

**San Joaquin River Restoration Program  
Water Management Work Group  
Technical Feedback Meeting  
Friday, October 3, 2008  
Lamp Liter Inn  
Visalia, CA**

**MEETING NOTES**

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**Attendees:**

Chris Acree	Revive the San Joaquin	Laurence Kimura	Fresno ID
Lee Bergfeld	MBK Engineers	David Mooney	Reclamation
Antonio Buelna	Reclamation	Fergus Morrissey	Orange Cove ID
Steve Collup	Arvin-Edison WSD	Steve Ottemoeller	FWUA
Ali Gasdick	CH2M HILL	Jeffrey Payne	MWH
Sean Geivet	Porterville, Saucelito, Terra Bella ID	Jason Phillips	Reclamation
Rufino Gonzales	Reclamation	John Roldan	MWH
Paul Hendrix	Tulare ID	William Shipp	Reclamation
Ron Jacobsma	FWUA	Dan Steiner	MWH Team
Lance Johnson	Madera ID	Ernie Taylor	DWR
		Brandon Tomlinson	Chowchilla WD
		Peter Vorster	The Bay Institute
		Doug Welch	Chowchilla WD
		Bill Swanson	MWH

**Next Meetings:**

November 7<sup>th</sup> 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. in Visalia at the Lamp Lighter Inn  
December 8<sup>th</sup> 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. in Visalia at the Lamp Lighter Inn

**Summary of Meeting:**

**Opening comments by Bill Swanson (MWH):**

Bill Swanson, MWH, reviewed the agenda and noted that the Restoration Flow Guidelines would not be discussed to provide more time for discussion of the Recovered Water Account. Bill also noted that additional discussion on Paragraph 16a (Water Recapture Plan) will be on next month's agenda. There is no progress to report on at this time.

**Recovered Water Account (RWA) by Bill Swanson (MWH)**

Bill Swanson, MWH, presented on the Recovered Water Account (RWA). The RWA is an accounting tool that would be used to keep track of how much water is available to be sold at \$10/acre-foot under the Settlement. Flexibility should be

incorporated into the RWA framework such that implementation is not constrained. The basic RWA process is as follows: (1) determine the RWA credit to the Friant Division based on overall water supply impacts, (2) quantify the offsets to the RWA credits from 16(a), 16(b) and Title III activities, and (3) determine a process to allocate the net credits to individual Friant Districts. There are multiple ways that the overall Friant Division impacts can be calculated, including the daily accounting of non-spill restoration releases, parallel accounting of the daily reservoir operations decision making process with and without Restoration (maintaining a shadow operation), and an annual back-casting approach using known hydrology and river releases compared with the pre-Restoration baseline model.

The group noted and discussed the following:

- All or a portion of the Restoration Flow releases can be met by flood releases. Thus, the impacts may be greater in non-flood conditions.
- Conditions have changed in the Friant Districts, so it is hard to use the past data and water use to determine future conditions. Both district infrastructure and crops have changed over time. Historical conditions may not be representative of current conditions and definitely will not be representative of future conditions. It was noted that establishing a “baseline” is crucial for determining impacts to Friant Districts. The baseline model should not be updated with post-Settlement operational data.
- Monthly modeling may not capture the actual magnitude of potential impacts that may occur. Some of these impacts are dampened or spread out over longer time periods in the monthly model format, resulting in an underestimation of the impact in most cases.
- The group came to the general conclusion that they need to be working towards determining a method for allocating impacts and credits among the Class 1 and Class 2 contractors.
- Future spills at the dam are less likely to occur with implementation of the Restoration Flows.
- A Group Member suggested that the Project Team begin writing up proposals for addressing RWA water accounting. The RWA accounting process could have differing impacts to different Friant Districts, and the Districts have some internal differences regarding the allocation of impacts that need to be worked through; however, a proposed method and supporting documentation would be helpful in moving these discussions forward. This proposal may consider the use of a generalized accounting method that avoids constant assessment of impacts by relying on a provisional credit at the beginning of the year that is reconciled with actual impacts at the conclusion of the year.
- It was noted that Friant must provide input on the distribution of Restoration Flow impacts among contractors.

## Paragraph 16(b) Discussion by John Roldan (MWH)

John Roldan, MWH, reviewed the updated modeling results for the 16(b) Friant-Kern Canal Opportunities Assessment . Based on input at a prior Working Group meeting, an error was found in the model. This error was fixed and a few refinements were made to better represent operational conditions. The revised modeling results had been distributed to the group prior to this meeting in a monthly format as requested by the group at the previous meeting. The overall result of the fixes and refinements was to reduce the maximum capturable amount of 16(b) supply by approximately 20 thousand acre-feet compared with the original result. The total groundwater banking demand based on the potential groundwater banking projects identified by Friant was also presented.

The group noted and discussed the following:

- There may be additional storage capacity in Kern County and specifically in Kern Delta.
- The similarity of the 16(b) analysis results and the Upper San Joaquin River Basin Storage Investigation (USJRBSI) results was questioned. The group discussed the different analysis assumptions of the two studies. It was noted that the two analyses are intended for different purposes which leads to the significantly different assumptions; the 16(b) analysis is intended to provide an initial assessment of the maximum capability to capture 16(b) supplies with a specified level of future development and operations, while the USJRBSI is a Federal feasibility study with very distinct requirements to consider feasibility under existing conditions
- The daily data provided by some of the Districts has been useful to the analysis. District managers should review their information to see if additional daily data is available.
- Based on input from the group, a small group meeting was set for October 14 at MWH in Sacramento to walk through the spreadsheet model.