



San Joaquin River Restoration Program

Settlement Reached

A Stipulation of Settlement on an 18-year lawsuit to provide sufficient fish habitat in the San Joaquin River below Friant Dam near Fresno was reached in September 2006 by the U.S. Departments of the Interior and Commerce, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), and the Friant Water Users Authority (FWUA). The Settlement received Federal court approval in October 2006.

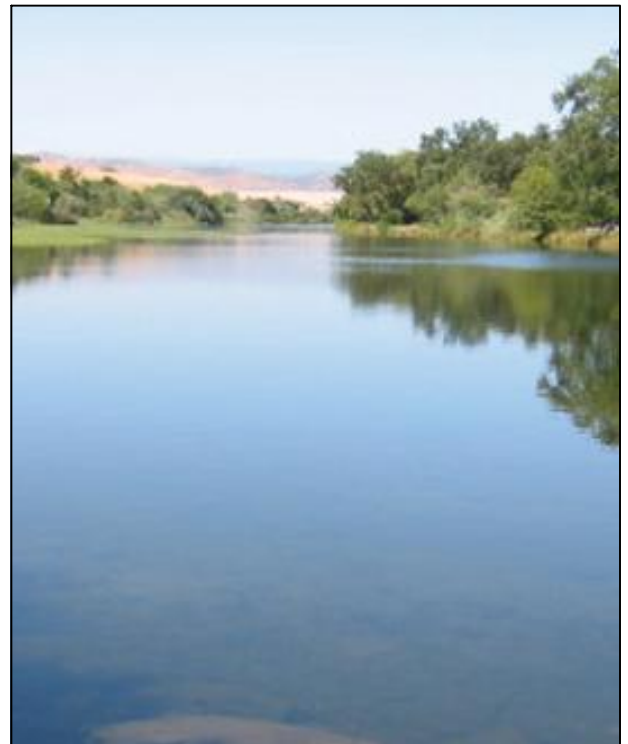
Federal legislation was re-introduced on January 4, 2007, by California members of Congress to authorize Federal agencies to implement the Settlement.

Two Settlement Goals

The Settlement is based on two goals:

To restore and maintain fish populations in “good condition” in the main stem of the San Joaquin River below Friant Dam to the confluence of the Merced River, including naturally reproducing and self-sustaining populations of salmon and other fish.

To reduce or avoid adverse water supply impacts to all of the Friant Division long-term contractors that may result from the Interim Flows and Restoration Flows provided for in the Settlement.



Federal and State of California Multi-Agency Effort

To implement the Settlement, an ambitious restoration program has been developed for the 150-mile segment of California’s second-largest river. The San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP) encompasses many groups and widespread implementation efforts and includes representatives from three federal agencies – the Bureau of Reclamation and the Fish and Wildlife Service (U.S. Department of the Interior), and National Marine Fisheries Service (U.S. Department of Commerce) – partnering with two of California’s State agencies, the Department of Water Resources and Department of Fish and Game, which are providing expertise on river management and fish biology to assist in revitalizing the river and its fish populations.

Program Management Team

Each of the five agencies is represented on a Program Management Team (PMT) that meets approximately twice a month to assess progress and evaluate recommendations from the different implementing groups.

Program Management Plan

The PMT is developing a Program Management Plan (PMP) that lays out the restoration implementation strategy and will help the agencies organize their respective tasks and responsibilities. The Program Management Plan is being released in May 2007 and includes a Public Involvement Plan.



Technical Work Groups

The Program Management Plan provides for four Technical Work Groups to develop the details of implementation: Water Management, Engineering and Design, Environmental Compliance and Permitting, and Fishery Management. Each Work Group includes representatives from each implementing agency. Stakeholders and interested groups will have input into these Technical Work Groups.

Restoration Administrator

A Restoration Administrator will be selected by the NRDC and FWUA to make recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior on specific Settlement implementation elements and will have a Technical Advisory Committee to support these efforts.

Interim Program Manager

Reclamation has appointed an Interim Program Manager to spearhead the efforts to establish the SJRRP process and structure needed to implement the Settlement stipulations.



Public Participation and Communication

The SJRRP will be conducted in an open and transparent manner with public outreach and involvement as a critical component of the program. Stakeholder and public meetings and activities will be publicized and opportunities provided for input into the development of implementation plans. Additionally, the public involvement and communication efforts will include:

Public Outreach and Involvement Process

The SJRRP's Public Involvement Plan is designed to include people at varying levels of interest and background. Briefings with a sampling of stakeholder groups, downstream landowners, and other interest groups are scheduled for April and May 2007 to receive feedback on the draft Public Involvement Plan (PIP) prior to the document being finalized. Subsequently, stakeholder and public workshops will provide an opportunity for input and dialogue with implementing agencies, entities that own facilities and property in the restoration area, stakeholders, and the general public. Official scoping meetings will be held at project milestones. All stakeholder and public meetings and activities will be publicized and opportunities provided for input throughout the

implementation of the SJRRP. As noted, each Technical Work Group will solicit stakeholder and public input throughout the program implementation planning process.

Website, Mail, and Email Communication

A multi-agency website will share information and updates about the program throughout the process. A database of contact information for those interested in receiving program updates will be created and used for distributing materials.

Third Parties

In addition to establishing stakeholder and public outreach and involvement activities, Reclamation signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on February 26, 2007, with a group of downstream entities that include several local water districts and organizations of landowners. Defined as "Third Parties," these groups and Reclamation will work closely throughout implementation of the Settlement.