



Field Activity Advisory July 23, 2010

This notice is to inform you that the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP) plans to conduct biological and cultural resource field surveys in and around the San Joaquin River as part of the Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Improvements Project beginning August 23, 2010.

Who: Bureau of Reclamation, California Department of Water Resources, URS Corporation

What: The biological surveys include observations of wildlife habitat and botanical resources in the project area. It will focus on the presence of habitat for blunt-nosed leopard lizards, valley elderberry longhorn beetle, giant garter snake, Fresno kangaroo rat, and other special status plant and wildlife species and vegetation communities. Survey activities will involve crews of up to seven individuals surveying Reach 2B. The surveyors will access the survey area by vehicle and foot. Surveyors will drive or walk in groups through the identified survey area. As the surveyors walk through the area, they will make observations, including the use of binoculars and hand-held tools for digging. No significant physical activities (such as mechanical excavation) are required to complete the survey and no construction equipment will be used.

The cultural resource survey will involve a team of three archaeologists surveying the area for approximately 4-5 days, depending on vegetation cover and topography. Identification efforts include walking survey transects spaced 10-30 yards throughout the area identified for survey. A shallow scrape of surface soils with a shovel or trowel may be conducted. No significant physical activities (such as mechanical excavation) are required to complete the survey and no construction equipment will be used.

When: The surveys are scheduled to begin August 23 and conclude August 27. All surveys are planned to be conducted between 5 a.m. and 9 p.m. This schedule allows surveys to occur when wildlife is most active and limits the time that the survey crew is working during hot mid-day temperatures.

Where: The San Joaquin River from the Chowchilla Bifurcation to a point approximately two river miles downstream of Mendota Dam, where available by landowner permission.

If you have questions, please contact the SJRRP Landowner Coordinator, Craig Moyle. Craig's contact information is provided below.

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For more information, please visit the SJRRP Web site at www.restoresjr.net.