

San Joaquin River Restoration Program Restoration Administrator

Memorandum

Date: April 30, 2010

To: Jason Phillips cc. David Mooney, TAC

From: Rod Meade

Subject: Recommendation Concerning Potential Temporary Reduction of Interim Flows Below Sack Dam

Reclamation Request

Reclamation is considering reducing flows below Sack Dam from the current 700 cfs level to 300 cfs for a one-week test period. As explained by Reclamation staff, the purpose of the proposal to temporarily reduce Interim Flows is to enable the SJRRP to determine the relationship between Interim Flows and groundwater levels on adjacent properties in Reach 4A. The RA has been asked to comment on the proposed Interim Flow reductions below Sack Dam.

RA Recommendation

After consulting with the TAC and considering the information provided by Reclamation staff, I am recommending that Reclamation proceed with its proposal to temporarily reduce Interim Flows below Sack Dam to test the relationship between Interim Flows and groundwater levels on adjacent properties in Reach 4A.

As part of this recommendation, I recommend that the reduction in flows occur as soon as possible – starting no later than Monday, May 3, if feasible. In addition, I recommend that: (1) Reclamation updates the RA at least two times a week on updated groundwater measurement data; and (2) that the flow reduction be terminated as soon as data demonstrates a particular relationship between Interim Flows and groundwater levels on lands adjacent to the River.

It is my understanding that Reclamation may be able to identify the relationship between Interim Flows and groundwater levels on adjacent lands within a week. If an additional week of data collection is necessary to establish a relationship, I agree that the additional week would be warranted.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this proposal. Please call/email me if you have questions.