

## Restoration Administrator Flow Recommendation

**To:** Don Portz, Chad Moore, Emily Thomas, Adam Nickel  
**CC:** Michael Jackson, Rufino Gonzalez, Doug Obegi, Steve Ottemoeller, Ian Buck-Macleod, TAC  
**Date:** April 17, 2020  
**From:** Tom Johnson, Restoration Administrator  
**Subject:** Updated Recommendation for 2020 Restoration Flows

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The following is an updated Flow Recommendation by the Restoration Administrator (RA) for remaining 2020 Restoration Flows pursuant to the January 2020 Restoration Flow Guidelines (RFG), as amended, and Exhibit B of the Settlement.

### **Background**

The current accepted Restoration Flow Recommendation (Recommendation) for 2020 is dated March 31, 2020. Since that time, I am in receipt of the Restoration Allocation Updates (Allocation) from Reclamation dated April 14, 2020, which designates 2020 currently as a **Dry** Water Year Type with an Unimpaired Inflow hybrid forecast of 920 thousand acre-feet (TAF), and provides a current allocation of Restoration Flows of 211.123 TAF as measured at Gravelly Ford. This is a substantial increase from the March 20, 2020 Allocation. This Allocation also specifies certain contractual and operational constraints on Restoration Flow releases for 2020.

### **Additional Considerations**

The April 14, 2020 Allocation is well above a Critical High Year Type even at the 90% exceedance level. Additionally, there is another storm predicted for tomorrow, and additional information in the form of an ASO LIDAR flight will be in hand within ten days. Therefore, I do not expect any scenario that would cause the water year type to revert back to a Critical High Year Type.

Key current seepage constraints that limit flows in the river channel include a limit of 850 cfs in Reach 3 (inclusive of both Restoration Flows and deliveries to Henry Miller Reclamation District), and an estimated total flow limit of about 290 cfs in Reach 4A.

### **Recommendation for the Balance of Restoration Year 2020**

At this time, I am recommending an updated flow schedule for the balance of the year as shown in Table 1. Given the transition into a Dry Water Year Type, I no longer recommend exchanges or Buffer Flows.

With the current Allocation, this Recommendation produces approximately 62,000 acre-feet of Unreleased Restoration Flows (URF's, actual amount depending on current accounting of Restoration Flow releases to date). I will hold back some URF's from sale until at least the May Allocation in the event that drier conditions return and substantially lower allocation; however, I will also work with the Program to develop a schedule by the end of April for the release for sale of as many URF's as possible.

**Table 1. Summary of Restoration Flow Recommendations for April 16, 2020 through February 28, 2021.**

<b>Date Range</b>	<b>Friant Release</b>	<b>Buffer Flow Release</b>	<b>Restoration Flows at Gravelly Ford</b>	<b>Total Flow at Gravelly Ford*</b>	<b>Target Flow at Sack Dam</b>
April 16 through April 30, 2020	As necessary	0 cfs	200 cfs	205 cfs	119 cfs
May 1 through June 30, 2020	As necessary	0 cfs	190 cfs	195 cfs	100 cfs
July 1 through July 31, 2020	As necessary	0 cfs	190 cfs	195 cfs	90 cfs
August 1 through September 30, 2020	As necessary	0 cfs	195 cfs	200 cfs	90 cfs
October 1 through October 31, 2020	As necessary	0 cfs	195 cfs	200 cfs	95 cfs
November 1 through November 20, 2020	As necessary, est. at 520 cfs	0 cfs	390 cfs	395 cfs	290 cfs
November 21 through December 31, 2020	Minimum of 350 cfs	0 cfs	230 cfs	235cfs	138 cfs
January 1, 2021 through February 28, 2021	Minimum of 350 cfs	0 cfs	250 cfs	255 cfs	166 cfs

**\*Total Flow includes the minimum Holding Contract flows of 5 cfs required at Gravelly Ford**

Figures 1 and 2 below show the anticipated Flow Recommendation for this year at key locations in the Restoration Area.

**Additional Consultation**

I will continue to coordinate with the TAC, Program Office, and Implementing Agencies to monitor hydrologic conditions, fish population conditions, uncontrolled season releases, operational conditions, and other factors, and will update the Restoration Flow Recommendation as conditions change.

Figure 1 2020 Restoration Flows, First Half of Year

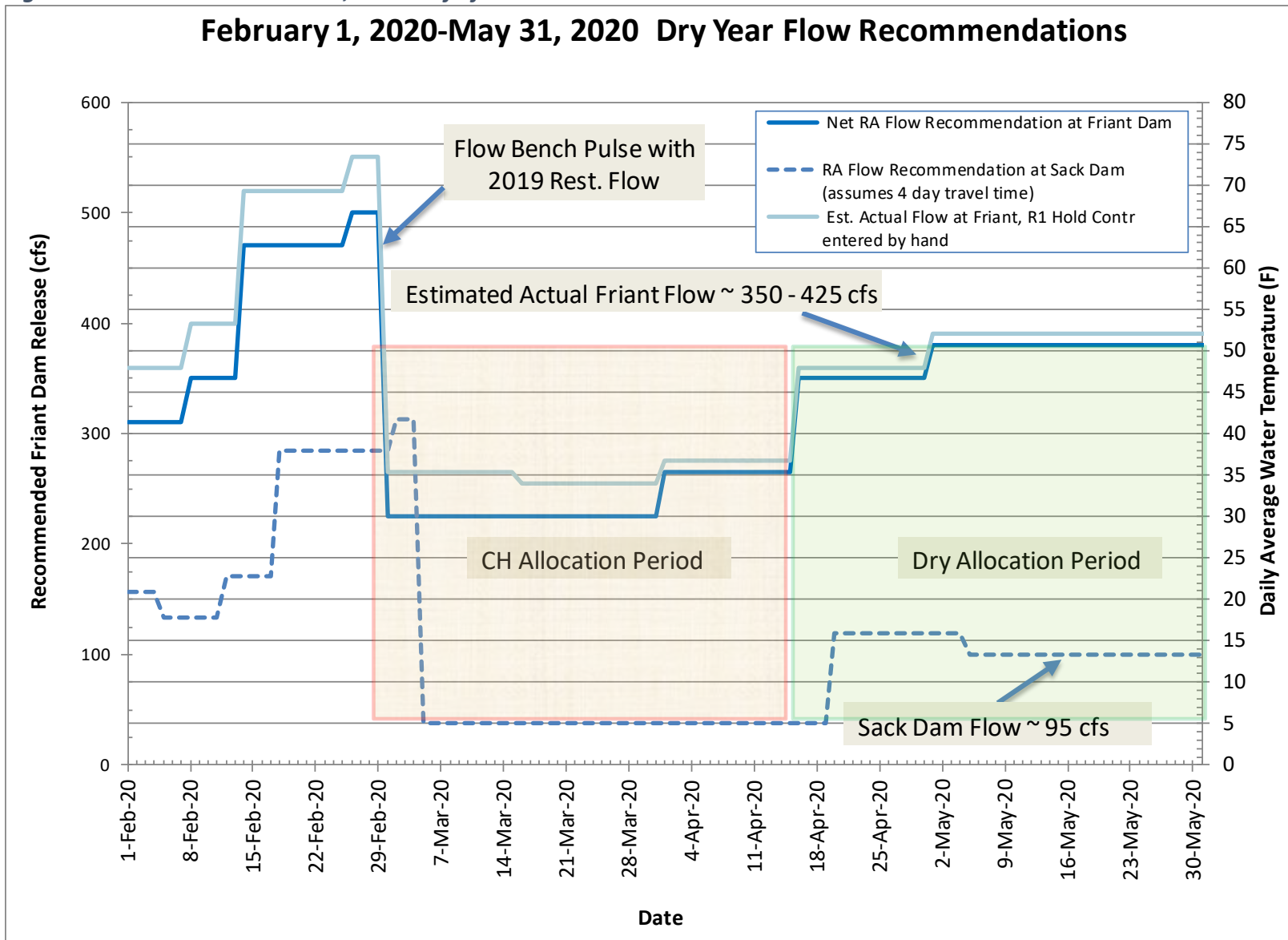


Figure 2 2020 Restoration Flows, Second Half of Year

