

## Restoration Administrator Flow Recommendation

**To:** Don Portz, Chad Moore, David van Rijn, Regina Story  
**CC:** Michael Jackson, Rufino Gonzalez, Dan Cavanaugh, Doug Obegi, Steve Ottemoeller, Ian Buck-Macleod, TAC  
**Date:** June 30, 2023  
**From:** Tom Johnson, Restoration Administrator  
**Subject:** Recommendation for 2023 Restoration Flows

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The following is a Restoration Flow Recommendation by the Restoration Administrator (RA) for the 2023 Restoration Year Flows pursuant to the Restoration Flow Guidelines (RFG) Ver. 2.1, as amended, and Exhibit B of the Settlement.

### Background

The SJRRP has issued a Final Restoration Allocation (Allocation) dated May 18, 2023, which designates 2023 as a **Wet** Water Year Type with an Unimpaired Inflow hybrid forecast of 4,664 thousand acre-feet (TAF) and provides an allocation of Restoration Flows of 556.542 TAF as measured at Gravelly Ford (GRF) based on the 50% exceedance forecast. The Allocation also specified certain contractual and operational constraints on Restoration Flow releases for 2023.

### Additional Considerations

The South-Central California Area Office (SCCAO) has declared 'Uncontrolled Season' and is currently making flood control releases to the San Joaquin River (SJR). Both Uncontrolled Season and flood control releases to the river are expected to continue through July, although duration will be adjusted depending on weather and hydrological conditions.

### Recommendation for 2023 Restoration Year

At this time, I am providing an updated flow schedule Recommendation for the 2023 Restoration Year as shown in Table 1. This Recommendation adjusts the approved March 21, 2023 Recommendation in minor aspects, to account for the current status of Restoration Flow releases and the anticipate end of Uncontrolled Season and flood control releases to the river. This Recommendation:

1. Releases a final block of additional URF's,
2. Then utilizes URF exchange water to maintain a connected river through September, and
3. Then generally returns to Exhibit B flows for the balance of the 2023 Restoration Year.

This Recommendation is intended to a) release the maximum possible volume of Restoration Flows down the river, as limited by seepage considerations, and b) keep the river connected for the entirety of the year, although with reduced summertime flows to preserve cold water pool to the extent possible.

***No recapture other than de-minimus amounts are planned in the Restoration Area. All Restoration Flow releases are to flow through the entirety of the Restoration Area. If there are operational or other constraints that preclude Restoration Flows traveling the entire length of the Restoration Area, the***

**Restoration Recommendation will be adjusted to reduce Restoration Flow releases to the level of the controlling operational constraint.**

**Table 1. Summary of Restoration Flow Recommendations for July 1, 2023, through February 29, 2024.**

<b>Restoration Flow Period</b>	<b>Date Range</b>	<b>Friant Release</b>	<b>URF Exchange Release</b>	<b>Restoration Flows at Gravelly Ford</b>	<b>Total Flow at Gravelly Ford<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Target Restoration Flow at Sack Dam (est.)</b>
2023 Riparian Recruitment	July 1 – July 29, 2023 <sup>4</sup>	As necessary, but not less than 405 cfs <sup>6</sup>	0 cfs	175 cfs	180 cfs	100 cfs
Base Flow + Exchanges	July 30 – August 31, 2023	As necessary, 350 cfs minimum	75 cfs	120 cfs	200 cfs <sup>8</sup>	100 cfs
	September 1 – September 30, 2023	As necessary	65 cfs	140 cfs	210 cfs	100 to 120 cfs
	October 1 – October 31, 2023	As necessary	20 cfs	190 cfs	215 cfs	120 cfs
Base Flow	November 1 – December 16, 2023	As necessary	0 cfs	230 cfs	235 cfs	140 cfs
Base Flows + Shifted Fall Pulse	December 17 – December 28, 2023	As necessary	0 cfs	520 cfs	525 cfs	385 cfs
Base Flow	December 29 - December 31, 2023	As necessary	0 cfs	230 cfs	235 cfs	140 cfs
Base Flows	January 1 – February 29, 2024	As necessary	0 cfs	250 cfs	255 cfs	165 cfs

<sup>1</sup>Total Flow includes the minimum Holding Contract flows of 5 cfs required at Gravelly Ford

<sup>4</sup>May 29 – July 29 flows are as per Riparian Recruitment period rules, see RFG 2.1, Sec 4.1.4

<sup>6</sup>Friant Dam targets reflect the GRF targets plus the Exhibit B Riparian Release amounts for that time period

<sup>8</sup>GRF flows when Exchanges are present are as follows: GRF flow= Exchange flow + Restoration Flow + 5 cfs

**Additional Elements of this Recommendation**

This Recommendation anticipates the release of a total of 186.567 TAF of Restoration Flows and 10.167 TAF of URF Exchanges to the SJR for the entirety of the Restoration Year, leaving approximately 378 TAF

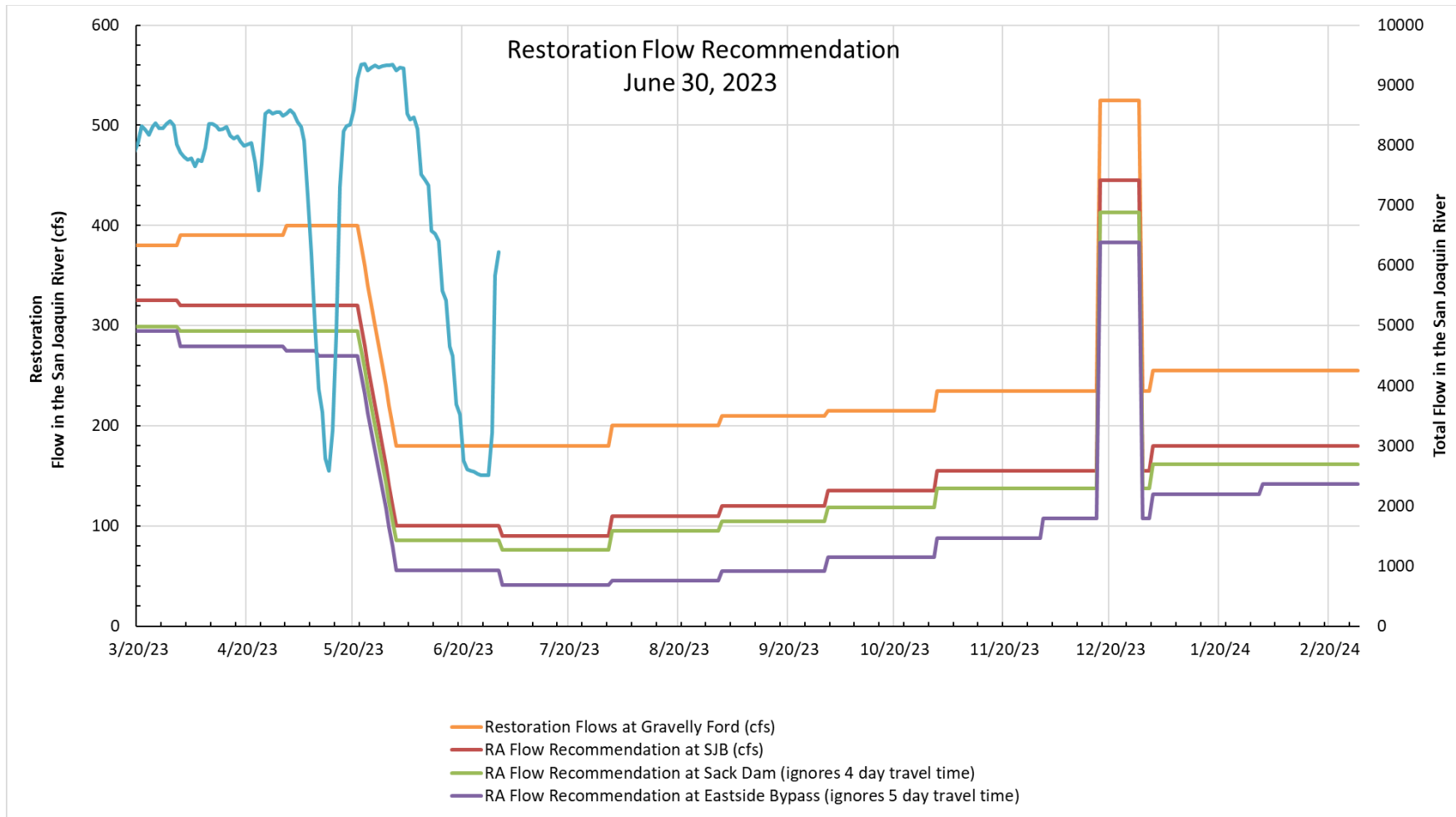
as Unreleased Restoration Flows (URF's). Note that these volumes may change, depending on hydrologic and fishery conditions, future Allocations, and future Recommendations.

An initial block of 165.263 TAF of URF's was released in February, a second block of 81.054 TAF of URF's were released in May, and a third block of 96.000 TAF of URF's were released in June. The fourth and final block of approximately 29.574 TAF is released immediately for sale.

Depending on changing hydrologic conditions, I will adjust or revise this Recommendation as necessary.

### **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.



GRAVELLY FORD FLOWS AVAILABLE VERSUS RA RECOMMENDATION				
		Available	Used	Balance
Total GRF River Flow Target without 5 cfs (March 1, 2021 - Feb 28, 2022):		567.205 TAF	195.074 TAF	372.131 TAF
Restoration Allocation Flow		<b>557.038 TAF</b>	<b>185.147 TAF</b>	<b>371.891 TAF</b>
Exchange Flow		10.167 TAF	9.927 TAF	<b>0.240 TAF</b>
Buffer Flows		0.000 TAF	0.000 TAF	<b>0.000 TAF</b>
		URF's Disposed of as of <b>6/30/2022</b>		342.317
	Use Buffer Flows? no		Net Alloc Remainder	<b>29.574 TAF</b>