool when necessary
- Reach 2B Channel Improvements
 - Modifications in channel capacity to ensure conveyance of at least 4,500 cfs in Reach 2B
 - New floodplain and related riparian habitat

Regional Area



Project Area





Mendota Pool Bypass – Key Components

- Could include:
 - Conveyance capacity of at least 4,500 cfs
 - Bifurcation structure at upstream end to:
 - Route flows (and fish) into the new bypass
 - Route flows into the Mendota Pool, if needed
 - New levees or setting back existing levees
 - Relocation of some existing infrastructure
- Specific alignments and designs are being developed and evaluated over the next year



Reach 2B Channel Improvements – Key Components

- Could include:
 - Modifications to river channel from Chowchilla Bifurcation Structure to new Mendota Pool Bypass
 - Conveyance capacity of at least 4,500 cfs
 - Integrated floodplain habitat
 - New levees or setting back existing levees
 - Relocation of some existing infrastructure
- Specific alignments and designs are being developed and evaluated over the next year

NEPA / CEQA Process and Upcoming Activities

- Planning and environmental compliance activities
 - National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
 - California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
 - Initiating preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement / Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR)



Purpose of this “Scoping” Process

- Inform stakeholders/public and responsible agencies about the Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Channel Improvement Project
- Solicit input on **range of issues** (“scope”) to be evaluated in the EIS/EIR
- Solicit input on potential **alternatives** to the Project
- Identify issues of concern sooner rather than later

Purpose and Content of EIS/EIR

- Purpose
 - Provide technically sound information to decision-makers to consider in evaluating the Project
- Content
 - Describe environmental setting
 - Disclose potential environmental impacts
 - Propose measures to reduce, avoid, or mitigate impacts

Open House Stations

- Station 1: Project Process and Timeline
- Station 2: Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Channel Improvements
- Station 3: Comments and Public Involvement

How to Submit Comments

- **Tonight:** Fill out a comment form
- **By Monday, August 17, 2009:**
 - Mail: Ms. Margaret Gidding; 2800 Cottage Way MP-170; Sacramento; CA 95825
 - Email: MendotaPoolBypass@restoresjr.net
 - Fax: 916-978-5469

OR

- Mail: Mr. Kevin Faulkenberry; California Department of Water Resources; South Central Region Office; 3374 E. Shields Ave; Fresno, CA 93726
- Email: faulkenb@water.ca.gov



**Mid-Pacific Region
Sacramento, CA**

**California Department
of Water Resources**

MP-09-086

Media Contacts

Reclamation: Pete Lucero, 916-978-5100, plucero@usbr.gov

DWR: Ted Thomas, 916-653-9712, tthomas@water.ca.gov

For Release On: July 13, 2009

San Joaquin River Restoration Program: Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Channel Improvements Project Public Scoping Meetings

The Bureau of Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) are proposing to prepare a joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR), pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), to evaluate effects of the proposed Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Channel Improvements Project (Proposed Action) under the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP). The Proposed Action is a component of the San Joaquin River Settlement (October 2006) and is located in Madera and Fresno Counties.

The Proposed Action includes the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Mendota Pool Bypass and improvements including the operation and maintenance of the San Joaquin River channel to allow Reach 2B to convey at least 4,500 cubic feet per second (cfs). A 30-day scoping comment period will be held for the Proposed Action from Monday, July 13, to Friday, August 14, 2009. The purpose of public scoping is to solicit comments from interested stakeholders to assist in determining the scope of the EIS/EIR, including the alternatives to be addressed, and to identify the significant environmental issues related to the Proposed Action.

Two public scoping meetings will be held to solicit public input on alternatives, concerns, and issues to be addressed in the EIS/EIR. The two scoping meeting dates are:

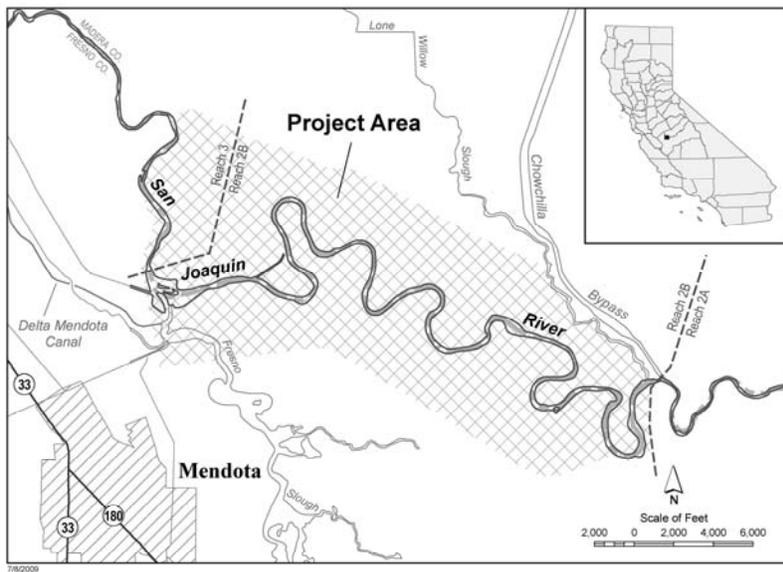
Fresno: Tuesday, July 28, 6-8 p.m., Piccadilly Inn Shaw, 2305 W. Shaw Avenue

Firebaugh: Wednesday, July 29, 6-8 p.m., Firebaugh City Council Chambers, 1659 13th Street

Written comments on the scope of the EIS/EIR and Proposed Action may be submitted at the meetings or by close of business Friday, August 14, 2009, via the following: mail to Ms. Margaret Gidding, Bureau of Reclamation, 2800 Cottage Way, MP-170, Sacramento, CA 95825; fax to 916-978-5469; or e-mail to MendotaPoolBypass@restroresjr.net. Comments may also be submitted to Mr. Kevin Faulkenberry, Department of Water Resources, San Joaquin District, 3374 E. Shields Ave, Fresno, CA 93726, or to e-mail faulkenb@water.ca.gov.

- more -

The proposed Mendota Pool Bypass would include a bypass around the Mendota Pool to convey at least 4,500 cfs around the Mendota Pool and re-connect with the San Joaquin River downstream of Mendota Dam. The Proposed Action could also include constructing a bifurcation structure at the upper end of the bypass to convey flows into the Mendota Pool Bypass. The proposed Mendota Bypass Bifurcation Structure would be designed to divert water from the San Joaquin River to the Mendota Pool, consistent with the design channel capacity of Reach 2B that conveys flows to the Mendota Pool. The bifurcation structure would be designed to direct fish into the bypass channel and minimize or avoid fish passage into the Mendota Pool. Specific bypass alignments and facilities locations will be determined through the course of this site-specific study.



Reach 2B of the San Joaquin River extends from the Chowchilla Bypass Bifurcation Structure to the Mendota Dam. Proposed improvements to Reach 2B would include modifications to the San Joaquin River channel from the Chowchilla Bypass Bifurcation Structure to the new Mendota Bypass Bifurcation Structure to provide a capacity of at least 4,500 cfs incorporating new floodplain and riparian habitat. Specific channel modification actions would be determined through the course of this site-specific study. These actions could consider, but may not be limited to, fisheries

requirements, land uses, subsurface conditions, topography, and the condition of existing levees.

The planning and environmental review for the Proposed Action is authorized under Section 3406(c)(1) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act and the San Joaquin River Restoration Act included in Public Law 111-11. Construction of the Proposed Action is authorized under the San Joaquin River Restoration Act (Public Law 111-11).

To learn more about the SJRRP, please visit www.restoresjr.net.

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Reclamation is the largest wholesale water supplier and the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the United States, with operations and facilities in the 17 Western States. Its facilities also provide substantial flood control, recreation, and fish and wildlife benefits. Visit our website at <http://www.usbr.gov>.

The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs. Visit our website at <http://www.water.ca.gov>.



**Mid-Pacific Region
Sacramento, CA**



**California Department
of Water Resources**

Contactos con los medios de comunicación:

Reclamation: Pete Lucero, 916-978-5100, plucero@usbr.gov

DWR: Ted Thomas, 916-653-9712, tthomas@water.ca.gov

Para su divulgación el: 13 de julio, 2009

Programa de Restauración del Río San Joaquín: Reuniones con la Participación del Público para determinar el alcance del Proyecto de Derivación del Mendota Pool y Mejoras al Canal del Tramo 2B

El Departamento de Administración de Recursos Hidráulicos de los Estados Unidos (*Bureau of Reclamation*) y el Departamento de Recursos de Agua de California (*California Department of Water Resources, DWR*) proponen la preparación conjunta de una Manifestación de Impacto Ambiental/Informe del Impacto Ambiental (*EIS/EIR*), conforme a lo establecido por la Ley de Política Ambiental Nacional (*National Environmental Policy Act, NEPA*) y por la Ley de la Calidad Ambiental de California (*California Environmental Quality Act, CEQA*), para evaluar los efectos de la propuesta del Proyecto de la Derivación del Mendota Pool y las Mejoras del Canal del Tramo 2B (Acción Propuesta) de acuerdo al Programa de Restauración del Río San Joaquín (*San Joaquin River Restoration Program, SJRRP*). La Acción Propuesta forma parte del Acuerdo del Río San Joaquín (octubre 2006) y se lleva a cabo en los Condado de Madera y Fresno.

La Acción Propuesta incluye la construcción, operación y mantenimiento de la Derivación del Mendota Pool y mejoras que incluyen la operación y mantenimiento del canal del Río San Joaquín para permitir que el Tramo 2B transporte como mínimo 4,500 pies cúbicos por segundo (cfs). Del lunes 13 de julio al viernes 14 de agosto de 2009, el público contará con un periodo de 30 días para presentar sus comentarios sobre el alcance de la Acción Propuesta. El objetivo de la participación del público es obtener comentarios de las partes interesadas en este proyecto con el fin de determinar el alcance del Informe y de la Manifestación del Impacto Ambiental, incluir alternativas a tener en cuenta e identificar las cuestiones ambientales importantes relacionadas con la Acción Propuesta.

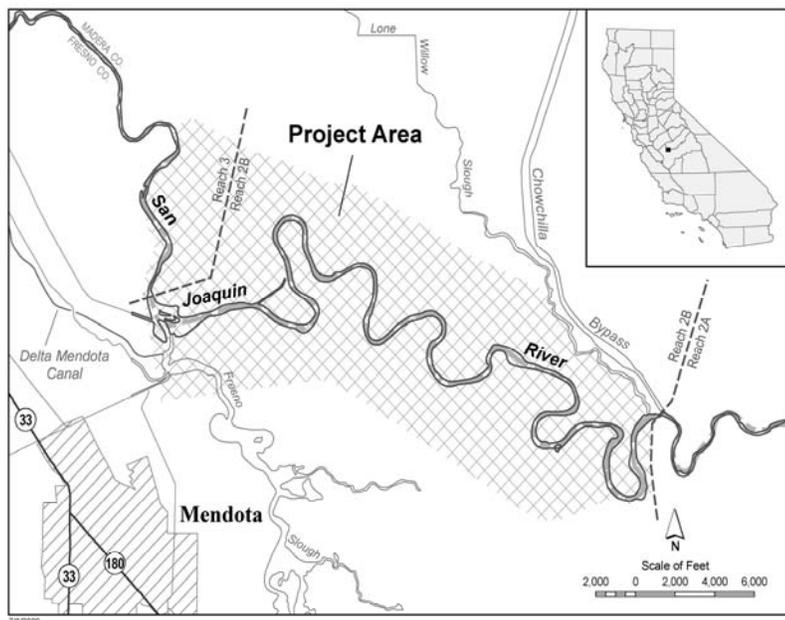
Se celebrarán dos reuniones con la participación del público acerca del alcance del proyecto, para solicitar sus comentarios sobre alternativas, inquietudes y asuntos que la Manifestación de Impacto Ambiental y el Informe del Impacto Ambiental deben tratar. Las fechas de las dos reuniones son:

Fresno: Martes, 28 de Julio, 6 – 8 p.m., Piccadilly Inn Shaw, 2305 W. Shaw Avenue

Firebaugh: Miércoles, 29 de julio, 6 – 8 p.m., Salas del Ayuntamiento de Firebaugh, 1659 13th Street

También pueden enviarse comentarios por escrito sobre el alcance de la Manifestación de Impacto Ambiental y del Informe del Impacto Ambiental y sobre la Acción Propuesta antes del cierre de oficina el viernes 14 de agosto de 2009: Por escrito a Ms. Margaret Gidding, Bureau of Reclamation, 2800 Cottage Way MP-170, Sacramento, CA 95825; por correo electrónico a MendotaPoolBypass@restroresjr.net, o por fax 916-978-5469.

La derivación que se propone en Mendota Pool incluiría una derivación alrededor de Mendota Pool para transportar como mínimo 4,500 cfs alrededor de Mendota Pool y volver a confluir con las aguas del río San Joaquín pasada la Presa Mendota. Asimismo, la Acción Propuesta podría incluir la construcción de una estructura de bifurcación en la cabecera de la derivación para transportar el caudal de agua a la Derivación del Mendota Pool. La Estructura de Bifurcación de la Derivación Mendota que se propone se diseñaría para desviar agua del río San Joaquín hacia Mendota Pool, de acuerdo con la capacidad de diseño del canal del Tramo 2B que transporta el caudal de agua a Mendota Pool. La estructura de la bifurcación se diseñaría de tal modo que dirigiría los peces al canal de derivación y reduciría o evitaría que los peces entraran en Mendota Pool. Las alineaciones específicas de la derivación y la ubicación de las instalaciones se determinarán durante el transcurso de este estudio específico del lugar.



El Tramo 2B del Río San Joaquin se extiende desde la Estructura de Bifurcación de la Derivación Chowchilla hasta la Presa Mendota. Las mejoras que se proponen en el Tramo 2B incluirían modificaciones al canal del Río San Joaquin desde la Estructura de Bifurcación de la Derivación Chowchilla hasta la nueva Estructura de Bifurcación de la Derivación Mendota a fin de ofrecer una capacidad de como mínimo 4,500 cfs mediante la incorporación de una nueva planicie aluvial y un hábitat ribereño. Las modificaciones específicas del canal se determinarían durante el transcurso de este estudio específico del lugar. Estas modificaciones podrían tener en cuenta, entre otros, requisitos para la pesca, usos del terreno, condiciones del subsuelo, topografía y la condición de los diques actuales.

El artículo 3406(c)(1) de la Ley del Proyecto de Mejora del Valle Central y de la Ley de Restauración del Río San Joaquin incluida en la Ley Pública 111-11 autorizan la planificación y el análisis ambiental de la Acción Propuesta. La Ley de Restauración del Río San Joaquin (Ley Pública 111-11) autoriza la construcción de la Acción Propuesta.

Si desea más información sobre el SJRRP, visite www.restoresjr.net.

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El Departamento de Administración de Recursos Hidráulicos (*Reclamation*) es el mayor distribuidor mayorista de agua y el segundo mayor productor de energía hidroeléctrica en los Estados Unidos, con operaciones e instalaciones en los 17 estados del oeste. Estas instalaciones también ofrecen protección contra inundaciones, recreación y beneficios para la pesca y la flora y fauna. Visite nuestro sitio web en <http://www.usbr.gov>.

El Departamento de Recursos de Agua (*DWR*) se encarga del funcionamiento y del mantenimiento del Proyecto Hidráulico Estatal, ofrece seguridad para presas, protección contra inundaciones y servicios de inspección, ayuda a los distritos de agua locales a administrar el agua y a planificar la conservación de agua y planifica de acuerdo a las necesidades de agua del estado en el futuro. Visite nuestro sitio web en <http://www.water.ca.gov>.



**San Joaquin River Restoration Program
Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Channel Improvements Project
Public Scoping Meetings**

July 13, 2009

To: All Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Interested Parties, and Organizations

Because of your expressed interest in the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP) and/or your official agency status, you are receiving this letter containing the Bureau of Reclamation's Notice of Intent and the California Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Notice of Preparation (NOI and NOP) regarding the proposed Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Channel Improvements Project (Proposed Action).

These notices announce the intent of Reclamation and DWR to prepare a joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) to evaluate effects of the Proposed Action in Madera and Fresno Counties, as well as any alternatives, as part of the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP). They also describe the agencies' public scoping process.

We invite you to participate in the scoping meetings and process to share your thoughts, issues, concerns and information regarding the range of issues that should be considered in environmental review of the Proposed Action. Details of the July 28 and July 29, 2009, public scoping meetings are contained in the NOI and NOP.

For additional information or if you need assistance to participate in the meetings, including translation services, contact Ms. Margaret Gidding at (916) 978-5461, TDD (916) 978-5609.

For further information about the SJRRP, other Program activities, and additional ways to provide comments on the environmental review process, please visit the SJRRP website: www.restoresjr.net.

Enclosures

- Federal NOI
- State NOP



**NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR
THE MENDOTA POOL BYPASS AND REACH 2B IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT
UNDER THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER RESTORATION PROGRAM,
FRESNO AND MADERA COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA**

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) and Notice of Scoping Meetings.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) are proposing to prepare a joint EIS/EIR, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), to evaluate effects of the proposed Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Channel Improvements Project (Proposed Action) under the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP or Program). The Proposed Action includes the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Mendota Pool Bypass and improvements, including the operation and maintenance of the San Joaquin River channel to allow Reach 2B to convey at least 4,500 cubic feet per second (cfs). The purpose of the proposed action is to improve Reach 2B conveyance conditions enough to provide a capacity of at least 4,500 cfs with integrated floodplain habitat, and to convey restoration flows of at least 4,500 cfs around Mendota Pool from Reach 2B downstream to Reach 3. The planning and environmental review for the Proposed Action is authorized under Section 3406(c)(1) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) Title 34, (Public Law 102-575) and the San Joaquin River Restoration Act (SJRRRA), included in Public Law 111-11. Construction of the Proposed Action is authorized under the SJRRRA (Public Law 111-11). The Proposed Action is a component of the San Joaquin River Settlement.

Scoping meetings will be held to solicit input on alternatives, concerns, and issues to be addressed in the EIS/EIR. Written comments may also be sent.

DATES: Two scoping meetings will be held to solicit comments from interested parties to assist in determining the scope of the environmental analysis, including the alternatives to be addressed, and to identify the significant environmental issues related to the Proposed Action. The scoping meeting dates and locations are:

- Tuesday, July 28, 2009, 6 - 8 p.m.
Piccadilly Inn - Shaw, 2305 West Shaw Avenue, Fresno, California 93711; and
- Wednesday, July 29, 2009, 6 - 8 p.m.
Firebaugh City Council Chambers, 1659 13th Street, Firebaugh, California 96322

Written comments on the scope of the EIS/EIR should be sent by close of business Friday, August 14, 2009, to Ms. Margaret Gidding, Bureau of Reclamation, 2800 Cottage Way MP-170, Sacramento, CA 95825 or via e-mail at MendotaPoolBypass@restoresjr.net.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Margaret Gidding at the above address, by telephone at 916-978-5461, TDD 916-978-5608 or via fax at 916-978-5469. Additional information is available online at www.restoresjr.net. If special assistance is required at the scoping meetings, please contact Ms. Margaret Gidding at the above phone or fax numbers or via e-mail at MendotaPoolBypass@restoresjr.net no less than ten working days prior to the meetings.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Reclamation and DWR are proposing to prepare a joint EIS/EIR, pursuant to NEPA and CEQA, to evaluate the proposed Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Channel Improvements Project (Proposed Action) under the SJRRP. The Proposed Action includes the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Mendota Pool Bypass and improvements, including the operation and maintenance of the San Joaquin River channel to allow Reach 2B to convey at least 4,500 cfs. The planning and environmental review for the Proposed Action is authorized under Section 3406(c)(1) of the CVPIA and the SJRRA included in Public Law 111-11. Construction of the Proposed Action is authorized under the SJRRA (Public Law 111-11). The Proposed Action is a component of San Joaquin River Settlement.

The Proposed Action would include a bypass around the Mendota Pool to convey at least 4,500 cfs around the Mendota Pool and re-connect with the San Joaquin River downstream of Mendota Dam. The Proposed Action would also include constructing a bifurcation structure at the upper end of the bypass to convey at least 4,500 cfs into the Mendota Pool Bypass. The proposed Mendota Bypass Bifurcation Structure would be designed to divert water from the San Joaquin River to the Mendota Pool, consistent with the design channel capacity of Reach 2B which conveys flows to the Mendota Pool. The bifurcation structure would be designed to direct fish into the bypass channel and minimize or avoid fish passage into the Mendota Pool. Specific bypass alignments and facilities locations will be determined through the course of this site-specific study.

Reach 2B of the San Joaquin River extends from the Chowchilla Bypass Bifurcation Structure to the Mendota Dam. Proposed improvements to Reach 2B would include modifications to the San Joaquin River channel from the Chowchilla Bypass Bifurcation Structure to the new Mendota Bypass Bifurcation Structure to provide a capacity of at least 4,500 cfs with integrated floodplain habitat. The project would expand the Reach 2B channel capacity while accounting for new floodplain habitat. Specific channel modification actions would be determined through the course of this site-specific study. These actions would consider fisheries requirements, land uses, subsurface conditions, topography, and the condition of existing levees.

San Joaquin River Restoration Program

In 1988, a coalition of environmental groups led by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) filed a lawsuit challenging the renewal of the long-term water service contracts between the United States and the Central Valley Project Friant Division Contractors. After

more than 18 years of litigation known as NRDC, et al., v. Kirk Rodgers, et al., the NRDC, Friant Water Users Authority, and the Departments of the Interior and Commerce (Settling Parties) reached agreement on the terms and conditions of the San Joaquin River Settlement (Settlement) which was subsequently approved by the Court on October 23, 2006. The Settlement can be found online at www.restoresjr.net.

The Settlement is based on two parallel Goals:

- The 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; and
- The 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.

The Settling Parties acknowledge that accomplishing the Goals requires planning, implementation, and funding of certain activities, such as environmental review, design, and construction. With regard to the Restoration Goal, the Settlement calls for a combination of channel and structural improvements along the San Joaquin River below Friant Dam, releases of additional water from Friant Dam to the confluence of the Merced River, and the reintroduction of spring and/or fall-run Chinook salmon.

The Settlement states that the Secretary of the Interior shall implement the terms and conditions of the Settlement. Additionally, the Settling Parties agreed that implementation of the Settlement shall also require participation of the State of California. Therefore, concurrent with the execution of the Settlement, the Settling Parties entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the State of California, by and through the California Resources Agency, DWR, the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), and the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), regarding the State’s role in the implementation of the Settlement. The program established to implement the Settlement is the SJRRP, and the “Implementing Agencies” responsible for the management of the SJRRP include Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), DWR, and DFG. The Federal Implementing agencies (Reclamation, USFWS and NMFS) are authorized to implement the Settlement under the SJRRA included in Public Law 111-11.

A Program Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (PEIS/EIR) is currently being developed for implementation of the SJRRP. If applicable, the EIS/EIR for the Proposed Action will supplement, tier from, incorporate by reference, or adopt relevant NEPA analyses from the PEIS/EIR. The Record of Decision for the PEIS/EIR is anticipated to be signed in 2010.

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE: Before including your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment - including your personal identifying information - may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

To: Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Stakeholders and Interested Parties

Subject: Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Improvements Project under the San Joaquin River Restoration Program, Fresno and Madera Counties, California

CEQA Lead Agency: California Department of Water Resources

NEPA Lead Agency: The United States Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) propose to prepare an EIS/EIR for the Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Improvements Project (Project).

Project Description:

Reclamation and DWR are proposing to prepare a joint EIS/EIR, pursuant to NEPA and CEQA, to evaluate the proposed Project. The proposed Project includes the construction, operation and maintenance of the Mendota Pool Bypass (Bypass) and improvements, and the modification, operation and maintenance of the San Joaquin River channel to allow a section of Reach 2B to convey at least 4,500cfs. Reach 2B of the San Joaquin River extends from the Chowchilla Bypass Bifurcation Structure to the Mendota Dam. The planning and environmental review for the proposed Project is authorized under Section 3406(c)(1) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act and the San Joaquin River Restoration Act included in Public Law 111-11. Construction of the proposed Project is authorized under the San Joaquin River Restoration Act (Public Law 111-11). The proposed Project is a component of the San Joaquin River Settlement.

The proposed Project would include a bypass channel and facilities to convey at least 4,500cfs around the Mendota Pool and reconnect with the San Joaquin River downstream of Mendota Dam. The proposed Project may include a fish barrier placed across the San Joaquin River at its confluence with the Bypass to direct up-migrating adult salmon into the Bypass. The proposed Project may also include constructing a bifurcation structure to convey up to 4,500cfs into the Bypass at its upstream end. The proposed bifurcation structure may also be designed to divert up to 2,500cfs through Reach 2B to the Mendota Pool, as is consistent with the reported design channel capacity of Reach 2B. The proposed bifurcation structure would be designed to minimize or avoid fish passage into the Mendota Pool. Specific alignments, facilities and locations will be determined through the course of this site-specific study.

Proposed improvements to Reach 2B will include modifications to the San Joaquin River channel from the Chowchilla Bypass Bifurcation Structure to the new Mendota Bypass Bifurcation Structure to provide a flow capacity of at least 4,500cfs with integrated floodplain habitat. New levees would be constructed along Reach 2B to expand the channel capacity while accounting for new floodplain habitat. Levee alignments will be determined through the course

of this site-specific study. These alignments will consider fisheries requirements, land uses, subsurface conditions, topography, and the condition of existing levees.

Probable Environmental Effects:

The purpose of the EIS/EIR is to fully disclose the environmental consequences of the proposed Project. The EIS/EIR will examine the extent to which the Project alternatives and alignments will result in environmental impacts including potential cumulative and growth-inducing impacts. In addition, it will discuss actions to reduce or eliminate such impacts.

Environmental resources to be analyzed in the EIS/EIR include the following: hydrology, water quality, and water supply; flood control; land use and agricultural resources; mineral resources; noise; public utilities and power consumption; biological resources including wetlands and rare and sensitive plant and animal species; geology and soils; socioeconomics, population, and housing; transportation and traffic; air quality; cultural resources; aesthetics; flood protection; and recreation. Impacts to resources will be evaluated for both the temporary construction period and the long-term operation of the alternatives. Potential measures to mitigate any potential impacts will also be identified.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed Project will be addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed Project and the EIS/EIR should be directed to the DWR Program Manager as noted below.

Scoping Process:

DWR requests comments from State, Federal, and local agencies with respect to the scope and content of the environmental information that is germane to each agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed San Joaquin River Restoration Program. In order to ensure that the full range of alternatives is included in the PEIS/EIR and that all pertinent issues are addressed, DWR also invites written comments from all other interested parties. All comments received, including names and addresses, will be made available to the public. Due to the time limits mandated by CEQA Guidelines section 15082(b), written comments on the scope of the EIS/EIR must be sent at the earliest possible date but no later than 30 days after receipt of this NOP.

Please send comments to the DWR Program Manager:

Kevin Faulkenberry, P.E.
Supervising Engineer, Water Resources
California Department of Water Resources
South Central Region Office
3374 E. Shields Ave.
Fresno, California 93726

Scoping Meetings:

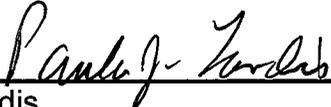
A series of identical scoping meetings have been scheduled to solicit agency and public input on the scope of the Proposed Project and to ensure incorporation of any issues and concerns that should be addressed in the EIS/EIR. Meeting dates, times and locations are as follows:

DATES and ADDRESSES:

- Tuesday, July 28, 2009, 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Fresno, CA
 - Piccadilly Inn Shaw, 2305 West Shaw Avenue, Fresno, California 93711; and
- Wednesday, July 29, 2009, 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Firebaugh, CA
 - Firebaugh City Council Chambers, 1659 13th Street, Firebaugh, California 96322

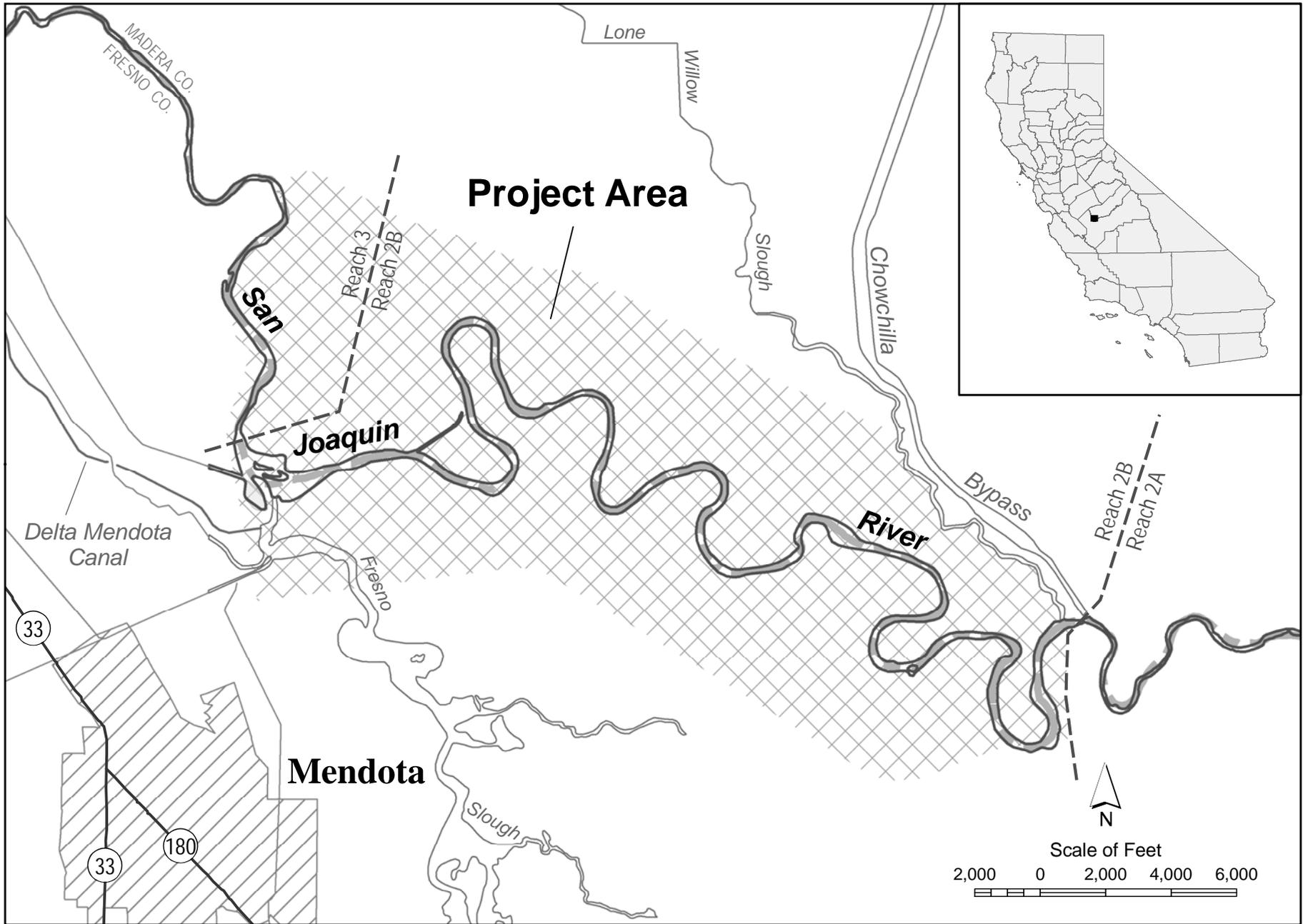
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Please see the website at <http://www.restoresjr.com> or contact: Ms. Margaret Gidding, Bureau of Reclamation, 2800 Cottage Way MP-140, Sacramento, CA 95825, by telephone at 916-978-5104, TDD 916-978-5608 or via fax at 916-978-5114 or Kevin Faulkenberry, California Department of Water Resources, South Central Region Office, 3374 E Shields Ave. Fresno, California 93726: telephone (559) 230-3300, e-mail: faulkenb@water.ca.gov.

If special assistance is required at one of the scoping meetings, please contact Ms. Margaret Gidding via the phone number or e-mail listed above prior to the meetings.



Paula J. Landis
Chief, SCRO
California Department of Water Resources

7-6-09
Date





Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Channel Improvements Project

STATION 1



Settlement Requirements

Paragraph 11(a)(1) Bypass Channel:

“Creation of a bypass channel around Mendota Pool to ensure conveyance of at least 4,500 cfs from Reach 2B downstream to Reach 3. This improvement requires construction of a structure capable of directing flow down the bypass and allowing the Secretary to make deliveries of San Joaquin River water to the Mendota Pool when necessary.”

Paragraph 11(a)(2) Reach 2B Channel Improvements:

“Modifications in channel capacity (incorporating new floodplain and related riparian habitat) to ensure conveyance of at least 4,500 cfs in Reach 2B between the Chowchilla Bifurcation Structure and the new Mendota Pool bypass channel.”

Environmental Scoping Process

The focus of this meeting is to solicit your input on the **Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Channel Improvements Project that will be evaluated in an Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR)**. We need your help in determining the scope of issues to be addressed in the EIS/EIR. Share your input on:

- Possibilities for alternative alignments and/or setback levees
- Suggested alternatives to the Project
- Potential significant environmental impacts of the Project
- Local information and geographic-specific knowledge
- Any other issues you'd like to raise about the Project



The planning and environmental review for the Project is authorized under Section 3406(c)(1) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act and the San Joaquin River Restoration Act included in Public Law 111-11. Construction is authorized in Public Law 111-11.

The Project will be conducted pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).



Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Channel Improvements Project

STATION 1



Project Timeline

2009	July	Publish Notice of Intent/Notice of Preparation (NOI/NOP)
	August	Conduct Public Scoping Process
	September	Issue Scoping Report
2010		Identify and Develop Alternatives
		Develop Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR)
		Begin Planning, Coordinating, Permitting, and Landowner Coordination
2011		Continue to Develop Draft EIS/EIR
		Continue Planning, Coordinating, Permitting, and Landowner Coordination
		Distribute Draft EIS/EIR with Public Comment Period
		Begin Preparation of Final EIS/EIR
2012		Complete and Distribute Final EIS/EIR
		Issue Record of Decision/Notice of Determination (ROD/NOD) and CEQA Findings
		Begin Permitting and Real Estate Acquisition
		Develop Engineering and Design
2012 – 2015		Complete Permitting and Real Estate Acquisition
		Construct Project



Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Channel Improvements Project

STATION 2



Resource Areas that have the Potential to be Affected

The Project has the potential to affect the following resources:



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

The EIS/EIR 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.



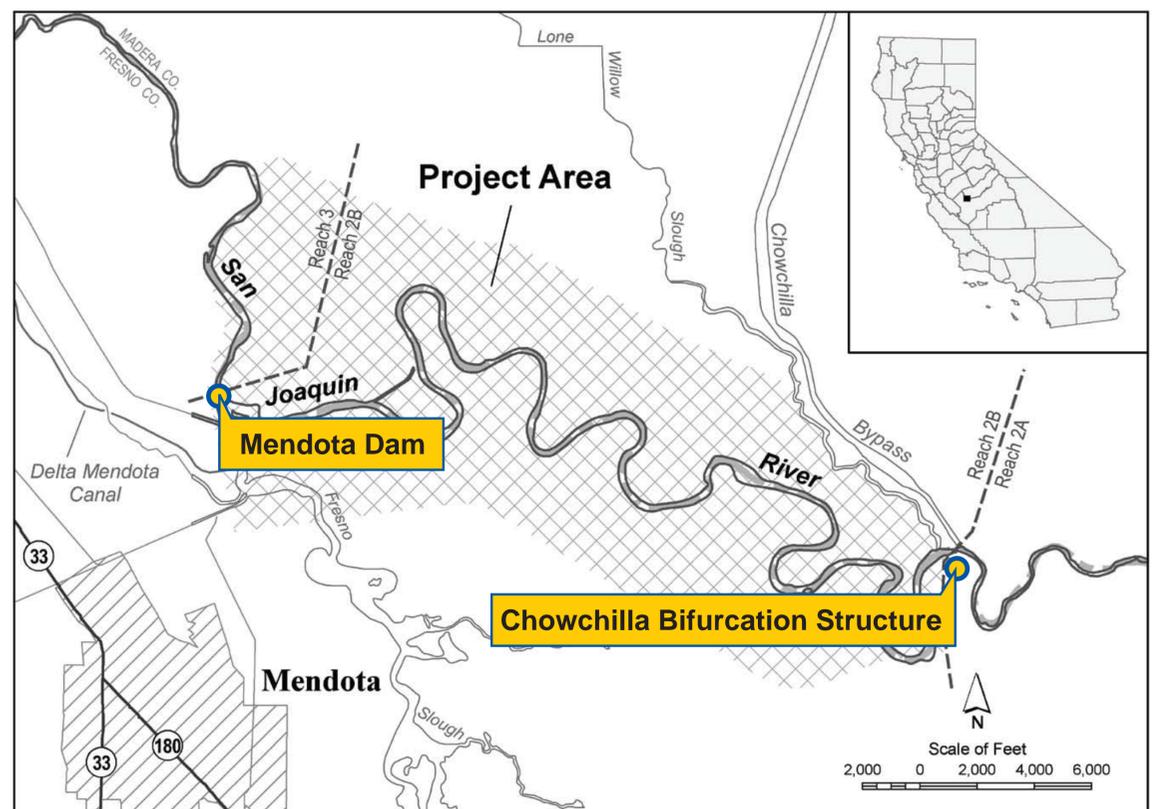
Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Channel Improvements Project

STATION 2



Project Area

The area from the Chowchilla Bifurcation Structure to below the Mendota Dam



Project Description

To construct, operate and maintain a bypass around Mendota Pool to convey at least 4,500 cubic feet per second (cfs) from Reach 2B into Reach 3 and improvements including the operation and maintenance of the San Joaquin River channel to allow Reach 2B to convey at least 4,500 cfs.

Project Activities

Mendota Pool Bypass

- Bypass channel around Mendota Pool to ensure conveyance of at least 4,500 cfs
- Construction of a structure capable of allowing the Secretary of the Interior to make deliveries of San Joaquin River water to the Mendota Pool when necessary

Reach 2B Channel Improvements

- Modifications in channel capacity to ensure conveyance of at least 4,500 cfs in Reach 2B
- New floodplain and related riparian habitat



Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Channel Improvements Project

STATION 3



How to Submit Comments

All comments due by **Monday, August 17, 2009**



Tonight:

- Fill out a comment form at this station and return it to the comment box.
- You may provide written comments, or annotate the map on the back of the comment card with comments that are location- or Reach 2B-specific (e.g. proposed alignments, existing infrastructure).

By Monday, August 17, 2009:

You may either mail the comment card to the address on the back; or mail, email or fax a letter to the contact information below. Please include your name, address and phone number.

Mail:

Ms. Margaret Gidding
Bureau of Reclamation
2800 Cottage Way, MP-170
Sacramento, CA 95825

Email:

MendotaPoolBypass@restoresjr.net

Fax:

916-978-5469

Mail:

Mr. Kevin Faulkenberry
California Department
of Water Resources
South Central Region Office
3374 E. Shields Ave
Fresno, CA 93726

Email:

faulkenb@water.ca.gov



Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Channel Improvements Project

The Bureau of Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources are holding two public scoping meetings to solicit input to prepare the Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) to evaluate the effects of the proposed Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Channel Improvements Project (Proposed Action) in Madera and Fresno Counties.

The Proposed Action includes the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Mendota Pool Bypass and improvements including the operation and maintenance of the San Joaquin River channel to allow Reach 2B to convey at least 4,500 cubic feet per second.

Interested public members will be asked to provide input and comments on the scope of the EIS/EIR and the Proposed Action, including alternatives to be addressed, and significant environmental issues. SJRRP staff will be available to talk with interested public members. The public scoping meetings are scheduled as follows:

Fresno: Tuesday, July 28, 6 – 8 p.m.
Piccadilly Inn Shaw; 2305 W. Shaw Ave.

Firebaugh: Wednesday, July 29, 6 – 8 p.m.
Firebaugh City Council Chambers; 1659 13th St.

Can't Attend a Meeting? You can provide comments by mail or email. Please send comments to Ms. Margaret Gidding, Bureau of Reclamation, 2800 Cottage Way MP-170, Sacramento, CA 95825; or Mr. Kevin Faulkenberry, Dept. of Water Resources San Joaquin District, 3374 E. Shields Avenue, Fresno, CA 93726 by close of business Friday, August 14, 2009. Comments can also be submitted via email to MendotaPoolBypass@restoresjr.net or faulkenb@water.ca.gov.

For additional information, or if you need assistance to participate in or translation services for the meetings, contact Ms. Gidding at (916) 978-5461, TDD (916) 978-5608.