

# ***San Joaquin River Restoration Program Restoration Administrator***

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## **Memorandum**

Date: March 7, 2011

To: Ali Forsythe – SJRRP Program Manager

From: Rod Meade – Restoration Administrator

Subject: Updated RA Interim Flow Program Recommendations – March 8, 2011 through February 29, 2012

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I have consulted with members of the TAC, Reclamation staff and the Flow Scheduling Subgroup in two conference calls conducted earlier today concerning the most recent information available regarding:

- San Joaquin River conditions below Friant Dam;
- Groundwater monitoring data;
- Projected weather conditions;
- The updated water supply forecasts; and
- Other factors considered important to restoration efforts, including biological and physical monitoring activities.

Our joint discussions focused on the above considerations within the context of my previous and continuing recommendation to implement real-time management of Interim Flows during 2011 in an effort to achieve modeled temperature targets in Reaches 1 and 2 of the San Joaquin River. These target temperatures were formulated by the TAC and RA in collaboration with the Implementing Agencies and the Fish Management Work Group as measures that would support reintroduction of Chinook salmon into the River.

After considering the presentations, discussions and comments provided during today's conference calls, I am forwarding the following updated Recommendations for implementing Interim Flow releases from Friant Dam. These recommendations are submitted for your consideration and early action.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Commencing tomorrow, March 8, or as soon as is practicable, Interim Flow releases from Friant Dam should be increased from the current 700 cubic feet per second (cfs) release rate to 900 cfs.

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2. Interim Flow releases from Friant Dam should be maintained at 900 cfs for nine days or until ongoing groundwater monitoring activities indicate that the 900 cfs release from Friant Dam results in downstream conditions that exceed the groundwater well thresholds established by the SJRRP for Reach 2A.
3. If, at any time during the nine days of 900 cfs flow releases from Friant Dam, groundwater conditions exceed the groundwater well thresholds identified by Reclamation for wells in Reach 2A, the flow releases should be reduced to levels that do not exceed Reach 2A groundwater thresholds.
4. If, by the end of the nine days of 900 cfs releases, groundwater thresholds have not been reached in Reach 2A, the RA should consult with the TAC, appropriate SJRRP Team members and the Flow Scheduling Subgroup to determine whether the 900 cfs releases from Friant Dam should be either:
  - a. Maintained at 900 cfs for some designated period of time to consider emerging monitoring data or other relevant information; or
  - b. Increased to a level considered appropriate based on the review of the most up to date information/data available at that time.

At this time, pending the opportunity for the RA, TAC and SJRRP to consider the effects of an increase to 900 cfs flow releases from Friant Dam, no other changes are recommended to the Interim Flow schedule previously recommended by me for the period commencing March 17, 2011 and continuing through February 28, 2012 (see Table 1). Note that I am assuming that the 900 cfs releases can commence tomorrow, March 8.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me at your earliest convenience. I will not be available tomorrow, March 8 but can be reached the following day. Thank you for your prompt consideration of these recommendations.

Attachment: *Table 1: Updated 2011 RA Recommended Interim Flow Releases from Friant Dam*

cc Bill Luce, Monty Schmitt, Scott McBain, Chuck Hanson, Peter Moyle, Dave Mooney, Katrina Harrison  
Kevin Faulkenberry, Rhonda Reed, Bob Clarke, Carl Mesick, Gerald Hatler, Steve Ottemoeller

**ATTACHMENT TO THE MARCH 7, 2011 RA RECOMMENDATION**

**Table 1: Updated 2011 RA Recommended Interim Flow Releases from Friant Dam**

Begin Date	End Date	Recommended Friant Dam Release Necessary to Achieve Gravelly Ford Target Flows (cfs)	Exhibit B Riparian Release (cfs)	Gravelly Ford Flow Target (cfs)	Gravelly Ford Flow Allocation (cfs)
Tuesday, February 01, 2011	Monday, February 07, 2011	200	100	105	100
Tuesday, February 08, 2011	Saturday, February 19, 2011	350	100	255	250
Sunday, February 20, 2011	Monday, February 28, 2011	460	100	365	360
Tuesday, March 01, 2011	Monday, March 07, 2011	550	130	425	420
Tuesday, March 08, 2011	Wednesday, March 16, 2011	900	130	775	770
Thursday, March 17, 2011	Saturday, March 19, 2011	1200	130	1075	1070
Sunday, March 20, 2011	Thursday, March 31, 2011	1450	130	1325	1320
Friday, April 01, 2011	Sunday, April 10, 2011	1000	150	855	850
Monday, April 11, 2011	Friday, April 22, 2011	1100	150	955	950
Saturday, April 23, 2011	Saturday, April 30, 2011	1450	150	1305	1300
Sunday, May 01, 2011	Wednesday, May 18, 2011	1630	190	1445	1440
Thursday, May 19, 2011	Tuesday, May 31, 2011	350	190	165	160
Wednesday, June 01, 2011	Thursday, June 30, 2011	350	190	165	160
Friday, July 01, 2011	Wednesday, August 31, 2011	350	230	125	120
Thursday, September 01, 2011	Friday, September 30, 2011	350	210	145	140
Saturday, October 01, 2011	Monday, October 31, 2011	350	160	195	190
Tuesday, November 01, 2011	Thursday, November 10, 2011	700	130	575	570
Friday, November 11, 2011	Saturday, December 31, 2011	350	120	235	230
Sunday, January 01, 2012	Wednesday, February 29, 2012	350	100	255	250