

**San Joaquin River Restoration Program
Water Management Work Group
Technical Feedback Meeting
Friday, October 15, 2010
Piccadilly Inn University
Fresno, CA**

MEETING NOTES

Attendees:

Dave Mooney	Reclamation	Jeevan Muhar	Arvin-Edison WSD
Erin Rice	Reclamation	Fergus Morrissey	Orange Cove ID
Ernie Taylor	DWR	Dan Vink	Lower Tule River ID
Beth Wrege	NOAA/NMFS	Paul Hendrix	Tulare ID
Leslie Mirise	NMFS	Laurence Kimura	Fresno ID
Nick Hindman	USFWS	Dale Brogan	Delano-Earlimart ID
Peter Vorster	The Bay Institute	Keith Norris	Tea Pot Dome WD
Rod Meade	SJRRP RA	Brock Buche	City of Fresno
Ron Jacobsma	FWA	Tom Boardman	SLDMWA
Steve Ottemoeller	FWA	Steve Haze	Sierra RCD/SJVLF
Bill Luce	FWA	Chris Acree	Revive the San Joaquin
Eric Quinley	FWA	Jeff Payne	MWH
Doug Welch	Chowchilla WD	John Roldan	MWH
Steve Collup	Arvin-Edison WSD		

Next Meeting:

January 2011 (date and time to be determined)

Summary of Meeting:

Comments on August Meeting Notes

- Discontinue references to Friant Water Users Authority and replace with Friant Water Authority; and
- The term “Capacity Restoration” should be replaced with “Capacity Correction,” consistent with the language in the legislation.

Water Supply Briefing / Interim Flows

Dave Mooney provided an update on various account totals for Water Year 2010, including \$10 water and recirculation deliveries. Dave then reviewed a graph of the Water Year 2010 Interim Flows at Friant Dam, Gravelly Ford, and Sack Dam. Lastly, he reviewed the new requirements under the 2011 Water Right Order.

The following points were raised by members of the group:

- A regular reporting outline should be developed for future Technical Feedback meeting updates; and
- The amount of water that passed the Merced River confluence during Water Year 2010 should be determined.

Restoration Flow Guidelines

Dave Mooney reviewed the plan for distributing and reviewing the next version of the RFG and then reviewed the most significant changes made during the latest round of revisions. Dave then presented Reclamation's current RWA proposal to use a single get-away curve based on 1.35 million acre-feet by July 31st, which results in a long-term average impact of approximately 180 thousand acre-feet.

The following points were raised by members of the group:

- The long-term average impact results do not appear to match model runs previously performed by Friant with similar assumptions. Reclamation will distribute the model to the group for review;
- Using a single get-away curve eliminates the difficulty in selecting a specific get-away curve based on water year type determinations;
- The RWA model is centered around Friant Dam operations and does not account for downstream operations; and
- Flood flows are ineligible for recapture; only Interim and Restoration Flows can be recaptured.

Recapture and Recirculation

Dave Mooney reviewed the preliminary Water Year 2011 recapture and recirculation plans and provided an update of current recapture totals to date for Fall 2010. Dave indicated that the Fall 2009 recapture total was 850 acre-feet and will be added to the Water Year 2011 total.

The following points were raised by members of the group:

- USGS will be installing a gage at San Mateo by February 1, 2011;
- Meetings will be scheduled in the next couple of months with FWA, San Luis-Delta Mendota Water Authority, and San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority to discuss recapture in the Delta. The goal is to have a plan in place by February 2011. FWA is also interested in determining if flows from Water Year 2010 that passed the Merced Confluence will be recirculated;
- Friant Division districts are evaluating their ability to take recirculation deliveries in the coming year;
- An agreement with DWR is in place to wheel recaptured water to San Luis Reservoir. Reclamation is working to obtain wheeling agreements with DWR on all required State facilities for recirculation to the Friant Districts; and
- Components of the 2011 Recapture/Recirculation plan will be discussed at the next meeting.

Friant-Kern & Madera Canals Capacity Correction Project

Jeff Payne provided an overview of the screening process currently being conducted to inform the selection of the proponent preferred alternative. Preliminary results indicate that the first priority on the Friant-Kern Canal is to fix the reach between the Kings River and Kaweah River checks, while the first priority on the Madera Canal is to fix the reach between mileposts 6 and 19.

The following points were raised by members of the group:

- The FWA is interested in developing an alternative that provides a common benefit to all districts and is capable of phased implementation in recognition of the possibility that the entire block of funding may not be immediately available; and
- The FWA is pursuing a construction start date no later than the end of Fiscal Year 2011.

Friant-Kern Canal Reverse Flow Pump-Back Facilities Project

Jeff Payne presented a comparison of weekly and monthly time-step operational modeling results. The weekly results showed a reduction in reliance on deliveries to Arvin-Edison Water Storage District, but did not significantly change the 95 percent exceedance capacities of the reverse flow pump stations. Jeff then reviewed the guiding principles and constraints that will be used by Reclamation and FWA to identify the proponent preferred alternative.

The following points were raised by members of the group:

- The baseline for the operational studies should not include any existing reverse flow capacity. Previous reverse flow operations were temporary projects and do not represent existing conditions; and
- The FWA is ready to enter its internal costs into the project cost estimates (Reverse Flow and Capacity Correction) to determine if any savings may be possible through their management and/or construction of the projects.

Public Comment

None.